



Growing Rural Nurses – Western Zone NS Health – Dalhousie Campus SON Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

1. What financial support does this Growing Rural Nurses scholarship offer?

The scholarship is to support costs of tuition – approximately \$10,000.00 per semester of study for duration of full program (e.g., Direct Entry = \$50,000.00, Advanced Standing Program = \$30,000.00).

2. I am currently a student in the Dalhousie Nursing program at the Yarmouth Campus, can I apply for the Growing Rural Nurses scholarship?

No, this scholarship is only available to new students starting in either Direct Entry or Advanced Standing programs in September 2024.

3. Do I have to live in one of the designated counties (Digby, Yarmouth, Queens) areas to apply for the Growing Rural Nurses Scholarship?

Qualified candidates for the Growing Rural Nurses scholarships need to either currently live in one of the geographical areas (Digby, Yarmouth or Queens counties), or have a community affiliation to the area and be willing to relocate there upon graduation. They must accept a full-time Registered Nurse position in that area with a Return-of-Service agreement. For example, if you grew up in one of the areas, but moved away and now would like to return to this community, then you can apply. You will describe your community affiliation during the application process.

While in the Dalhousie Nursing program, successful recipients can choose to live at home, or in residence (residence fees not included in the scholarship).

4. Do other schools that offer nursing programs qualify for this Growing Rural Nurses Scholarship?

No, this is a scholarship currently is a collaboration between the Nova Scotia Health and Dalhousie University to support nursing recruitment to these counties in Western Zone. The only nursing program that qualifies is Dalhousie University's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program – Yarmouth Campus.

5. How long is the Return-of-Service (ROS) Agreement?

Must be willing to complete a three-year return of service (ROS), in a full-time RN position, at either Yarmouth Regional Hospital, Digby General Hospital or Queens General Hospital upon successful graduation from Dalhousie (and receipt of a conditional or active practicing nursing license). The position will be a permanent 1.0 (full-time FTE) in one practice area (e.g., one unit). Following the ROS the RN can choose to remain in that position or apply for other positions within NS Health.

6. Will I get to choose which nursing position I apply for upon completion of the Dalhousie Nursing program?

NS Health recruitment will help you to determine which of the available permanent 1.0 FTE positions (e.g., core or supernumerary) you would like to apply for, based on your interest and qualifications.

7. Can I work while I am I receiving the Growing Rural Nurses Scholarship?

Successful recipients of the Growing Rural Nurses Scholarship can work while a student at Dalhousie SON Yarmouth Campus if they choose to do so. This includes working in the NS Health Undergraduate Student Nurse role, once they complete the required clinical hours in the nursing program (i.e., 400 hours).

8. What happens if I get sick or am unable to complete the Nursing program at Dalhousie, or the Return of Service agreement in the time outlined?

In the event of extenuating circumstances that would prevent the student from completing the program and/or fulfilling the exact terms of the ROS agreement, NS Health will review on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to support the goal of completion of nursing program and/or ROS (e.g., delayed due to health leave).

9. What happens if I change my mind, and either don't want to finish the Nursing program or the Return-of-Service agreement?

Should the applicant not complete the Nursing program, and/or not fulfil the conditions of the ROS, the nurse is responsible for the repayment of funding received through the Growing Rural Nurses scholarship in accordance with the repayment schedule as determined by the employer NS Health.

10. What happens if I fail or am unsuccessful in completing the Nursing program at Dalhousie University?

If you failed courses and had to repeat them, and you do not complete the Nursing education within the regular schedule, you will need to complete these additional program/course requirements at your own expense. If you are disqualified from the Nursing Program at Dalhousie University, you will be responsible to repay the funding in accordance with the repayment schedule as determined by NS Health.

11. When can I apply for the Growing Rural Nurses scholarship?

The application process will commence February 2024, and the deadline for all applications is April 8th, 2024. Applicants can apply prior to receiving confirmation that they have a seat offer at Dalhousie University SON Yarmouth campus. Confirmation of a seat offer is required for a complete application.

12. What is required for the application?

The application consists of your resume, a written submission (3–6 pages), two references and proof of confirmation of a seat at the Dalhousie School of Nursing – Yarmouth Campus.

13. What is the application process based on?

The application process is designed to identify applicants who exemplify the organizational [values of NS Health](#): Respect, Integrity, Innovation, Courage, Accountability. Successful applicants must be willing to work in their home communities of Yarmouth, Digby and Queens counties upon graduation. A robust application screening process using resume, written submission and references will ensure that top applicants are awarded these scholarships.

14. When will the recipients of these scholarships be notified?

Recipients of these scholarships will be notified by May 6th, 2024.