

6 Things You Should Know About Scholarships

And how to get started finding free money for college

1 There are scholarships for everyone, not just jocks and geniuses

Don't sell yourself short — millions of scholarships are out there for almost every talent and interest. Are you a vegetarian? Roller skater? Star Trek fan? Yup, there's a scholarship for that.

2 Even a few hundred dollars can make a big difference

Some scholarships offer big money, some not so much. Apply anyway. Even if you only get a few hundred dollars, that can help pay for textbooks or other expenses. Bottom line: scholarships are money in your pocket that you won't have to pay back.

3 It's really worth the time and effort

Sure, you might have to write a few essays but it's worth it. Scholarships are free money! Be sure to follow guidelines and be mindful of deadlines. A late submission can eliminate you from consideration.

4 Watch out for scholarship scams

Don't pay for scholarships. Period. There are many reputable and free scholarship search sites. Get recommendations from your school about good sources.

5 You can apply even if you're already in college

Did you know that 50% of scholarships are available for students already enrolled in college? You can apply for scholarships every year you're in school.

6 Finding scholarships is easy (and free)

Start at **SallieMae.com/ScholarshipSearch**, your all-access pass to finding scholarships. It's free and it's home to more than 5 million, worth over \$24 billion. It matches you to available scholarships and alerts you when new ones pop up.

Begin your search at **SallieMae.com/ScholarshipSearch**

© 2015 Sallie Mae Bank. Sallie Mae and the Sallie Mae logo are service marks or registered service marks of Sallie Mae Bank or its subsidiaries. SLM Corporation and its subsidiaries, including Sallie Mae Bank, are not sponsored by or agencies of the United States of America. SMSM MKT11230 0915

