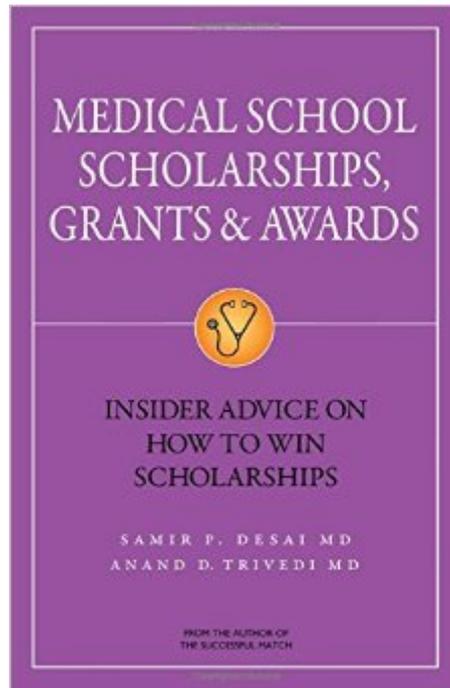


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# Medical School Scholarships, Grants & Awards: Insider Advice On How To Win Scholarships



## Synopsis

Residency match expert Dr. Samir Desai has helped students win medical school scholarships, grants, and awards, and now shares his perspectives in this new resource. Winning awards and scholarships can:

- Significantly reduce your debt. AAMC research indicates that the median education debt for the class of 2013 was \$175,000.
- Provide a major boost to your residency application, and set you apart from your peers.
- Awards can be placed in the application, MSPE (Dean's Letter), letters of recommendation, and CV. We have found that interviewers often ask about awards during residency interviews. "The [American Society of Clinical Pathology Academic Excellence Award] was a common topic during my residency interviews," says Alexander Gallan, a medical student at the Boston University School of Medicine. "I believed it helped my residency application immeasurably by providing justification for all the hard work I have done."

Elevate your profile with competitive specialties and residency programs. After Brian Caldwell, a medical student at the University of Arkansas, won the Dr. Constantin Cope Medical Student Research Award from the Society of Interventional Radiology, Dr. William Cup, his mentor, had this to say. "I am so pleased that he won the national SIR award, because his participation in the conference introduced him to national leaders in interventional radiology, and will help jumpstart his career."

Raise your stature in your medical school. Make you more attractive for other awards and scholarships. Further your professional reputation and enhance your credibility in the areas that form the basis for the award. Solidify the support of faculty who become reference letter writers. Strengthening these relationships over time allows faculty members to write strong letters of recommendation for residency.

More than just an extensive list of awards and scholarships, this resource delves deep into the strategies for success. Inside:

- Some awards are only open to medical students who are nominated by their medical school. How can you work with the school administration to increase your chances of being nominated? Our book includes Sample Letter of Request for Consideration of Nomination. Learn the reasons why most scholarship applications are "screened out," and avoid these pitfalls.
- Faculty letters of recommendation are a critical component of most scholarship applications. Unfortunately, many letters are suboptimal. What can you do to help faculty write glowing letters? Our book also includes Sample Cover Letter for Recommendation Letter Writers.
- Errors in the scholarship essay are common. How can you avoid these mistakes? Our book includes the Scholarship Essay Review Form designed to help you improve the quality of your essay. The Curriculum Vitae will be integral to your success, and our detailed chapter on CV preparation will help you develop a compelling document.
- Profiles of winners allow you to understand the qualifications and credentials desired by different scholarship programs. This

knowledge will help you build your credentials over time, and increase your chances of winning awards. Awards of smaller monetary value are often less competitive, and renewable. Over time, the award amount may equal the more competitive, higher-value scholarship that is given just once. Learn how to identify these awards which are not often found on the Internet. Utilizing an insider's perspective based on years of working with scholarship and award recipients, this book will help you achieve your goal: **Winning Scholarships and Maximizing Your Chances of a Successful Residency Match**

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 474 pages

Publisher: MD2B; 1 edition (September 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1937978044

ISBN-13: 978-1937978044

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #939,924 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in [Books > Business & Money > Personal Finance > College & Education Costs](#) #144 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Financial Aid](#) #722 in [Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Education & Training](#)

## **Customer Reviews**

The first 60 pages of this book are pure gold. It's filled with information about the application process, blunders to avoid, and nominating yourself to represent your school. He describes many specialized, proactive techniques to gather scholarship information, including advice that seems like common sense only after you read it. For example:- It's less competitive to apply for smaller monetary awards than larger ones.- Spelling really matters! Not proofreading can really kill your chances.- The importance of a refined CV as an art of self promotion (with a table of positive action verbs). It's nice to have the myths and tips addressed one at a time, with citations and statistics to back them. Additionally, they also provide sample inquiry letters to take out the uneasiness of sounding unprofessional. The rest of the book, about 500 pages, consists of an excellent breakdown of scholarships with their descriptions. It's organized by state, community, leaderships, and research interests. The punch line is that regardless of who you are and what you do with your limited free

time, there are scholarships out there that fit you. Many scholarships are based purely on writing an essay or sharing a personal experience. Some are from smaller organizations or companies unknown to me. This book makes a complex process very simple. As a medical student and a sometimes-successful scholarship applicant, I was looking for a book with information on how to become more competitive. I'm really glad that I took the time to pick this one up! I've only read it once, but can see myself using it as a reference again at each step. Wish me luck as I try to earn more \$\$! I also think the beginning of this book will be extremely useful as I apply for away rotations. It speaks on the art of self-promotion and standing out from the crowd.

For those of you who are applying to medical school, or are in medical school, you may not think that scholarships, grants and awards are important compared to your grades and USMLE board scores, but when you apply to residency, there is a part on Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) that asks you about these things, and if you don't have anything to fill this part out with, your application will look empty compared to the other applicant's. Those grades and board scores will mainly show them that you can pass an exam, and won't show your interest in their specialty as much as a scholarship or award, which like the book emphasizes, will also help you get that awesome Letter of Recommendation (LoR). I used to screen applicants who were applying to my Transitional Year and was quite impressed with the LoRs that mentioned anything about a scholarship or award. So even one or two scholarships, grants or awards will make you stand out from the rest of the applicants. And if you want to keep the option of doing a subspecialty open, they will again ask you if you have ever had any scholarships or awards. Financially, you may not think about it much at first and think, "Oh, I'll make enough money to pay back all those loans one day.", but when you're in residency and you have that loan hanging over your head, it's an unnecessary stress to have. It's not easy to brush off \$200-300 thousand dollars worth of loans. Plus, interest accrues because you can only forbear it, not defer it, and interest definitely accrues on that amount of money. Even if your parents pay for your medical school education, help them out, and at the same time, make yourself look like a rock star. I highly recommend this book as part of your arsenal to become a rock star physician. You will be the envy of your classmates and colleagues.

I'm an M3 hoping to get into orthopedic surgery, and the advice in this book related to both my specialty and my state were indispensable. I saved a ton of money (close to \$3000) and my CV looks a lot better for it. I'd consider it a must buy.

I picked this up after checking out Dr. Desai's other books in my school's library and their website [medschoolawards.com](http://medschoolawards.com). I was initially skeptical of the book, as I thought many of the awards would not apply to me. I was delighted to find a few awards I will be able to apply to so far. Plus, the organization of the book is a definite plus. Would recommend this book if you are looking to add something to your resume for residency or simply help mitigate some of your debt. Great resource.

A must have resource book for any resident applicant! Filled with important and helpful resources to boost up your CV for the application process. Also has vital information about the latest scholarships and grants available all the palm of your hand.

As a graduating fourth year medical student, I can say with confidence that this was one of the most important books of my medical school career. I was in a significantly better position financially upon graduation thanks to the advice and scholarship guidance that is beautifully and clearly laid out in this book. It is a must have for any medical student and can end up saving you tens of thousands of dollars over the course of your medical career. My brother, who is a graduate student in English, also found some really helpful tips in the book in terms of financing his education. I would definitely recommend purchasing early in the medical school process as different scholarships/awards are often restricted to 1st year students versus third year student etc. The book also had excellent tips on the residency application process. I found some great pearls of wisdom in the personal statement section. The insight into how to optimize the residency CV was also clutch. I would strongly recommend getting this book early and referring to it often in current financial climate of medical education- there is plenty of money out there to help cut the excessive costs of medical school and this book is invaluable in guiding you through the process of lowering your financial burden. You will thank yourself when you have your loan exit counseling, trust me.

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