

2026

Academic Awards & Scholarships Brochure



RNFOO 2025 Academic Awards Winners at the Annual Gala



REGISTERED NURSES'
FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

An introduction to the Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario

The Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario enhances and advances nursing practice, and contributes to the health of individuals by raising funds and stewarding sound investments to provide awards and scholarships to Ontario nurses and nursing students in all programs including RN, RPN and RN-EC.

Awards and Scholarships are available for study at the diploma, undergraduate, certificate, and graduate levels. In addition to this brochure, potential applicants should consult the **RNFOO Awards & Scholarships Eligibility Guide** to see the breadth of awards available.

The awards and scholarships administered by RNFOO are funded by contributions from individuals, estates, corporations, and organizations (Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) Interest Groups support many of the available awards). The Academic Awards application process distributed more than \$100,000 to deserving nurses and nursing students in 2025.

In addition to the Academic Awards and Scholarships described in this document, RNFOO administers [Nurses in Practice](#) Awards, and the [Herbert T. Baily Memorial Fund for Nurses Recovering from Illness or Injury](#). Visit our website to learn more.

RNFOO Mission

The Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario enhances and advances nursing practice, and contributes to the health of individuals by raising funds and stewarding sound investments to provide awards and scholarships to Ontario nurses and nursing students in all programs including RN, RPN and RN-EC, and at every level, including Masters and Doctorate.

Applying for RNFOO 2026 Academic Awards

Eligibility Requirements

RNFOO Awards and Scholarships are available to:

- Nurses registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario
- Students registered in baccalaureate nursing programs accredited by the CASN *Accreditation* Bureau and approved by the College of Nurses of Ontario
- Students registered in practical nursing programs approved by the College of Nurses of Ontario
- Preference will be given to **residents of Ontario**
- Award winners **must have a Social Insurance Number**.
- Applicants must be **currently*** enrolled in a diploma, degree, or certificate program at an accredited institution.

Equivalencies: in descriptions of awards for students in baccalaureate programs, reference to years of study are applied as follows:

1st or 2nd year of a full program is equivalent to 1st year of a compressed or second level entry program.

3rd or 4th year of a full program is equivalent to 2nd year of a compressed or second level entry program.

** i.e. Winter 2026 school term*

Applications for RNFOO Awards and Scholarships must be submitted on-line through the RNFOO website: www.rnfoo.org. There is a **\$35** fee to register for the application process.

By late-November 2025: application process opens. Watch the home page of the website for details.

Monday January 26th, 2026, 4pm EST: deadline for completion of the online application **AND** for all reference letters to be received in the RNFOO office.

Please note that incomplete applications will not be reviewed. It is the **applicant's responsibility** to ensure that reference letters are received by the RNFOO office before the deadline. You can track our receipt of your documents on your application profile.

RNFOO Awards & Scholarship Committee
4261 Highway 7 East, Suite A14-364
Markham, ON L3R 9W6
Phone: 905-752-0700 or 855-415-2220
Fax: 905-513-1248

Section 1: Awards available to Nursing Students

RPN program, Any Baccalaureate nursing programs¹

Charlotte Noesgaard Scholarship (2 x \$2,000)

The Charlotte Noesgaard scholarship is awarded to a full-time undergraduate nursing student in the third or fourth year of the BScN program, (2nd year of a 2nd level entry program), who has demonstrated excellent academic achievement and advocacy. Applicants should provide evidence of their ability to inspire and advocate for others, and their desire to pursue a career in nursing founded in evidence-based clinical practice and advocacy.

Diabetes Nursing Interest Group (DNIG) Northern Students Tuition Support Award (1 x \$1000)

To support a baccalaureate nursing student or a Registered Nurse who is enrolled in advanced education (certificate or degree) focusing on diabetes education/care for persons living with diabetes, and who demonstrates commitment to the cause of diabetes. Applicants must be a member of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group, have held membership for at least one year prior to application, and be living or working in RNAO Region 11 or 12².

The Jennifer Award (3 x \$1,500)

To provide opportunities to baccalaureate nursing students who are in the 3rd or 4th year of a basic program or 2nd year of a second level entry program, to complete their degree. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding potential and contribution to the fields of child and family, oncological, or mental health nursing.

Karim Moosa Memorial Scholarship (1 x \$1,500)

To support a student enrolled in a Practical Nursing program at an Ontario College. The winner of this award will demonstrate deep care and compassion, and a commitment to working with the elderly population.

Lucy Glass Memorial Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

Recognizing Lucy's experience of undertaking her training as a nurse after many years away from formal education, this scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in a PN or BScN program after a significant interval³ away from formal education.

¹RPN to BScN, 4-Year, 2nd Level Entry, Compressed

²A nursing student studying outside of Region 11 or 12 must provide proof of a permanent address within the designated area.

³Expected to be at least 5 years.



Section 1 Awards: Nursing Students Continued

Margaret Axelson Memorial Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

To support a student enrolled in a Baccalaureate program at a recognized School of Nursing who demonstrates commitment to being a strong team player.

Mary Brunning Harkin Scholarship (2 x \$1500)

To support a Registered Nurse or Registered Practical Nurse studying at the baccalaureate level, or a nursing student in their 3rd or 4th year. Applicants must show that their career path is dedicated to care of the elderly.

Mildred Grace Harbour Memorial Scholarship (1 x \$1,500)

To support a full-time student enrolled in a baccalaureate program leading to a Registered Nurse designation. Applicants should provide evidence of their ability to inspire others, and their practice of caring above and beyond standard expectations.

Nicola Lamanna Oncology Nursing Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

Will be awarded to a student enrolled in a Baccalaureate-level program at a recognized School of Nursing who has demonstrated commitment to work in oncology nursing.

Palliative Care (PCNIG) Baccalaureate Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

To support a student enrolled in a baccalaureate/ bridging nursing program. Applicants should be able to demonstrate an interest in or understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized communities needing palliative care. Preference will be given to those who are members of PCNIG and have completed at least 50% of their program.

RNFOO Tribute Award (1 x \$1,000)

The RNFOO Tribute Scholarship is made available through donations received to honour or in memory of individuals over the prior year. The Scholarship is open to nursing students (PN and BScN programs) who have completed at least 50% of the program in which they are registered, who demonstrate excellence in clinical nursing care, and describe a strong commitment to their future professional goals. Donations to this award were received in honour of Michelle Pearce and in memory of Pamela Kamstra, Susan Scholl, Anne Robertson, Noel Lewis, Martha Komel, Jane Krilyk, Mary Justice, Oressa McConney and Crystal Whitter. A special Tribute donation has been received from Peter Shepherd: In gratitude to the many nurses at Kincardine Health Centre Emergency, London Health Sciences ICU, St. Joseph's Toronto Cardiac Unit, and West Park Healthcare Rehabilitation who provided care over 5 months of recovery and rehabilitation after a sudden life-threatening condition. Their professionalism and compassion shored up my morale and made my recovery and rehabilitation a life-affirming experience.

RNFOO Practical Nursing Scholarship (Number of awards to be determined; value \$1,000)

To support nursing students in a Practical Nursing program. Applicants must demonstrate high academic standing and potential to make outstanding contributions to nursing.

RNFOO Undergrad Scholarship (Number of awards to be determined; value \$1,000)

To support nursing students in a Baccalaureate Nursing program. Applicants must demonstrate high academic standing and potential to make outstanding contributions to nursing.

Sonia Varaschin Memorial Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

To support a baccalaureate nursing student in 3rd or 4th year who has demonstrated leadership and a passion for making a difference toward healthy work environments.

Staff Nurses' Interest Group Scholarship for an Indigenous Student (1 x \$1,000)

To support to an Indigenous student enrolled in a baccalaureate nursing program. Applicants should display understanding of the challenges facing First Nations communities. Applicants must be members of RNAO; preference will be given to full time students who have completed at least 50% of their program.

Vanessa Burkoski Memorial Scholarship (1 x \$2,000)

Awarded to a full-time undergraduate nursing student who has demonstrated excellent academic achievements and advocacy in the 3rd or 4th year of the BScN program (2nd year of a 2nd level entry program). Applicants should provide evidence of their ability to inspire and advocate for others, and their desire to pursue a career in nursing founded in evidence-based clinical practice and policy/advocacy.

WeRPN: RPN Program Award (1 x \$1,000)

To support a student enrolled in a Practical Nursing education program. Applicants must demonstrate high academic standing and a patient-centred approach to care. Preference will be given to a full-time student.

Section 2: Awards available to Degree Students

Graduate Level Students should consult the note at the beginning of Section 4 (page 8)

Chapman Harm Reduction Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

To support a practising nurse or nursing student who has demonstrated commitment to a career focus on harm reduction in the field of addictions and mental health. Applicants may be a student enrolled in a baccalaureate nursing program, or a practising nurse enrolled in an educational program at a recognized institution.

Dorothy Ferguson Scholarship (1 x \$1,500)

To support a nursing student who is enrolled in a baccalaureate or graduate nursing degree. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding leadership potential. Preference will be given to full-time students.

Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Scholarship (4 x \$1,000)

To support nursing students pursuing education at the baccalaureate or graduate level. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding potential and/or contributions to their chosen area of practice.

Section 3: Awards available to Registered Nurses or Registered Practical Nurses

Graduate Level Students should consult the note at the beginning of Section 4 (page 8)

Anne L Coghlan Scholarship (2 x \$1,000)

To support a registrant of CNO (RPN, RN or NP) who is pursuing further education. Applicants must demonstrate a focus on supporting processes or change initiatives that have a significant impact on safe nursing care. Preference will be given to applicants demonstrating experience and/or interest in Nursing Regulation, Practice Standards, or Continuing Competence and Quality Assurance. Nurses who integrate the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure culturally safe practice; who demonstrate a focus on continuous quality improvement and patient safety in their practice; and who demonstrate use of evidence to prevent harm and improve patient safety are encouraged to apply.

Diabetes Nursing Interest Group Scholarship (DNIG) (1 x \$2,000)

To support a Registered Nurse pursuing education (continuing education or degree) in the area of diabetes education and care specific to type 2 diabetes. Applicants need not be enrolled in a degree program. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate commitment to diabetes education and care with urban or rural communities with an Indigenous population. Nurses of Indigenous origin are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be a member of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group and have held membership for at least one year prior to application.

Evelyn Cameron Memorial Bursary – Pediatric Nurses Interest Group (PedNIG)

(2 x \$1,000)

To support Registered Nurses who are enrolled in education at the baccalaureate or graduate level with a focus on pediatric nursing. Applicants must be members of the RNAO Pediatric Nurses Interest Group, and must demonstrate commitment to advancing the practice of pediatric nursing in Ontario.

Josephine Flaherty Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

To support a Post-Diploma Registered Nurse or a Registered Practical Nurse enrolled in baccalaureate education. Preference will be given to those applicants who demonstrate active volunteerism.

Julie Hall Scholarship for Neuroscience Nursing (2 x \$1,500)

To support Registered Nurses enrolled in education at the baccalaureate or graduate level with an interest in neuroscience nursing. Applicants may be involved in any area of neuroscience across the lifespan and the continuum of care. Applicants must demonstrate excellence in neuroscience nursing and indicate how they contribute to the advancement of clinical practice, education, or research within this specialty.

Ontario Nursing Informatics Group (ONIG) Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

To support a Registered Nurse or Registered Practical Nurse who is enrolled in further education with a focus on informatics. Preference will be given to members of the ONIG.

Regina Borowska Scholarship (10 x \$1,000)

To support RPNs and Internationally Educated Nurses enrolled in a baccalaureate nursing program. Preference will be given to Post-Diploma RNs, and RPNs who demonstrate potential to contribute to the advancement of nursing.

SE Health H.O.P.E. Scholarship (1 x \$2,500)

To support a nurse (RN or RPN) who is enrolled in education at the baccalaureate or graduate level. Applicants must show that their career path is dedicated to the principles of the H.O.P.E. Model® (Home, Opportunity, People, Empowerment) in Community Nursing.

Section 4: Awards available to Graduate Level Students

Special Note to Graduate Level Students:

Requirements for transcripts have changed this year. However, if you applied in previous years, and submitted official transcripts for previously completed programs, you can check with the RNFOO office to determine whether those documents are available.

*You must make this request; we **do not** check automatically. Only **FINAL** transcripts from previous programs will be loaded.*

YOU MUST SUBMIT A NEW TRANSCRIPT FOR YOUR CURRENT PROGRAM.

Diabetes Nursing Interest Group (DNIG) *Research Award* (1 x \$3000) ¹

To support a graduate level student in either a PhD, MScN or MN program who is conducting research focused on education, prevention, or management of diabetes. Applicants must have a **completed research proposal** that has been submitted for ethics approval. As well, applicants must be a member of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group and have held membership for at least one year prior to application.

Dorothy Monteith Scholarship (2 x \$2,000)

To support students enrolled in a graduate degree in nursing, with a focus on health policy, and who demonstrate outstanding leadership potential. The successful applicant may be studying full-time or part-time.

¹***Research Awards:*** Please note that applications for Research Awards must contain one **full research proposal**. As noted in the [Research Proposal Guidelines](#), the maximum size is 10 pages. If your proposal is less than 7 or 8 pages, reviewers will not have enough information to score your submission.



Section 4 Awards: Graduate Students Continued

Dorothy Wylie Scholarship (1 x \$1,500)

To support a student ***studying nursing leadership*** at the graduate level.

Dr. Hildegard E. Peplau Award – Mental Health Nursing Interest Group (MHNIG)

(1 x \$1,000)

To support a student enrolled in graduate level education in psychiatric/mental health nursing. Preference will be given to those whose focus of study includes an interpersonal perspective in nurse-client, family, peer, or community relationships. Preference will be given to members of the RNAO MHNIG.

Janet Anderson Memorial Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

To support a student enrolled in a graduate-level nursing program with a focus on quality and improving the patient experience. Preference will be given to applicants with demonstrated leadership in nursing and with Caribbean heritage.

Dr. Joan Lesmond Memorial Scholarship (1 x \$2,500)

Sponsored by SE Health to support a Registered Nurse who is ***studying diversity*** at the graduate level. Applicants should demonstrate that their studies are focused on equity and inclusion in the nursing field.

Joyce Shack Memorial Bursary (1 x \$1,200)

To support a student enrolled in a graduate level program whose career goals are focused on nursing administration. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate active involvement and leadership in the community.



RNFOO Values: Academic Achievement
Partnerships
Inclusiveness
Accountability

Integrity
Donor-Centered Stewardship
Collaboration

Section 4 Awards: Graduate Level Students Continued

Karin and Richard Doan Scholarship (1 x \$1,000)

- NEW in 2026

To support a student enrolled in a Nurse Practitioner Program at a recognized School of Nursing who has demonstrated commitment to mental health nursing.

Lynn Kirkwood Research Award¹ (1 x \$3000)

To support research into the practice of Nursing Practitioners (NP), this scholarship is awarded to graduate level students who are:
Researching the practice of Nurse Practitioners in Canada (applicant does not need to be an NP),

OR Nurse Practitioners pursuing graduate studies and conducting research focused on the role and/or domains of practice for Nurse Practitioners (once REB approval has been achieved).

Nursing Research Interest Group (NRIG) Award (1 x \$1,000) ¹

To support a graduate nursing student who is currently completing thesis-based research (MScN, PhD). Applicants must be members of the RNAO Nursing Research Interest Group for a minimum of two years, and submit a complete research proposal. NRIG encourages the winner of the award to attend the RNFOO Gala (held in May) and NRIG Annual General Meeting (held in August).

Palliative Care Nurses (PCNIG) Graduate Scholarship (1 x \$2,000)

To support a part-time or full-time graduate student (Nurse Practitioner, Masters, PhD, Clinical Doctorate) studying an aspect of palliative care. Applicants must be involved in and demonstrate excellence in any area of palliative care across the lifespan and continuum of care, and indicate how they contribute to the advancement of clinical practice, education, or research in this clinical specialty. Preference will be given to applicants who are members of PCNIG.

RNFOO Graduate Scholarship (Number of awards to be determined; value \$1,000)

- NEW in 2026

To support nursing students in a Graduate Nursing program. Applicants must demonstrate high academic standing and potential to make outstanding contributions to nursing.

Research in Mental Health Nursing Awards - Mental Health Nursing Interest Group (MHNIG) (2 x \$1,500) ¹

To support a Registered Nurse (RN) completing research in the field of mental health nursing. Preference will be given to RNs who possess current CNA Certification in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, whose research is focused on the advancement of mental health nursing practice and who are members of the MHNIG.

Applicants must have a **completed nursing research proposal** including a dissemination plan. Funding received from the MHNIG for this project should be acknowledged in any publications or presentations that result from the project. Upon completion of research, a report of results must be submitted to RNFOO and MHNIG. This report will be published in the MHNIG newsletter.

¹**Research Awards:** Please note that applications for Research Awards must contain one **full research proposal**. As noted in the [Research Proposal Guidelines](#), the maximum size is 10 pages. If your proposal is less than 7 or 8 pages, reviewers will not have enough information to score your submission.