

10 Scam Warning Signs

These quick tips can help you spot a scam.

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Knowing these warning signs can keep you from being a scholarship scam victim.

- 1. Fees:** You shouldn't have to pay to search for or apply for scholarships. Check out the free scholarship search at [FastWeb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).
- 2. Credit card or bank account information needed:** You should never have to give credit card or bank account information to award providers.
- 3. Scholarship guarantee:** No one can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship because no one can control scholarship judges' decisions. Also, be wary of "high success rates"—they usually do not refer to actual award winners.
- 4. No work involved:** You can't avoid putting in time to fill out a scholarship application.
- 5. No contact information:** Legitimate sponsors should provide contact information upon request. If the sponsor does not supply a valid e-mail address, phone number and mailing address (not a PO box) after you've asked for one, that could be the sign of a scam.
- 6. Unsolicited scholarships:** If you are called to receive an award for which you never applied, be alert—it's most likely a scam.
- 7. Pressure tactics:** Don't allow yourself to be pressured into applying for a scholarship, especially if the sponsor is asking for money up front.

Scholarship Tips & Advice

- [Five Scholarship Myths](#)
- [Scholarships for Unusual Talent](#)
- Winning Essay Tips: [Part I](#) & [Part II](#)
- [Scholarship Spotlights](#)
- [Chat About Scholarships](#)
- [Track Your Scholarship Deadlines](#)

- 8. Claims of "exclusive" scholarships:** Sponsors don't make their scholarships available through only one service.
- 9. Sponsor goes out of their way to sound "official":** Scammers sometimes use official-sounding words like "national," "education" or "federal" or they display an official-looking seal to fool you into thinking they are legit. Check with your school if you question a scholarship provider's legitimacy.
- 10. Your questions aren't answered directly:** If you can't get a straight answer from a sponsor regarding their application, what will be done with your information or other questions, proceed with caution.