



E. CATHERINE BARCLAY SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY IN FRANCE

Donor: Friends of E. Catherine Barclay

Value: \$10,000 (funds will be disbursed in equal instalments in September and January)

Deadline for applications: March 30, 2026

The award is offered to a full-time student registered in any faculty at the University of Calgary intending to pursue studies in France through an official exchange program. Award-holders must select courses in which the language of instruction is French.

The award is based on academic merit and sufficient ability in oral and written French to allow the pursuit of studies in the language. In addition, extracurricular activities exhibiting qualities of good citizenship and concern for others will be taken into consideration. A complete transcript must be submitted with the application.

Applicants must undertake to enroll as full-time students. In addition to applying for the award, students must apply for an exchange by following the instructions section at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/international/study-abroad/program-finder>

Who Was E. Catherine Barclay?



E. Catherine Barclay (1902-1985) was a blazer of many trails during her lifetime, and far more than a respected and beloved teacher of English and French.

During her career as a high school teacher in Calgary, including 18 years (1937-1955) at Western Canada High, she spearheaded a minor revolution by encouraging – sometimes insisting – that her students speak French in the classroom. A great believer in student exchanges, she was instrumental in establishing a Summer School Scholarship to Quebec and France. In addition, she played a key role in creating the French section of the Banff School of Fine Arts and opening the Calgary branch of Alliance Française. In keeping with her desire to foster international goodwill and understanding, she engaged in the activities of the Calgary branch of the United Nations for many years.

In 1933, in a rented tent measuring 12' x 14', she and her sister Mary set up the first youth hostel in North America at Bragg Creek, Alberta. In recognition of their pioneering work in hostelling, Catherine and Mary were honored in 1973 by the Calgary Jaycees as Citizens of the Year. Later that same year the Government of Alberta also recognized the outstanding achievements of the two sisters at a special awards ceremony. In 1975 the Barclay sisters were honored with the Richard Schirrmann Medal presented by the International Hostelling Association of Germany.

The E. Catherine Barclay Award was established by a dedicated group of her friends, colleagues and former students to honour the memory of this exceptional educator and world citizen. To preserve the ideals and goals of Catherine Barclay, the award provides the opportunity for recipients to pursue their chosen areas of studies in France, to perfect their knowledge of French, to gain experience and an appreciation for living in another culture, and hopefully to acquire something of Catherine's world view of the family of nations.

5. Outline your extra-curricular activities demonstrating qualities of good citizenship and a concern for others.

You may attach a separate sheet, if necessary

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. Briefly outline your future career plans

7. Have you ever lived outside Alberta? Yes No If so, when/where? Please comment on your experience



Student Records Reference Letter Request Form

This form is to be retained by the referee as confirmation of the request for a reference. It should not be returned to the student or sent to the program to which the student is applying, or to potential employers.

I, _____, request that _____ write a letter of
(name of student) (name of referee)

reference or respond to a reference check on my behalf.

I understand that in order to write the reference letter, _____ may need to
(name of referee)

comment on grades and personal characteristics relating to my academic performance and/or employment history.

I agree to this disclosure of my personal information:

only to the following schools or potential employers

to all requests for references.

This consent will be effective for one year past the signature date.

Signature _____ Date _____

(If this form is not signed, a reference will not be provided.)

This information is collected under the authority of and in response to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. It is required to respond to the request. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, contact the Information and Privacy Co-ordinator at the University Archives, MLT 1218, 220-3602.

CHECKLIST

- Application form
- University of Calgary transcript
- A confidential letter of recommendation
- The name and e-mail addresses of TWO instructors with their letters of reference
- An essay of 300-400 words, written in French

N.B.: Applicants must undertake to enroll as full-time students at a partner university in France. In addition to applying for the award, students will have to apply for an exchange by following the instructions at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/international/study-abroad/program-finder>

The application material must be submitted by 4 p.m. on [March 30, 2026](#) to centrefr@ucalgary.ca