



BACK TO SCHOOL

You don't win scholarships. You earn them. Don't mix that up

KIRTAN DHUNNOO, DANYKA LECLAIR AND ROHAN NUTTALL

Contributed to The Globe and Mail

Published Tuesday, Sep. 02, 2014 7:00AM EDT

Last updated Thursday, Sep. 04, 2014 7:09PM EDT

Comments

AA

As many students across the country embark on their first year of university, trying to do well in school isn't the only thing on their minds. The costs associated with earning a university degree in Canada are rising steadily. Many students require part-time jobs, loans and scholarships to cover their costs. But with competition for scholarships on the rise, it's easy to be discouraged. As winners of three of the largest and most competitive scholarships in the country, we would like to share a few tips and tricks we learned along the way.

1. You can't win if you don't apply. According to Scholarships Canada, there are over 77,000 scholarships, bursaries and awards worth nearly \$168-million available for students to apply for. Just apply. You miss 100 per cent of the chances you don't take. If you have decent marks, do things around your community and are a solid writer, just give it a shot.

2. Although we are providing advice on obtaining financial awards, by no means do we endorse 'resume packing.' Your achievements are a testament to your personality and character, don't falsify them. Do things for the right reasons. Do them to gain experience, build your skills and learn. NEVER study or volunteer with the exclusive goal to win thousands of dollars. Your teachers/supervisors (remember, potential references) will see straight through ulterior motives – as will award selection committees.

3. Forget about the scholarship. Wait...what? Yeah. Forget about winning anything.

4. Adopt a mindset of selflessness and compassion for others. Just try it. You will like it.

5. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable. Throw yourself into foreign situations for kicks. Search up local things to involve yourself in whether through school, friends or Google. Why not? High school is a great time for self-exploration, making tons of mistakes and trying new things. Party, but not too much.

6. Fail.

7. Read #3 again. Now remember that there are rewards out there for young people who have worked their asses off to discover themselves, the world around them and how they can improve both simultaneously. Then consider the fact that these rewards exist to help you continue to strive for excellence. Then apply for help paying for school. Spend long hours answering questions and perfecting essays about your values, your achievements, your goals and your story. Dig deep within yourself and show your true colours. Think about what motivates you. How do you perceive leadership? Why do you choose to get involved? What are your failures and how did you come out of them stronger?

8. You don't win scholarships. You earn them. Don't mix that up. Scholars are chosen for different reasons but every one of them did something amazing, spent hours practising or gave their time for a cause. They are bold, humble and brave leaders who demonstrate a strong sense of purpose. They are hard workers.

9. If you don't win, relax. Don't feel despondent. Take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you can go. Use it as motivation to try harder. You

IN THE KNOW

- **GLOBE INVESTOR**
Five strange things happening in financial markets

- **GLOBE DRIVE**
The rise and fall of NASCAR: Why tracks are removing seats

- **REPORT ON BUSINESS**
▶ 'I never want to retire': How father and son work together in their family business

- **GLOBE INVESTOR**
Q&A: How do my husband and I plan given our late start and age difference?

- **SPORTS**
Concussion: Will Smith film delivers major blow to NFL

MOST POPULAR VIDEOS »



SPORTS
Professional skier survives 1,600-foot fall while filming in Alaska



NEWS
Trump attacks Starbucks at Illinois rally



LIFE
Prince George's future face predicted by scientists



NEWS
Justin Trudeau places wreath at Ottawa Remembrance Day event



HIGHLIGHTS

have equipped yourself with a bank of experiences to take you fantastic places in life. Gracefully close the email, put down the phone or put down the letter.

10. At the end of the day, the words of John Green are germane: what's the point in even being alive if you don't at least try to do something remarkable?

Kirtan Dhunoo is a Schulich Leader Scholar (\$80,000), AP|Cambridge Capstone Scholar and attends the University of Alberta.

Danyka Leclair is a Loran Scholar (\$80,000), youth journalist for various francophone news sources and attends the University of Ottawa

Rohan Nuttall is a TD Scholar (\$70,000), World Economic Forum Global Shaper and attends the University of British Columbia.

MORE RELATED TO THIS STORY

- Should I take out a student line of credit to fund my education?
- Is taking a gap year after high school a smart financial decision?
- **ALEX USHER** University is actually quite cheap – it just doesn't look that way

TOPICS: Education Comment

Comments

AA



GLOBE INVESTOR

Founder of boutique investment firm eats his own cooking



REPORT ON BUSINESS

Why tech startups should pay closer attention to developing markets

MORE FROM THE GLOBE AND MAIL



REPORT ON BUSINESS

UNLIMITED

Sleep Country's bounce may rouse sleepy IPO market



ARTS

Tom McCarthy's Spotlight looks at the importance of investigative journalism

MOST POPULAR

1. **EXCLUSIVE** Entire Liberal cabinet responsible for climate-change agenda: Dion
2. Forces investigating soldier's 'racist' comments toward Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan
3. Business Briefing: Where all the home price action is: Vancouver, Toronto, Victoria, Hamilton
4. Justin Trudeau to meet with Queen Elizabeth
5. Canada has tools to cope with overheated housing market: Bernanke

MORE TOP STORIES



BUSINESS EDUCATION

New scholarship to recognize LGBT leadership



GLOBE DEBATE

Alberta's fentanyl response is tragic. The solution is simple



FOOTBALL

Chris Jones, Rick Campbell named finalists for CFL coach of the year



LIFE VIDEO

Sold in a day: How a hot neighbourhood drew buyers



INDUSTRY NEWS

VW sets deadline for whistleblowers hoping to speed up investigation



TECHNOLOGY VIDEO

Smart helmet gives you eyes in the back of your head

VIDEO



Hundreds of refugees jostle for a place on a



Stories behind Star Wars costumes revealed



Robot salamander helping scientists



Canadian home prices keep soaring



In photos: One of NASCAR's first tracks



Seattle melts one millions wads of gum



connect with us



Products



The Globe and Mail Newspaper

Newspaper delivered to your doorstep.
[subscribe](#)



Globe Unlimited

Digital all access pass across devices.
[subscribe](#)



The Globe and Mail App

The New Globe and Mail App for iPhone®, iPad® and Apple Watch
[download](#)



Globe2Go

The digital replica of our newspaper.
[subscribe](#)



Globe eBooks

A collection of articles by the Globe.
[subscribe](#)

[See all Globe Products](#)

Advertise with us

GlobeLink.ca

Your number one partner for reaching Canada's Influential Achievers. [learn more](#)

Or go directly to:

Newspaper
Magazine
Digital

Globe Alliance: extend your reach
Globe Edge: custom content
Classifieds

The Globe at your Workplace

Globe Corporate Sales

Globe Unlimited digital edition and Globe2Go e-paper group discounts available. [learn more](#)

Corporate financial data and content licensing for your organization. [learn more](#)

Globe Corporate Sales

Globe Unlimited digital edition and Globe2Go e-paper group discounts available. [learn more](#)

Corporate financial data and content licensing for your organization. [learn more](#)

Or go directly to:

Report On Business Top 1000
DataStore essential business intelligence

Our Company

About us
Work at The Globe
Staff

Secure Services

Secure Drop
Staff PGP Directory

Customer Service

Contact Us
FAQs
Customer Care website
Digital subscription services
Print subscription services
Change your delivery address
Vacation Stops

Advertising Privacy

AdChoices

Globe Recognition

Recognition card

Mobile Apps



News

Other Sections

Appointments
Art Store
Births & Announcements
Corrections
Classifieds
Classroom Edition
Deaths
Newspaper Ads
Real Estate
Special Reports
Site Map

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Accessibility Policy](#)

[Community Guidelines](#)

[Globe sustainability](#)

[Editorial Code of Conduct](#)

Globe Education is part of The Globe and Mail's [Globe Life Network](#)

© Copyright 2015 The Globe and Mail Inc. All Rights Reserved.
444 Front St. W., Toronto, ON Canada M5V 2S9
Phillip Crawley, Publisher