



Jessica Howard

The Smith Family Scholarship for Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion (2024), BA Sociology '25

[NAME]
[ADDRESS]
[ADDRESS]

[DATE]

Dear Smith Family,

It is my pleasure to write to you today to share my sincere gratitude for being selected as the 2024 recipient of the Smith Family Scholarship for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and my deepest appreciation for your generous support of Laurentian students like myself.

As a student in Laurentian's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion program, this scholarship is a reminder to me and my classmates that there are people out there who share our innate desire to make a meaningful difference in the world around us. I was incredibly touched and proud to be chosen to receive this scholarship, as it recognizes all the hard work, dedication and passion I have invested in my education thus far and will motivate me as I push towards even greater achievements.

Since a very young age, as far back as I can remember, I have shown a keen interest in championing social justice. Whether participating in community events, advocating for marginalized groups, volunteering in local organizations or even just finding ways to promote unity and understanding among my friends, family and peers, I always knew that creating positive change was my calling. I'm so grateful to have found a program that allows me to explore and deepen my knowledge of these principles and channel them into a successful future career.

Through the financial support provided by this scholarship, I have been able to comfortably and confidently focus on my studies without the financial burden of tuition slowing me down or a part-time job taking precious time and energy away from my education. Receiving this scholarship was particularly meaningful to my experience as a first-generation Canadian and the first in their family to attend university, as I know first-hand how transformative education can be and the powerful potential that comes from creating equitable opportunities for all.

You have inspired me to continue dreaming bigger and striving for excellence. I am eager to pay your generous support forward for others by putting the skills, expertise and insights to work as I pursue a career in social work and become an advocate for new Canadians like my own family.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Your generosity has not only made my education more accessible but has also fueled my commitment to creating positive change in the world.

Sincerely,

Jessica Howard

Thanking your donor...

In your own words

Drafting a thank-you letter for your award, scholarship or bursary

By taking the opportunity to thank a donor who has helped support your Laurentian journey through an award, scholarship or bursary, you are creating a special moment for both them and yourself. With a personal thank-you letter, you are helping them understand and appreciate the difference they have made by introducing them to your story and the ways it has been impacted by their support.

These instructions are here to assist in writing and structuring your letter, but it is important to note that it does not need to follow this exact formula. Get creative and infuse as much of your personality, experiences and emotions as possible to help your donor connect with your words—share stories, highlight your achievements and go beyond formalities to paint a vivid picture of the impact their support has had on your journey and future.

The thank-you letter should accomplish the following goals:



Convey **gratitude**

Express your thanks to the donor for their choice to generously support student financial assistance at Laurentian.



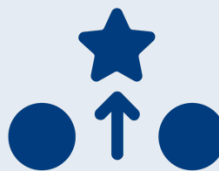
Demonstrate **impact**

Share how this financial support has transformed your education, personal life or future goals and aspirations.



Express **emotion**

Use authentic, heartfelt language to highlight your appreciation and to create a connection between you and your donor.



Be **personal**

As much as possible, include compelling details and information that is unique to your specific experience.

The letter should address the following topics and questions:

Your gratitude:

In what ways has this award, scholarship or bursary supported your academic pursuits or supported your personal journey?

Based on the award description, are there any specific achievements, skills or character traits of yours that you feel it recognizes?

What does it mean for students like yourself (or in your program) to know that there are people who support them, their passions and their futures?

Your unique personal story:

What pivotal moments or experiences have shaped your decision to pursue higher education?

How has your background, upbringing or cultural identity influenced your educational goals and aspirations?

Are there specific challenges or obstacles that this award, scholarship or bursary helped you to overcome?

Your academic and extra-curricular pursuits:

Why did you choose to pursue your specific degree or program at Laurentian, and what interests you most about this program?

How or where did your interest in your chosen area of study at Laurentian first begin? Were there specific role models, events or experiences?

Have there been any academic or extra-curricular opportunities that have contributed to your passion for this area of study?

Your future goals and aspirations:

What career or personal goals do you envision achieving in your remaining years at Laurentian or after graduation?

How has this award, scholarship or bursary influenced your long-term aspirations and the impact you hope to make in your chosen field?

What legacy do you hope to leave as a result of your Laurentian education and future endeavours?

The letter should include words and phrases like the following:

excellence legacy commitment
opportunity accomplishment
creative transform education
meaningful aspirations dream support training
champion contribution recognition generous
overcome difference future exploration
potential passion career achievement goals skills
appreciation thanks influenced change obstacle
dedication gratitude motivation honoured generosity
community possibilities challenge impact proud expertise
confident