

Scholarships Guide

For students & their families

2025



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A guide to scholarships for students commencing study in 2026.
Created by Study Work Grow Pty Ltd in 2025.

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The scholarships in this guide may be subject to change at any time. In our experience, eligibility criteria and closing dates may change at short notice, and you should always check directly with the provider before applying. We have verified the information in this guide, but in some cases the information may differ from that provided on third party websites or printed material.

SCHOOL LICENSED EDITION (APPROVED FOR SHARING WITHIN A SCHOOL)

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What are scholarships?

THEY MAKE STUDY MORE ACCESSIBLE

Scholarships are a grant or payment made to support a student's education, awarded on the basis of academic or other achievement.

The money is donated by businesses, universities, organisations, or individuals who see the value of further education. Governments may also provide scholarships to help make further education more equitable for everyone, or to encourage studies in areas or skills that are in demand.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO PAY IT BACK

Scholarships are debt-free, so unlike a loan, you will not have to pay back any money. You might receive the award as a one-off payment, or as smaller amounts over a period of time, e.g. annually or each semester.

If you're awarded a scholarship, it could pay for part or all of your course or study fees.

Sometimes the scholarship provider can be specific and dictate what you need to spend the money on.

It could cover fees, textbooks, accommodation, study supplies, travel, or living expenses, but in some cases the money comes with no strings attached.





Who are they for?

PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE

It can help to understand the reasons why organisations offer scholarships - and it's not just to attract the 'best and brightest'. Scholarships are typically given out for three key reasons:

1

To make study possible for students who couldn't otherwise afford it.

2

To encourage enrolment in specific courses or fields.

3

To attract students with certain attributes, such as academic ability.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships generally fit into two categories - one based on your personal achievements, and one that helps people who may have been disadvantaged. We'll go over these two categories in more detail on the following pages.

There are also other special scholarship categories, including co-op and industry scholarships - we'll cover what you need to know about these as well.

Equity scholarships

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Geared towards students with particular needs or from specific backgrounds, these scholarships aim to make education accessible for everyone.

If for example you live in a rural area, come from a migrant background, are under-represented in your study area, or have been through a challenging time, there is probably a scholarship out there for you.

EQUITY CATEGORIES

Here are some of the most common equity criteria you'll find when searching for scholarships:

- Financial hardship
- Disturbance/upheaval at school
- Students with disability
- Remote & regional students
- Minority/CALD students
- Neurodiverse students
- Female students
- LBGTQIA+ students
- First Nations students
- Refugee & asylum seeker status
- First in family to attend university

This is just the tip of the iceberg - there are lots of different scholarships out there for all kinds of students, so there's bound to be one to suit your situation.



Merit scholarships

A REWARD FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND TALENT

Merit-based scholarships, on the other hand, are awarded based on academic achievements, leadership qualities, or outstanding performance in extracurricular activities.

Whether you've studied hard and achieved excellent results, shown exceptional leadership skills in your local sporting team, or worked hard to contribute to your community, you could benefit from a merit scholarship.

MERIT CATEGORIES

Here are some of the most common merit categories scholarships are awarded for:

- Overall academic achievement
- Subject-specific success
- Sporting ability
- Musical/performing ability
- Artistic ability
- High-level performance in a specific skill
- All-round achievement
- Leadership
- Community service
- Innovation & entrepreneurship

Again, this is by no means an exhaustive list - if you're at the top of your game in a particular subject, skill, service, or field, you could be eligible.



Co-op scholarships

PREMIUM SCHOLARSHIPS WITH EXTRA VALUE

Co-op scholarships go the extra mile. Not only do they come with financial benefits (and usually quite a lot), they could also provide you with amazing extras such as:

- Access to skilled mentors
- Leadership and development programs
- Work experience/job opportunities
- Guaranteed accommodation
- Access to workshops and special events
- Networking opportunities

WHO CAN APPLY FOR A CO-OP SCHOLARSHIP?

Co-op scholarships are generally open to high achievers of all kinds - and not just academic achievement.

Some co-op programs will accept applications from people who've been recommended by their school for their outstanding contributions. Others want to reward individuals who've worked hard and made a difference within their community. And some focus on students who have shown potential with their leadership abilities.

If you're offered one of these highly-prized scholarships, you'll be expected to take your studies seriously and commit to engaging in all of the program's extras and offerings - otherwise you run the risk of having any future funding revoked.

Industry scholarships

FOCUS ON A SPECIFIC FIELD

Industry scholarships are often sponsored by companies or organisations within a particular field, and are designed to support students to pursue a career in that area.

Their main benefit is that they often provide opportunities for mentoring, networking, and work experience within the industry - so they're great for students who know the industry or field of work they'd like to pursue and make a head-start on their career development. And, of course, you'll also receive some money to cover the costs of your studies.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR AN INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP?

Like all other scholarships, each industry scholarship will have its own eligibility criteria. But one thing you'll definitely need is a keen interest in the specific field the scholarship is for - there's not much point applying for a nursing scholarship if you're intending on studying architecture.

If you're thinking of applying for an industry scholarship, there are a few things you can do to boost your application. We suggest you tailor your application to highlight your interest and potential in your chosen industry. This could include adding relevant subjects you've taken, projects you've completed, or any work experience you've had.

Letters of recommendation are another great way to strengthen your application for an industry scholarship. Consider asking teachers, mentors, coaches, or employers who can speak to your abilities and interest in the industry.



Eligibility criteria

Each scholarship and the eligibility criteria associated with it are unique, and you will have to meet this criteria, otherwise your application won't be considered.

There may be terms and conditions that you'll have to agree to, such as mentoring others, maintaining a certain grade, being involved with specific activities, or simply writing a thank you letter to the donor.

There's no limit to the number of scholarships that you can apply for, but some scholarships might state that you'll only be awarded the money if you haven't been granted any other awards.

IF YOU MEET THE CRITERIA, APPLY

A scholarship could help you achieve your goals, make your life less stressful, and allow you to enter the workforce with less debt.

While some scholarships are well-known and highly competitive, others often fail to attract applicants - which means anyone who applies (and meets the eligibility criteria) could be successful.

Plus, applying for scholarships is good practice for applying for jobs later on, and scholarships look amazing on your resume - so apply even if you don't think you'll get it. You never know what could happen.





Scholarship benefits

Scholarships are usually seen as a means to ease the financial strain of education. While they do provide crucial monetary support, their benefits can often go far beyond just dollars and cents.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Many scholarships offer access to a network of peers, mentors, and experts in your chosen field. You can meet other like-minded students, leaders who can provide invaluable advice, or even potential future employers.

ACCESS TO EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES

Some scholarships also include access to internships, cadetships, co-operative programs, other work experience programs, or even the chance to travel, study, and work overseas.

EVEN JUST APPLYING HAS BENEFITS

Completing scholarship applications is a great exercise in developing an appreciation of your strengths and qualities, as well as teaching you how to sell yourself. It's a good opportunity to look back on all the great things you've done and achieved over the years and remind yourself of your capabilities.

Application tips

Most scholarship applications are submitted online, usually directly to the scholarship provider. You might need to submit a few things alongside your application, such as supporting documentation, an essay or written statement, references or letters of recommendation, or even a resume.

Here are some of our top tips for crafting a quality application:

START EARLY

Some applications can be quite involved and need a lot of information, so it's best to give yourself enough time to get all your documents together and craft a quality application. Plus, you'll be less likely to miss the closing date.

BE THOROUGH

Make sure you read all the steps and requirements thoroughly before submitting your application, including reading the fine print. Proofread your application (or ask someone else to) to ensure it's free of spelling and grammar mistakes.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Sometimes institutions will want to know a bit more about you and your motivations. This is your chance to be yourself - it's important to answer honestly and not just say what you think they'll want to hear.

DO SOME RESEARCH

If the scholarship is offered or sponsored by a donor, do some research on them before you apply. Think of ways you can tie your skills and experience together with the donor's mission or goals.

Finding scholarships

SEARCH PROVIDERS IN ONE CLICK

We've gathered links to every tertiary institution in Australia and put them together in one place, making it easy for you to find scholarship opportunities.

It's easy to browse and contains links to scholarship opportunities from institutions across the country. You can filter by location and study level.

FIND SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDERS

Once you've chosen a provider, check their website for scholarships available and see if you're eligible to apply.

LOOKING FOR INDEPENDENT OPPORTUNITIES?

There are also lots of independent providers out there that offer scholarships for all kinds of students. You can find them by searching the web, or browsing our scholarship database.

BROWSE THE DATABASE

CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH FUTURES THEY LOVE

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