

The Best Return on Investment I'll Have in My Life

I have saved tens of thousands of dollars throughout medical school all thanks to a few hours applying to outside scholarships. It's probably the best return on investment I'll have in my life. Over the course of my four years, I will spend a cumulative of 10 hours on outside scholarships and will collect about \$50,000.

Here's how I did it. In the spring before my first year, I spent two hours searching for scholarships online. I tried to search for scholarships that would be specific to me. I thought about what was unique about me and focused on scholarships that were smaller, more local. I searched for scholarships that were specific to where I was from, my community, my religion, my race, my sport, and my hobby.

I found five scholarships from my home state. Two of them were only for medical students in their third or fourth years. I jotted down the links to those scholarships for the future and applied to the other three. Applying entailed lightly editing my medical school essay, filling out forms, printing forms, and mailing forms. All told, each application probably took an hour.

Of the three scholarships I applied to before entering medical school, I got two! Each for \$5,000-10,000. And, once you get a scholarship once, you're much more likely to get it again. Both of my scholarships have renewed for each year of my medical school training. I resubmit the application (maybe 15 minutes of work) and get another \$5,000-10,000.

I came across so many other scholarships that didn't fit me but would have fit so many of my classmates. Medical school is expensive, but scholarships are out there. You just have to look.