

## GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

There are Special Bursaries and Grants (non-repayable financial assistance) from the government for students with disabilities and special needs. These bursaries and grants can cover disability-related educational services and equipment that is needed for you to participate in post-secondary education such as note-takers, tutors, interpreters or technical aids while you are in post-secondary studies. All you have to do is apply for OSAP and complete the BSWD/CSG-PDSE application with the Financial Assistance office at your school to determine your eligibility for these special bursaries and grants.

Provided you are eligible for OSAP (even if only \$1.00), you will be eligible for the special services and equipment financial assistance. **You should simply decline the regular financial assistance that may be available to you from OSAP (to avoid loan payments after your studies) and accept the special bursaries and grants as these are non-repayable.**

Eligible students receive up to \$2,000 from the Bursary for Students With Disabilities (BSWD) and up to \$8,000 from the Canada Study Grant for Services and Equipment for Persons with Permanent Disabilities. These funds are non-repayable and taxable.

To be eligible to apply for assistance through these government programs, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, or a Protected Person, and a Ontario resident;
- have applied and be eligible for a Canada-Ontario Integrated Student Loan if you are a full-time student;
- have applied and be eligible for a Part-Time Canada Student Loan or an Ontario Special Bursary if you are a part-time student;
- have a permanent disability (students with a temporary disability may be eligible for BSWD funding only); and
- have additional education-related expenses that result from your disability and are not covered by another agency.

Please visit the website and/or your OSAP / Financial Assistance office at your school for assistance in completing your OSAP application and to get further details.

<https://www.osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/WEBUCONT033210.html>

### **IMPORTANT:**

**To avoid debt upon completion of your studies, you can simply decline the loan part of your OSAP application and choose to accept only the grants.**

**Please discuss this with the Financial Assistance office about how to accept only the grants and to also learn about any impacts if you withdraw or stop attending.**