

# YORK UNIVERSITY SCIENCE SCHOLARS AWARD APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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## Seeking Applicants of Exceptional Promise

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### Application Components

- **Application Form:** Please complete the YSSA application form. The link to this form may be found [here](#).
- **Resume:** Please include a resume with information such as your academic, extracurricular, and volunteer activities and achievements/awards.
- **Personal Statements:** You must write on selected topics. The guidelines and topics may be found [here](#).
- **Transcripts:** A candidate's academic performance is a very important factor in the award assessment. However, applicants do **NOT** need to send extra transcripts. We will review your academic performance based on transcripts that have already been sent as part of your application to York University's Faculty of Science. All academic assessments will be based on grades that we have already received. All final awarding of the YSSA is contingent upon maintaining the same academic average (within one to two percentage points) for which the recipient was awarded the York Science Scholars Award.
- **Reference Letters:** Please include two reference letters, only one of which is an academic reference (teacher). Your second reference can also be a teacher if they are from a non-academic setting (e.g. a coach, volunteer supervisor, etc). Each reference letter must be submitted with the reference letter form found here. **References must be received by the application deadline date of March 1, 2024. Please have your referee submit the reference form directly to us at [science@yorku.ca](mailto:science@yorku.ca).**

### What makes a competitive application?

Applications are assessed holistically with a number of factors considered. The quality of applicants is high and competitive applicants tend to have:

- High academic achievement (minimum 80% admission average or equivalent)
- Passion for science
- Community service experiences and a desire to make a difference for their communities
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Demonstrated involvement in activities beyond academics.
- For international students requiring the English language test for admission, competitive scores are:
  - YELT: band 1
  - TOEFL: iBT 100
  - IELTS: 7.5

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### Submitting your application:

Please submit YSSA applications directly to the Faculty of Science digitally by no later than **March 1, 2024 at 12:00 PM (EST)**.

**Digital submission:** Submissions may be made through the YSSA Application Form at [yorku.ca/science/yssa](https://yorku.ca/science/yssa).

### Application deadline:

Applications for the York Science Scholars Award close as of **March 1, 2024 at 12:00 PM (EST)**.

Successful applicants will be informed of their status by the end of May 2024.

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## How does the YSSA program work?

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York Science Scholars Awards are assessed separately and independently from any other York University Entrance Awards. As a result, recipients are eligible for the YSSA regardless of any other awards that they may receive.

York Science Scholars will receive a \$10,000 scholarship which will be awarded in two parts.

The first as an entrance scholarship and the second part once the experiential component is successfully completed. The first \$5,000 will be awarded upon full-time enrolment to York University's Faculty of Science. The second part is awarded after the 12-week experiential component of the YSSA program (research placement or mentorship experience), overseen by a Faculty of Science professor during the summer following the recipient's first year of study.

Recipients must achieve a B+ average during the first year of study in order to be eligible for the experiential component. The receipt of the second \$5,000 part of the scholarship is contingent upon successful completion of the experiential component and upon enrolment in the following term of study.

The placement is full-time for 12 weeks and runs from May to August. Award winners are expected to commit for the full 12 weeks and are responsible for their own living arrangements during this time.