

# The Access Award



---

**BRIGHTER WORLD**

## The Access Award

Established in 2019, the Access Award creates a pathway for academically qualified students from under-represented groups in the Golden Horseshoe area to access post-secondary education. In addition to financial assistance, students will have access to support and mentorship opportunities that will help position them for work and life success.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Currently **holds** at least a high school diploma or **has** an expected completion date of June 2020
- Permanently resides in the Golden Horseshoe Area
- Demonstrates financial need
- Eligible to apply to an undergraduate degree program for September 2020

**Value:** Up to \$25,000 in aid and award funding per year towards tuition, compulsory fees, books, equipment and living costs and guaranteed McMaster University work experience. The award is tenable for up to four years.

**Awards Available:** 10

## How to Submit your Application

Securely submit your completed application to McMaster's secure virtual drop box here:

<https://macdrive.mcmaster.ca/u/d/acad41775539460c93c5/>

**File Format:** Last Name\_First Name Initial\_Access Strategy

For instructions, visit: <https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/services/macdrive/>

Completed applications are also accepted in person and by mail at:

Student Services  
Gilmour Hall, Room 108  
McMaster University,  
1280 Main St. W.  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4L8

Questions or Concerns? Email: [sfas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sfas@mcmaster.ca) or call 905-525-9140 ext. 24796

**All applications must be received by April 15, 2020**

# The 2020-2021 Access Award Application Form

Surname	Given Name(s)	McMaster Student ID
Street Address	City	Postal Code

**Demographic Information (check all that apply):**

- First generation student
- Crown ward
- Racialized minority
- Indigenous person in Canada (*identifies as First nations (Status/Non-Status), Métis or Inuit.*)
- Student with a permanent disability
- Living in a low-income family or neighbourhood
- Adult learner new to post-secondary
- Living in a rural community
- Experiencing other barriers to attending University: \_\_\_\_\_

**I participate and/or previously participated in the following (check all that apply):**

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Boys & Girls Club
- Empowerment Squared
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Pathways to Education
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to receive information about the Access Award and other available supports:**

- Yes       No

Preferred email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Education History**

School:	Dates Attended (yyyy/mm to yyyy/mm):	City/Country
School:	Dates Attended (yyyy/mm to yyyy/mm):	City/Country
School:	Dates Attended (yyyy/mm to yyyy/mm):	City/Country

When did you last attend high school full-time (yyyy/mm)?

Have you previously attended post-secondary? If yes, please list institution, degree/diploma/certificate, and whether program was completed -

- Yes  
 No

#### Documentation Checklist

- A completed Access Award application.
- A Statement of Interest (up to 500 words) that demonstrates:
  - How the Access Award will help you achieve your personal, academic, and/or career goals.
  - Your interest in McMaster University.
  - The barriers you have faced in accessing education.
- A description of your personal and/or your family's financial situation. Include any special circumstances that would be helpful in the evaluation of your application (maximum 200 words).
- Proof of 2018 family income for yourself, parent(s) and partner (as applicable).  
*Please provide one of the following: Income Tax Notice of Assessment, final pay stubs with year-to-date earnings, signed letter from employers, Social Assistance Benefit Statements, etc.*
- A reference letter from a third-party e.g. community agency, guidance counsellor, etc. **Please provide your referee with the instruction sheet provided.**

#### Declaration and Signature

I certify that all information provided to be considered for the Access Award is correct and complete. I understand that I may be asked to provide documentation at some future date to substantiate my information and that any misrepresentation of my information may result in cancellation of my Access Award application, award, admission offer and/or enrolment. I consent to the release of this application form and all documentation that I submitted in support of this application to the Selection Panel. I understand the selection panel may have University representatives, as well as members external to the University. I also consent to the release of this application form and documentation to University departments processing this application and any resulting award.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and McMaster University's *Statement on the Collection of Personal Information and the Protection of Privacy*, where notice is given, the University is permitted to publish an individual's name, Academic Group, plan, and award information. McMaster University publishes the names of recipients of scholarships listed in the Calendar, in the University's Convocation program and other award publications. Further information can be found in the *General Academic Regulations* section of the Calendar.

## Instructions for Reference Letters

**Applicants: please provide your referee with a copy of this instruction sheet.**

In a **minimum one page** letter, please include:

- Your relationship to the applicant and how long you've known them.
- An evaluation of the person and their skills/accomplishments. If possible, offer specific examples that illustrate the person's strengths and qualifications. These examples should be brief but detailed.
- Information on some of the following areas, as applicable:
  - communication skills (written and/or oral)
  - willingness to take initiative
  - level of motivation
  - planning and organizational skills
  - flexibility and adaptability
  - willingness to accept responsibility
  - leadership, analytical, problem-solving ability
  - interpersonal skills, group interaction and team-working skills.
- A summary that explains why you would recommend this person. Include an assessment of the applicant's personal qualifications and suitability for university study.
- What are the applicant's strengths and weaknesses? Have they made efforts to address areas of concern?

**Note:** All reference letters should be sent directly from the referee and are private and confidential.

Please submit reference letters **online** to: <https://macdrive.mcmaster.ca/u/d/acad41775539460c93c5/>  
OR by **mail** to:

Student Services,  
Gilmour Hall, Room 108  
McMaster University,  
1280 Main St. W.,  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4L8

Reference Letter Deadline: **April 15, 2020.**