



### **Naseem Somani Memorial Scholarship**

Naseem Somani was a leader who inspired everyone around her with her passion for the laboratory industry and the Canadian healthcare system. As CEO of Dynacare, Naseem worked tirelessly to successfully grow the company during rapidly changing and challenging times into one of Canada's largest providers of laboratory services. A newcomer to Canada when she was a teenager, Naseem felt deeply aware of the opportunities she and her family were provided, and her focus on improving Canada's healthcare system stemmed from a genuine desire to give back to a country that gave her so much. During her over 30 years in the medical laboratory industry, she spent nearly 18 of them serving on the Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories (OAML) Board of Directors. Naseem will always be remembered for her compassion, integrity and boundless optimism.

To honour Naseem's incredible legacy, the Naseem Somani Memorial Scholarship has been created to recognize a medical laboratory student who has demonstrated some of the same inspirational spirit as this strong, compassionate innovator and leader.

The scholarship will be awarded to an exceptional student currently enrolled in their third year of the Medical Laboratory Sciences program of an approved institution in Ontario while pursuing a career as a Medical Laboratory Technologist.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate strong academic achievement, excellence in leadership and a drive to help others. They will embody a caring spirit and passion for healthcare, and possess a strong desire to improve the medical laboratory and healthcare systems in Ontario.

### **About the OAML**

The OAML is a voluntary association of privately owned providers of community laboratory services in Ontario. The community laboratory sector is an essential component of Ontario's healthcare system. The OAML works with other health services providers and their associations to effect positive change in the delivery of healthcare services in Ontario.

### **Policy**

The Naseem Somani Memorial Scholarship is available to a resident of Ontario who is enrolled in their third year of a full-time program of studies at a college in Ontario, leading to certification as a Medical Laboratory Technologist.

Employees of the OAML or members of their immediate families (parents, spouses, siblings or dependents) are not eligible to apply.



The scholarship consists of an award of \$5,000 in the 2021–2022 academic year (September–April). The name of the successful applicant and their academic affiliation will be published by the OAML in such manner as the OAML may deem appropriate.

Applicants are encouraged to apply to both the Naseem Somani Memorial Scholarship and the OAML Scholarship. The applicant who is selected to receive the Naseem Somani Memorial Scholarship will not be considered for the OAML Scholarship.

Completed applications and supporting documentation must be submitted to:

Naseem Somani Memorial Scholarship – Applications  
c/o OAML  
Suite 1802, 5000 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario M2N 7E9

### Requirements

Applicants must:

1. Submit a completed application form (available at [oaml.com/students/scholarships](http://oaml.com/students/scholarships)).
2. Have completed two years in a program of full-time studies in medical laboratory sciences at a college in Ontario, and be currently enrolled in their third year of full-time studies.
3. Submit the following information and materials for consideration by the Selection Committee:
  - a. A letter of recommendation from a current teacher or program instructor supporting the nomination for this scholarship. Contact information for the teacher/instructor must be provided.
  - b. A written personal essay, no longer than 2,000 words. Applicants should describe the reasons why they decided to pursue a career in Medical Laboratory Science. A sense of what future goals the applicant hopes to achieve through their study would be appropriate. Applicants should also be prepared to discuss one or more of the following:
    - i. Instances of leadership in school or in the community. This may include taking the lead in volunteer activities, school associations or clubs, in class or committee projects.
    - ii. Working in the community, including at school. Organizing a study group or volunteering in the community are excellent examples. Any awards or other recognition previously received should also be mentioned.
    - iii. For many, a key element of higher education required overcoming adverse conditions. Discuss how your own situation challenged you and how you overcame those challenges.
  - c. A sealed academic transcript that includes the candidate's most recent marks. In order to qualify for selection, marks must be no less than 70% during their program.

An interview with the Selection Committee may be required. This would be done either in person or by video conference.



## Procedure

Applications are available online in PDF format at [oaml.com/students/scholarships](http://oaml.com/students/scholarships). Completed applications (in hard copy format) and accompanying documentation must be received at the OAML offices by close of business (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time) Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Materials will not be returned. The scholarship recipient will be announced in late February.

Those applicants who also wish to be considered for the OAML Scholarship in the event they do not receive the Memorial Scholarship should indicate their intent by checking the box to that effect on the application. Those applicants should also submit a completed copy of the OAML Scholarship application. Please note that applicants who have received the OAML Scholarship in a previous year are not eligible to do so again.

The Scholarship amount will be paid directly to the recipient. The Selection Committee will review all applications, as well as review and revise the selection policy and criteria as necessary. The decisions of the Committee are final.

The Selection Committee will award points in each area as shown below, to a maximum cumulative total of 50 points:

Nomination letter (5 points)

Academic standing (10 points)

Statement of decision to pursue a career in medical laboratory science (10 points)

Essay on personal and professional accomplishments (25 points)