



WTS Scholarship

Promoting Women in Transportation

WTS Advancing women
Advancing transportation
Greater Toronto Area



The Transportation Industry

Transportation is a thriving and comprehensive industry. It incorporates all forms of human modality—heavy and light rail, aviation, automotive, human-powered means—and draws on the knowledge and skill sets from various fields and educational backgrounds. The evolution of innovative transportation requires minds trained in many disciplines including architecture, engineering, mathematics, geography, political science, policy, economics, finance, planning, environmental science, communications, and more.

Despite the broad range of educational backgrounds that can lead to a career in transportation, women continue to be under-represented in transportation-related occupations.¹

WTS Scholarship

The WTS Toronto Chapter aims to further the development of the transportation industry through gender diversification within the local workforce. In an effort to promote gender diversity and attract young talent, a scholarship has been established where \$3,000 CAD scholarships will be awarded to a minimum of one postgraduate and two undergraduate or college students, plus one Indigenous undergraduate student. Additional awards may be granted based on available funding. In the event that there are no qualified postgraduate candidates, additional awards may be granted to undergraduate students.

We are also offering one focused scholarship for undergraduate students pursuing studies within emerging technologies such as electrical engineering, autonomous systems, computer science and programming, math systems,

artificial intelligence and machine learning, cyber analytics and fusion engineering.

General Scholarships are open to students who:

- Are pursuing a degree that will lead to a career in transportation, such as those listed above and demonstrates strong academic performance. Programs not listed may qualify if the student can demonstrate how their studies will lead to a career in transportation.
- Have a demonstrable interest in promoting the advancement of gender diversity within the transportation industry.
- Are registered full-time at a university or college in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area and the Kitchener/Waterloo/Guelph area in 2026. ([See full list of eligible institutions](#).)

Indigenous Scholarship

- In addition to the above requirements, this scholarship is for post-secondary school students who identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit). Indigenous Scholarships are open ontario-wide to any full-time student registered in a Canadian post-secondary institution.

Focused Scholarship – Emerging Technologies

- In addition to the above requirements for general scholarships, applicants must also demonstrate their connection to emerging technologies (Internet of Things (IoT), and/or Artificial Intelligence (AI) and/or Autonomous Systems and Systems Engineering (SE)) and how these technologies contribute to solving a transportation problem.

Scholarship recipients will be selected and notified in late October, and presented with the award at the WTS annual event. WTS is now offering free memberships to students who are pursuing a degree that will lead them to a career in transportation to facilitate their introduction to the industry and provide an opportunity to begin building their professional network.

Past WTS Toronto Area Chapter (TAC) Scholarship award recipients are not eligible for subsequent awards from the TAC.

¹ Godfrey, J. & Bertini, R.L. (2019). Attracting and retaining women in the transportation industry. San Jose, California: Mineta Transportation Institute.



What are WTS Toronto scholarship recipients saying?

Emma Swarney (2020)

“The WTS scholarship helped me so much by giving me a glimpse into what my future career could look like. Through connecting me with an amazing group of women I felt supported in a way I hadn’t ever before in my professional life. It’s as if there’s an entire village of women transportation professionals cheering me on now!”

Sara Knowles (2019)

“The scholarship and networking opportunities provided to me by WTS not only financially aided my education in a field I feel passionate about, but also inspired me through the support of the experienced and talented members. I am very

grateful to WTS for actively showing support to women like me as a minority in the transportation industry.”

Joanna Ilunga-Kapinga (2020)

“Being awarded a 2020 WTS Scholarship gave me the chance to network and be part of an amazing community of women!”

Felita Ong (2020)

“The scholarship not only provided me with plenty of opportunities to participate in professionally enriching events and learn from industry leaders, but also enabled me to be a part of a community whose members are passionate about advancing the transportation industry. I am very grateful for the mentorship, professional development, and networking opportunities that the WTS Toronto Chapter has given me over the last year.”

General scholarship applications open in July. To apply, please complete and submit the scholarship application by 11:59 pm on September 20, 2026. Indigenous scholarship applications open year-round. Questions and completed applications can be sent to wtstoronto.scholarships@gmail.com



WTS International

Founded in 1977, WTS is an international organization dedicated to building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women. Boasting more than 5,000 members—both women and men—WTS is helping women find opportunity and recognition in the transportation industry. Through its professional activities, networking opportunities, and unparalleled access to industry and government leaders, WTS is turning the glass ceiling into a career portal.

WTS sets the benchmark for professional development through innovative programs, awards and scholarships, and corporate and VIP receptions. Actively training future leaders in the crucial skills necessary to advance the transportation industry, WTS empowers its members through formal and informal mentoring programs, a career center, professional development programs, an annual conference, monthly local programs, access to the membership directory, and assists women in obtaining senior positions in national, state, and local transportation agencies, as well as on corporate and governmental boards.

www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/toronto/scholarship