

Opterus Rebel with a Cause Awards

Opterus Rebel with a Cause Scholarships — Terms and Conditions 2025

Opterus is providing 2 scholarship awards for young women, between the ages of 18-26 and enrolled/will enroll at a Canadian post-secondary institution, who are pursuing a STEM or Arts educational path. The awards are inspired by Founder, Janet Hawkins' mother, Dr. Helen McKilligin, and sister, Valerie Ann Hawkins.

Hi fellow rebels!



I'm Janet Hawkins, the CEO and co-founder of Opterus and founder of the Opterus Rebel with a Cause Scholarships. That groovy pic is of me back in the 70s. I was lucky, that even at that age, I was given the freedom to be creative, to explore, and to do things that made me happy. There were no rules around my choices. I admit, I was one of those kids that might have been seen as a little weird, but I like to think I had to grow into my kind of cool.

I am very proud that 2025 is going to be our seventh year offering these scholarships and I love that I can make these scholarships happen in the name of my mom and sister. This year we hope to continue to stimulate your creativity.

From the start, I didn't want these scholarships to be like all the others. I truly believe that putting a lot of weight into someone's grades is not the way to find the best and the brightest. People learn and express themselves in so many different ways, and that is what excites me.

For this scholarship you don't have to be a straight A student who ticks all the boxes. One of the questions in the application asks you to tell us something you have achieved, that you are proud of, and why. I caution you to stay away from answering this with achieving high grades. I love that you worked hard and to do well is an amazing accomplishment, but that's not what we are looking for here. To receive this award, you must already have been accepted into a post-secondary institution. Tell me something else in your life that you are proud of, that helped shape you into the person you are today. **Don't tell me you are smart, show me you are bright!**

We are looking for women who can engage with us, think outside the box, and maybe surprise us. This is your opportunity to share something that is meaningful to you, something that makes you who you are. Make us laugh, make us cry, are you super artistic or musical, or do you have an unusual interest that you would like to share with us? Be creative, but most of all, just be yourself.

We know a \$5,000 prize will make life easier, but will winning this award change your life? I saw a tweet from Ben Cichy, who worked for NASA at one point in his career. It said: **"Got a 2.4 GPA my first semester in collage. Thought maybe I wasn't cut out for engineering. Today I've landed two**

spacecrafts on Mars and am now designing one for the Moon. STEM is hard for everyone. Grades ultimately don't matter. Curiosity and perseverance matter." I love that. Be curious, be tenacious, be a rebel! We are looking forward to learning about you.

Best of luck,

Janet

The scholarship awards will be open for applications between April 14, 2025 and June 13, 2025 at 11:59PM ET. Applicants are permitted to submit only one application and cannot apply for both awards. Applications for the 2025 year can be submitted via the online application (<https://opterus.scholarshipscanada.com/>). We will communicate the outcome to the successful applicant by the end of August.

Opterus Helen Rose STEM Award

1. The bestowing of the Award is conditional upon the successful completion and receipt of the requested documentation. If the requested information cannot be verified or is not in compliance with the terms and conditions, it will be disqualified. The award recipient will receive a payment of \$5,000 CAD on or before August 30, 2025. You may be asked to report periodically, to an Opterus representative, on your program progress.
2. To apply for this Award, you must be a woman between the ages of 18-26 and pursuing an education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) at an accredited Canadian university or college. The student we are looking to fund is pursuing a field of study that will help them in the future to create or contribute to a new mindset for a better world.
3. Finalists must provide proof of enrolment at an accredited Canadian university or college for the 2025-2026 academic school year.
 - a. If the applicant is still in high school or not yet enrolled in post-secondary education, then the money will be held in trust until they are enrolled.
4. All applications must be submitted in English.
5. You must provide a complete application at opterus.scholarshipscanada.com, including uploading a document containing responses to the following questions:
 - a. An answer to the question (maximum 275 words): *Think about a time in your life when you achieved something you are proud of. Tell us about it and why you are proud to have accomplished this.*
 - b. An answer to the question (maximum 275 words): *Tell us something about yourself that you would not typically be asked about on a scholarship application. What differentiates you from your peers that is never asked in typical scholarship applications?*
 - c. An answer to the question (maximum 275 words): *What do you plan to study within the STEM field? Why do you want to study this?*

- d. An answer to the question (maximum 275 words): *How would winning this scholarship help you achieve your goals?*

Opterus Valerie Ann Arts Award

6. The bestowing of the Award is conditional upon the successful completion and receipt of the requested documentation. If the requested information cannot be verified or is not in compliance with the terms and conditions, it will be disqualified. The award recipient will receive a payment of \$5,000 CAD on or before August 30, 2025. You may be asked to report periodically, to an Opterus representative, on your program progress.
7. To apply for this Award, you must be a woman between the ages of 18-26 and pursuing an education in the Arts at an accredited Canadian university or college. The student we are looking to fund is pursuing a field of study that will help them in the future to create or contribute to a new mindset for a better world.
8. Finalists must provide proof of enrolment at an accredited Canadian university or college for the 2025-2026 academic school year.
 - a. If the applicant is still in high school or not yet enrolled in post-secondary education, then the money will be held in trust until they are enrolled.
9. All applications must be submitted in English.
10. You must provide a complete application at opterus.scholarshipcanada.com, including:
 - a. An answer to the question (maximum 275 words): *Think about a time in your life when you achieved something you are proud of. Tell us about it and why you are proud to have accomplished this.*
 - b. An answer to the question (maximum 275 words): *Tell us something about yourself that you would not typically be asked about on a scholarship application. What differentiates you from your peers that is never asked in typical scholarship applications?*
 - c. An answer to the question (maximum 275 words): *What do you plan to study within the ARTS field? Why do you want to study this?*
 - d. An answer to the question (maximum 275 words): *How would winning this scholarship help you achieve your goals?*

Have questions, comments, or concerns? Please reach us at application@scholarshipcanada.com.