How to find free cash for school

Don't think you can afford to pay for summer school?
There are a number of options that can help you



How will you pay for summer school?

The best way to finance your summer school is to find "free money," such as grants, scholarships and bursaries that don't accrue interest and you never have to pay back.

Websites such as ScholarshipsCanada.com and StudentAwards.com can help you find them.

Government loans are the traditional way of financing your schooling. In Canada, academic funding is considered to be a partnership between you the student, your parents and the government.

If you're a full-time summer student, which means 9.5 hours per week of classes, you can qualify



for the full-time, no-interest loan and don't have to pay it back until you're no longer full-time status.

There are provincial and federal student loans that you can apply for at the same time.

You can complete a single application online, and loans and grants from both governments will be calculated automatically. Visit CanLearn.ca for more information.

Look to the universities and their affiliates for other sources of funding. For example, the U of A Student Union offers the Access Fund, a bursary based on financial need.

The fund is administered to U of A undergraduates on a case-by-case basis, requiring an interview to assess the student for shortfalls.

In any case, it is best to contact a student financial planner to help you make your choices and do your homework to research some of the many sources of funding available for your summer studies.