



MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS Frequently Asked Questions

All scholarship applicants are required to read the FAQ prior to submitting an application. For further questions please email manitobalibrary@gmail.com for a response.

I am enrolled in distance education courses – can I apply?

You may apply as long as the courses are ALA-accredited, your coursework is completed within 4 years (i.e. your degree will be complete from start to finish within 4 years) and you meet the eligibility requirements as detailed on the application forms. Please include details of your plan for completing your coursework in your personal statement.

I am enrolled part-time in an online ALA-accredited program – can I apply?

You may apply as long as your coursework is completed within 4 years (i.e. your degree is complete from start to finish within a 4 year time frame), and you meet the eligibility requirements as detailed on the application forms. Please include details of your plan for completing your coursework in your personal statement.

What is an ALA-accredited program?

An ALA accredited program is one that has been accredited by the American Library Association. A complete list and details of accreditation can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/accreditation/lisdirb/lisdirectory.htm>. This site includes schools that offer an ALA-accredited program through distance education.

Can I apply to both the John Edwin Bissett Memorial Fund Scholarship and the Jean Thorunn Law Scholarship?

Yes, you can apply for both scholarships provided you fulfill the requirements as outlined in the Scholarship Application Form. Please note an applicant may be successful in one and not the other, neither or both.

How often can I apply?

Each award will be granted a maximum of two times to one individual. If you do meet the eligibility requirements, but are unsuccessful for one application year, you may and are encouraged to try again the following year.

Please note that previous awarding of a scholarship does not guarantee a successful second application. Note as well successful applicants are not automatically considered for a second year. A new application must be submitted for every scholarship year for consideration.

Do all applicants receive scholarships?

Both scholarships offered by the MLA are competitive. Meeting minimum requirements does not mean a successful application. Ensure all documents are fully completed, including reference letters, resume, transcripts and your personal statement. Please note amounts given may vary year to year.

How are applicants rated?

The scholarship committee considers a range of elements including academic achievement, references' recommendations, personal statement of career goals, leadership abilities and professional potential. Scholarship committee members from the MLA executive rotate annually.

When will I find out if I am a successful applicant?

Members of the Manitoba Library Association's scholarship committee meet shortly after the application deadline. Successful applicants are contacted mid-July. Unsuccessful applicants will also receive notification.

What if I am unable to finish my coursework after receiving the scholarship?

A scholarship recipient that later withdraws from their program will have to repay on a pro-rated basis the remainder of the scholarship money to the scholarship fund. Individuals who have withdrawn from their program should contact the Manitoba Library Association as soon as possible in order to discuss repayment.

Thorunn-Law scholarship FAQ:

I am not presently working in a library, but I have worked in libraries in the past. What do you mean by 'recent' work?

Applicants are to have worked in paid employment or extensive volunteer work for at least 12 months within the previous 3 years, preferably within a Manitoba Library. They must also have been residents for at least one year, with the intention of working in Manitoba upon graduation.

I have work experience in libraries outside of Manitoba. Does this count?

Applicants with experience outside of Manitoba will be considered. However the intent to work in Manitoba upon graduation and to have been a recent resident of Manitoba is a requirement. The employment experience as well must have been recent as noted above.

John Edwin Bissett Memorial Fund FAQ:

I have an undergraduate degree from a university other than the University of Manitoba. Can I apply?

No. You must have an undergraduate degree from the University of Manitoba.

I have a Master's degree from the U of M but not an undergraduate degree. Can I apply?

No. The degree must be an undergraduate degree. This is a requirement laid out in the scholarship bequest.

I have an undergraduate degree from the U of M, but also another degree from a different University. Can I apply?

Yes. As long as you have an undergraduate degree from the University of Manitoba, you can apply.