

OVMA's Future Veterinarian Bursary

The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association is pleased to offer 3 x \$1000 bursaries to support high school students in Ontario who aspire to become veterinarians.

The purpose of these bursaries is to financially support students from underrepresented groups and those who are economically disadvantaged.

To be eligible for the bursary, individuals need to:

- Be a resident of Canada with a postal address in Ontario
- Identify with one (or more) of the following groups: Indigenous Peoples, Persons with Disabilities, Visible Minorities and/or Immigrants to Canada
- Have financial challenges that impede their ability to fund their ambitions of becoming a veterinarian

Please fill out the application form below and email it to Terra Shastri at tshastri@ovma.org . The deadline for application is **April 30th, 2026**.

Please note that three bursaries are available each school year, and only selected applicants will be contacted. Those selected will be contacted via email by June 23, 2026. **Bursary applications are required to include a reference letter from a teacher who has taught the student within the last two years.**

Use of Generative AI

Applicants are expected to complete their application responses entirely on their own, without the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) or assistance from others. The purpose of this bursary application is to understand *who you are* in your own words. Clear and authentic self-expression is an important skill in veterinary medicine, where communication, professionalism, and the ability to convey ideas effectively are essential. Using AI or outside help takes away from that goal and may result in your application not being considered.

OVMA's Future Veterinarian Bursary Application Form

**Please complete all applications using the fillable PDF form or a Word document - handwritten submissions will not be accepted. When submitting, ensure the final version is saved and sent as a PDF so the file can be opened without issue. If you require assistance because you are unable to apply in this format, please contact Terra Shastri at tshastri@ovma.org. Please see the note on the first page regarding the use of AI.*

First name			
Last name			
Please select the gender identities with which you identify.	Agender	Genderqueer	Man
	Non-binary	Trans	Two-spirit
	Woman	I identify as _____ (specify)	
	I prefer not to say		
What is your ethnic or cultural origin(s)?			
Which race category best describes you?	Black	East Asian	Latino
	South Asian	Middle Eastern	Southeast Asian
	White	Another category: _____	
Do you identify as Indigenous?	Yes	No	
Address			
Email address			
Phone number			
Name of Current High School			
Current Grade Level for the 2025/26 school year			

Parent/Guardian Name(s)	
Phone Number	
Email address	



Why are you interested in becoming a veterinarian? (*maximum 500 words*)

What do you hope to achieve by becoming a veterinarian? (*maximum 500 words*)



Please describe your experience with animals and animal care - whether at home, on a farm, through working or volunteering, or by participating in internships, clubs, or other extracurricular activities etc. *(maximum 500 words)*

Please list any high school courses, extracurricular activities or clubs related to animals or veterinary science that you have taken or are involved in: *(maximum 500 words)*



What challenges have you faced, or do you anticipate facing, that could act as barriers to achieving your career aspirations in veterinary medicine? (*maximum 500 words*)

If you are awarded this bursary, how would you use the money to help pursue your goal of becoming a veterinarian? (*maximum 500 words*)

What else would you like the selection committee to know about you? (*maximum 500 words*)

Please include a reference letter from at least one recent (within the last two school years) teacher(s) as part of your application. The letter(s) should highlight why they believe you are a strong candidate for one of these bursaries.

Checklist for completed application:

- I have included all the information required on all 5 pages
- I have included a reference letter from at least one recent (within the last two school years) teacher
- I am submitting this application on or before April 30, 2026

By submitting this application, I affirm that all information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that all written responses were created entirely by me, without the use of artificial intelligence tools or assistance from any other person. I understand that any false or misleading information may result in disqualification from the program. I also understand that, should I be awarded the bursary, my name and my high school will be shared with OVMA members through OVMA publications and/or OVMA social media platforms.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____