



COMMUNICATION MEMO

Office of the President

2020-04-20

MEMO: New and Existing Financial Supports for Students

TO: All Students

CC: Staff, Faculty, Board of Governors, SASA, AUSU, SKG

FROM: Asima Vezina, President and Vice-Chancellor

Algoma University (Algoma) is working hard to support all students to continue their studies with Algoma despite the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This memo outlines key internal and external financial supports that are available to eligible students; International and Canadian students, as well as specific support for Anishinaabe (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) students. In developing this financial support program summary, Algoma researched federal, provincial, and municipal supports available to students. In addition, Algoma has put in place extra measures, including the Student Emergency Fund (SEF), and increased access to bursaries for groups who have limited access to federal and/or provincial funding support.

Key supports available at this time include:

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) - (Canadian & International Students)

The [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) provides temporary income support to those who have stopped working and are without employment or self-employment income for reasons related to COVID-19 or to individuals who are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits.

As articulated, at this time on the government website, the new CERB provides \$500 per week in relief funding. A maximum of 16 weeks of benefits can be paid, up to \$8,000.00 in total.

The benefit is available from **March 15, 2020, to October 3, 2020**; you can apply no later than December 2, 2020. The application process is relatively simple, as described by one of our International students in this [video](#). Examples of how the CERB applies to International students are found [here](#). There have been changes in the last couple days so please monitor.

Algoma University Student Emergency Fund (SEF) - (Canadian & International Students)

The [Algoma University Student Emergency Fund \(SEF\)](#) will help to provide immediate short-term relief for unexpected expenses related to housing, rent, food and other costs due to COVID-19. A convenient [online SEF Application Form](#) has been established for those who wish to apply.

Scholarships and Bursaries: (Canadian & International Students)

Algoma University offers one of the lowest tuition rates for both Canadian and International students. The University also provides some of the best awards in Ontario, and we work hard to ensure that they are attainable. Algoma offers numerous awards based on both academic achievement and financial need, to both newly admitted and continuing students. You may be automatically considered for some awards strictly based on your grades, and there are a number of other scholarships and bursaries, generously provided by donors, available for eligible students.

In addition, eligible students can apply for the [Financial Aid Bursary](#) offered this Spring and Fall as well as additional Emergency Bursary assistance if required.

For a full list of Algoma University awards and scholarships, visit:

<https://www.algomau.ca/students/awards-scholarships/>

2020-2021 Continuing Scholarships/Bursaries

Continuing scholarships are awarded to returning Canadian students entering their second, third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree program. Bursaries are based primarily on demonstrated unmet financial need and there are many that Algoma University offers. Some bursaries may include other selection criteria such as extracurricular involvement, leadership, particular program of study, etc. The application form is available [here](#).

Anishinaabe Students (First Nations, Métis, Inuit (FNMI))

In addition to some of the opportunities already referenced, additional supports are in place to assist Anishinaabe Students (First Nations, Métis, Inuit (FNMI)). Some of these are directly managed by Algoma University while others are administered by external organizations.

The **Anishinaabe People's Council** has established a 'NEW' bursary program for students already self-identified (FNMI) for the 2020 Spring and 2020 Fall semester. The maximum \$1,000 bursary is set at \$500 per 15-credit semester (or \$100 per 3-credit course).

The **Indigenous Student Bursary** provides aid to Indigenous students who are residents of Ontario and demonstrate financial need. The value of this bursary depends on financial need and number of eligible applicants. The application is available through Algoma University Financial Aid Office.

The **Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)** is offering interim COVID-19 support programs including the Income Relief Benefit, rent relief, food security programs, and an emergency family fund;

these are available to help MNO citizens who have lost their income because of COVID-19, while they transition to Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). Applications are available [online](#).

Since 1985, [Indspire](#) has disbursed bursaries and scholarships to First Nation, Inuit, and Métis post-secondary students. It is the largest funder for Indigenous education outside of the federal government.

A number of scholarships and bursaries have been established thanks to the generosity of donations made by friends of Algoma University. Each award has established eligibility criteria based on the wishes of the donor. Two examples of awards specific to Anishinaabe students include:

1. The **Sardar, Rajwant, Paul and Anita Sohi Family Scholarship** which provides two scholarships to first year students who are: First Generation students of First Nations, Métis, or Inuit descent. Preference will be given to students enrolled in either a math, science or engineering program.
2. The **Rose Nolan Scholarship**, established by the **Ted Nolan Foundation**. This annual scholarship, named after Ted Nolan's mother, was established to help First Nations women achieve their educational and training goals while maintaining strong community involvement.

International Student Bursaries- NEW

International students pay higher tuition rates than Canadian students in the University system due in large part to Ontario students being heavily subsidized by provincial government funding. International students also have less access to scholarships and bursaries although these are increasing in nature. In this effort, we have decided to offer a bursary to assist all International students during this crisis.

A \$2,000 bursary will be provided to all existing and incoming **International Degree Students** registering for the 2020 Spring and 2020 Fall semesters. The \$2,000 bursary is set at \$1,000 per 15-credit semester (or \$200 per 3-credit course) and is valid for **two** consecutive terms of study (2020 Spring and 2020 Fall or 2020 Fall and 2021 Winter). This would also be applicable for the 2021/2022 academic year which can add up to a maximum of \$4,000 over the two years.

A \$3,000 bursary will be provided to all existing and incoming **Graduate Certificate** program students for the 2020 Spring and 2020 Fall semesters. The \$3,000 bursary is set at \$1,500 per 15-credit semester (or \$300 per 3-credit course) and is valid for **two** consecutive terms of study (2020 Spring and 2020 Fall or 2020 Fall and 2021 Winter). This would also be applicable for the 2021/2022 academic year which can add up to a maximum of \$6,000 over the two years.

For further details on scholarships, bursaries and awards, please contact the Financial Aid Office at fao@algomau.ca.

Other External Supports Available in our Campus Communities

Sault Ste. Marie - <https://socialservices-ssmd.ca/covid-19-updates/>

Brampton - <https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/social-support>

Timmins - <http://www.porcupinehu.on.ca/en/your-community>

*Note the total amount of Bursaries scholarships and awards cannot exceed the amount of tuition assessed.