



Andra Takacs Scholarship University of Toronto

INFORMATION FOR PRINCIPALS

Background:

The purpose of the Andra Takacs Scholarship is to encourage and support post-secondary education for students who have demonstrated initiative and academic potential, through appropriate academic and financial support. While the financial award will go to one male and one female student per year, the University of Toronto is committed to matching all applicants with university student mentors throughout their high school years. Candidates must demonstrate financial need.

Value of Award and Scholarship:

The award consists of a (one time) \$200 dollar prize and post-secondary tuition assistance of \$20,000 (\$5000 per year for four years), conditional upon satisfactory academic progress. While in high school the University of Toronto will create learning opportunities for the scholarship recipients, in consultation with the child's family, school and Big Brother and Big Sisters of Toronto (BBBST). These opportunities include matches with university students.

Award terms:

The \$200 prize is given to the award recipients at their Grade 8 graduation ceremony in June (subject to approval of the school principal). Post-secondary tuition assistance is provided at the time of enrolment and will be applied directly toward tuition fees and other academic expenses. The scholarship may be used at the University of Toronto or any other accredited post-secondary school within Ontario that is approved by the University of Toronto.

Eligibility:

Candidates must be Grade 8 students participating in a Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto (BBBST) program, with demonstrated financial need.

Selection Procedure:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto identify students who are currently in Grade 8 and participating in programs offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto. These students are notified about the scholarship and encouraged to apply. Each applicant is required to complete an application form; provide personal information and a personal statement, and submit copies of their Grade 7 and Grade 8 report cards. The parent/guardian is asked to sign a consent

form authorizing release of information by the student's school and by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto. The applicant brings the signed **Consent Form** to you, as the school Principal, along with the **Academic Report Form**.

References:

Applicants are required to supply three additional letters of reference in support of their application.

What is required of School Principals?

You are asked to provide information about the present academic performance of the applicant and to provide an assessment of his/her academic potential. The selection committee is particularly interested to learn about what is special about this student and what may be preventing him/her from meeting his/her academic potential of post-secondary education. Please note: the scholarship can be used not only at the University of Toronto, but at any accredited Ontario post-secondary institution (college or university).

The role of the school in identifying suitable candidates for this award is obviously critical. We are asking you - or the student's home form teacher, as your designate - to complete the enclosed Academic Report Form and to return it to BBBST by March 13, 2020.

Selection Criteria:

- participating in a BBBST program
- currently enrolled in Grade 8
- demonstrated interest in the scholarship and willingness to work for it
- academic performance to date
- academic potential
- participation in life of school and/or community
- personal information and the consideration of social and economic hardship and risk of not pursuing post-secondary education due to insufficient support in the family environment.

If you have any questions please contact Alexandra Gruber, Director of Service Delivery, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto, at alexandra.gruber@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.