

**INTRODUCTION**

The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) is pleased to accept applications for the Maureen Woods Education Bursary. This bursary was made possible with a generous donation from the Saskatchewan Provincial Library and Literacy Office, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and through the efforts of the Multitype Library Board and the Saskatchewan Library Association. The bursary was established to promote the continued growth of professional librarianship in the province of Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Library Association administers the bursary.

Value of Award: $5,000

**CRITERIA**

1. Eligibility

* Candidates must be accepted or enrolled at the time of the award at the time of application in an ALA accredited graduate degree program in a Master of Library and Information Science or equivalent.
* Candidates must be willing to take up residence and employment in Saskatchewan for a period of one year following completion of their MLS program.
* Preference will be given to those candidates who are residents of Saskatchewan.
* Candidates must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.
* Candidates must not have received the bursary previously.

2. Merit

* Applications will be considered on the basis of academic achievement, leadership potential, interest in the profession, demonstration of competencies required of professional librarians of today, and interest/commitment to working in Saskatchewan.
* Merit will be based on the following:
1. All post-secondary academic transcripts (to be sent directly to the SLA office)

b) Two letters of reference, one academic and one employment, who can testify to the candidate’s academic achievement and professional ability, to be sent directly to the SLA office

c) Up-to-date Resume

d) Maximum one page letter by candidate demonstrating his/her interest in the profession with examples, interest/commitment to working in Saskatchewan, career goals and objectives, and community involvement.

e) A short interview of finalists.

**GRANT CONDITIONS**

* Candidates will be considered according to the criteria established above.
* Recipients must submit a progress report to the Executive Director on an annual basis until completion of the program. The report should include their status in the program and a copy of their transcripts.
* Recipients must complete the Master’s Degree Program within five years of receipt of the grant.
* Recipients will have a period of two years from the time they graduate to locate and accept professional employment in Saskatchewan.
* Recipients must submit a progress report to the Executive Director on an annual basis until they secure professional employment in Saskatchewan. The report should include organizations contacted, positions applied to, and dates that applications were sent.
* Professional employment in Saskatchewan may include contract work but must be at least six months long in duration.
* Recipients must be willing to sign a loan agreement undertaking to repay the bursary as a loan if the residency requirements are not fulfilled, or if the program is not successfully completed within five years.
* Recipients must repay 80% or $4000 of funds if satisfactory employment in Saskatchewan is not found in the allotted period but a satisfactory search has been conducted in the province (including positions outside of Regina and Saskatoon). Otherwise failure to find employment in Saskatchewan will require the repayment of the entire amount (refer to p. 2 Defaulting Recipients).
* Bursary funds shall be awarded to successful recipients in a single annual disbursement.

**APPLICATIONS**

* The Board issues calls for applications and establishes submission deadlines. Submissions are to be made to the SLA Office by mail, email or fax, using the application form provided by the SLA Office and available on the SLA website.
* Candidates are required to complete the Saskatchewan Libraries Bursary Grant Application form and supply all post-secondary academic transcripts, two letters of reference and proof of admission or enrolment to a library school. Grant applications are reviewed by a Bursary Subcommittee under the auspices of the SLA Fundraising Committee.
* For more information about the bursary please contact the SLA Office by phone at

 306- 780-9413 or via email at slaexdir@sasktel.net

**Deadline for applications: September 30 (Annually)**

Applications should be sent via email, fax or mail to:

Maureen Woods Education Bursary

Saskatchewan Library Association

#15-2010 7th Avenue

Regina SK S4R 1C2

Fax: 306.780.9447

Email: slaexdir@sasktel.net