

OVMA's Future Veterinarian Bursary

The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association offers three \$1,000 bursaries to support Ontario high school students who aspire to become veterinarians. The bursaries support students from underrepresented groups who face financial barriers to exploring or pursuing veterinary medicine.

Eligibility

To apply, you must meet all the following requirements:

- Be a resident of Canada with an Ontario postal address.
- Identify as Indigenous, a person with a disability, a visible minority and/or an immigrant to Canada.
- Experience financial barriers that affect your ability to explore or pursue veterinary medicine.

Application requirements

- Complete this application electronically. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.
- Include one reference letter from a teacher who taught you within the last two school years. The reference letter is required but is not scored.
- Save the completed application and reference letter as PDF files before emailing them to Terra Shastri at tshastri@ovma.org.
- You will receive a confirmation email when your application is received. If you do not receive confirmation of your submission, please follow up with Sheila Krane at skrane@ovma.org or by calling 1.800.670.1702 ext 216
- Application deadline: Friday, April 30, 2027.
- Notification date: By June 25, 2027

Only selected applicants will be contacted. If you need an accommodation to complete or submit the application, contact Terra Shastri at tshastri@ovma.org.

Use of generative AI

Complete all written responses in your own words without generative AI tools, including ChatGPT, or writing assistance from another person. The selection committee wants to understand your experiences and ideas in your own voice. Applications that do not meet this requirement may not be considered.

OVMA's Future Veterinarian Bursary Application Form

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 ☐ Southeast Asian ☐ East Asian ☐ South Asian ☐ Middle Eastern ☐ Latino ☐ 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 2026/27 school year	

Parent/Guardian Name(s)	
Phone Number	
Email address	

Please answer each question in your own words. Specific examples are helpful. Your access to formal veterinary or animal-related opportunities will not determine your score.

1. Interest and goals

What interests you about becoming a veterinarian? Explain what has influenced your interest and what you hope to contribute or achieve through a career in veterinary medicine. *Maximum 500 words.*

2. Understanding the profession

Based on what you have learned or experienced so far, what do you understand about the role of a veterinarian? Describe the responsibilities, challenges or areas of work that stand out to you. *Maximum 500 words.*

3. Exploring the field

Tell us how you have explored your interest in animals or veterinary medicine. You may include animal care, school courses, clubs, volunteering, paid work, farm experience, programs, conversations with professionals, independent learning or other activities. We recognize that access to opportunities varies. Focus on what you have done with the opportunities available to you. *Maximum 500 words.*

4. Barriers and circumstances

What financial, personal, geographic, systemic or other barriers have affected, or may affect, your ability to explore or pursue veterinary medicine? Share only the information you are comfortable providing. The committee will use this response as context when reviewing your application. *Maximum 500 words.*

5. How the bursary would help

If you received this bursary, how would you use the funds to broaden your exposure to or experience in veterinary medicine? Be as specific as possible. Examples may include an animal or veterinary program, a camp or course, travel to a volunteer or learning opportunity, educational resources, required equipment or another activity that would help you learn more about the profession. *Maximum 500 words.*

6. Additional context

Is there anything else relevant to your application that you would like the selection committee to know? Please avoid repeating information from your earlier answers. *Maximum 500 words.*

Reference letter

Include one reference letter from a teacher who taught you within the last two school years. The letter should describe the qualities, effort or potential that make you a strong candidate. The letter is a required part of a complete application, but it will not receive a score.

Teacher (s') name(s)	
School and role	
Reference letter(s) attached	☐ Yes ☐ No

Application checklist

- ☐ I completed every required field and response.
- ☐ I included one teacher reference letter.
- ☐ I saved the completed application and reference letter as PDF files.
- ☐ I am submitting the application by the published deadline.

Applicant declaration

By submitting this application, I confirm that the information I provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I wrote all responses myself without generative AI tools or writing assistance from another person. I understand that false or misleading information may result in disqualification. If I receive a bursary, I give OVMA permission to share my name and high school with OVMA members through OVMA publications and social media.

Print name	
Signature	
Date	