

Beware of Scholarship and Financial Aid Scams

<https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships/articles/let-s-talk-scholarships-application-tips>

Familiarize yourself with the warning signs for scholarship and financial aid scams. They're easier than you think to spot. Here are some scholarship scam warning signs you should be aware of:

- **Fees:** True scholarships are there to aid you, not the other way around so never pay to apply for scholarships or financial aid.
- **Guarantees you'll win:** Legitimate scholarship sponsors will never guarantee that you'll win. If an offer is guaranteed, it's exactly as it seems: too good to be true.
- **You're already a winner! You didn't apply, yet you've won.** Legitimate scholarship offers are those you need to put effort into winning through the application process - you aren't just awarded money for no reason.
- **Personal information requests:** A legitimate scholarship sponsor will never request personal information that you shouldn't be giving out, like your social security number. If you're ever uncomfortable with the type of information requested, it's likely not a legitimate offer.
- **Missing sponsor information:** When a scholarship sponsor is legitimate, you will always be able to access their contact information in some form. If it seems like a "don't call us, we'll call you" type of situation, look at it as a red flag for a scam.

There are several additional reputable online resources that list scholarship scam guidelines and information. Utilize them to familiarize yourself with the warning signs so that you don't fall prey to student scams.