



Country
Universities
Centre
SNOWY MONARO



A GUIDE TO **SCHOLARSHIPS**



PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This guide is designed to help students find potential scholarships to apply for, and understand the application process.

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SCHOLARSHIPS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is a goal for many students, but the cost can be a real barrier. An undergraduate bachelor's degree can cost between \$20,000 and \$55,000; on-campus living can add another \$20,000 per year, and that's before textbooks, study materials, or IT equipment.

Scholarships exist to change that by providing students with opportunities to succeed. Being awarded a scholarship could mean the difference between accepting or turning down your place at university.

There are scholarships designed for specific situations (such as living regionally) or more generalised awards. But no matter your situation or background, there is likely one you can apply for. Even if you don't tick every box, you may still be successful. Don't count yourself out before you've given it a go.

Examples of types of scholarships include:

- Access for regional and rural students
- Residential scholarships
- Academic merit scholarships
- Travel and study grants
- Placement grants
- Areas of study, such as agriculture, the health professions and teaching
- Scholarships for people from diverse backgrounds

There are several key steps to follow to enhance your chances of success:

- Commit – Decide that you want to apply for a scholarship
- Assess – Find scholarships that you are eligible for
- Research – Look far and wide
- Knowledge – Know your audience/know what they are looking for
- Awareness – Pay attention to the opening and closing dates
- Quality – Proofread everything!
- Determination – Perseverance pays off! If at first you don't succeed, apply again (and again...)



GLOSSARY

SCHOLARSHIP

a form of financial aid, often non-repayable, granted to students to support their higher education costs.

BURSARY

a non-repayable monetary award provided to students based primarily on demonstrated financial need or personal hardship to help cover education-related expenses.

GRANT

a non-repayable monetary award provided to students to support them with specific initiatives (research, practical placements, etc.) and can be based on merit or certain criteria.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Country Education Foundation – Snowy Monaro

Local students aged between 16 and 25 can access grants to support a wide range of post-secondary education and career pathways – from apprenticeships and traineeships to degrees, diplomas, cadetships, and certificate-level studies. Funding can go towards everyday study costs including accommodation, textbooks, tools, transport, petrol, laptops, and digital media items. Country Education Foundation Australia also offer other [scholarships](#) (not specific to the Snowy Monaro) so check those out!



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE



REGIONAL, RURAL & REMOTE SCHOLARSHIPS

Many institutions will have scholarships available for students who are from regional, rural or remote communities, often to help them relocate to university and purchase the necessary resources. Other than the CEF scholarship mentioned above, there are no other specific scholarships for students from the Snowy Monaro – so be sure to check and apply for your institution’s regional student scholarships.

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

RAS Foundation scholarships help students in regional and remote areas with the costs of relocating for study. You are also eligible to be considered for a scholarship if you are studying via distance. Up to \$7000 per year for full-time study and up to \$3500 for part-time study is available to students studying at a university, college, or TAFE.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE



Illawarra TAFE Student Association (ITSA) Study Grants

ITSA Study Grants offer financial support to TAFE NSW students living or studying in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, South East (Snowy Monaro region), or Southern Tablelands regions. Grants up to \$2500 are available to cover a variety of education-related expenses.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE

UAC EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP

UAC Equity Scholarships are awarded to tertiary students who demonstrate the greatest level of financial need. While these scholarships are typically funded by individual institutions, students can apply through UAC while applying to universities. The UAC university application route is generally taken by Year 12 students as it allows you to apply to multiple courses across different institutions.

Equity Scholarships are awarded based on a range of factors including:

- Financial challenges
- Carer responsibilities
- Disability or medical condition affecting study
- Living in regional or remote Australia
- Sole parent responsibilities
- First Nations background
- Out-of-home care status
- Refugee and humanitarian status

How to Apply

1. Go to the UAC website and select 'Apply or log in' at the top right of the screen.
2. Select 'Equity Scholarships application' – a series of questions and prompts will guide you through the application process.
3. Agree to the declaration and authority.
4. Download and print your confirmation of application. If you need to provide supporting documents, a document package will also be generated. (No document package = no documents required.)
5. Upload to your application any documents specified in the document package.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE



CENTRELINK SCHOLARSHIPS & ASSISTANCE



Tertiary Access Payment

The Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) is a one-off payment of up to \$5,000 (\$3000 for inner-regional area students). It assists eligible students with the cost of moving to study. Eligibility:

- Be an Australian resident and be living in Australia
- Moving from a regional or remote area for tertiary study. You can check if your family home is in a regional or remote area using the [Student Regional Area Search](#).
- Moving to study at a tertiary education provider that's at least 90 minutes away from your family home location by public transport
- Have completed Year 12 or the equivalent
- Studying a tertiary course at certificate IV or above
- Study at least 75% of a full-time study load and a course that has a minimum duration of one academic year
- Aged 22 years or younger on the day you start your tertiary course
- Have parents or guardians whose income is under the current combined parental income limit of \$250,000 if you are a dependent

*Note: You can only claim this payment in your first year of tertiary study.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE



Relocation Scholarship

You might get a Relocation Scholarship if you're a student getting Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY. It is a once-a-year payment for students moving away from a regional or remote area to study. Eligibility:

- You are a dependent student or an independent student for a special reason
- Study in a specific place that requires you to relocate
- Meet the study rules
- Get at least \$1 of Youth Allowance as a student or ABSTUDY Living Allowance.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE

CENTRELINK SCHOLARSHIPS & ASSISTANCE



Student Start-up Loan

The Student Start-up Loan is a voluntary \$1,349 loan for eligible students who get Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY Living Allowance. You can get the loan up to twice a year, once each loan period.

Loans are tax-free and you don't need to declare them to us as income for your regular student payment.



You have to pay back the loan once you start earning a certain amount of income. You should think about how this will impact you in the long term before you apply.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE



SCHOLARSHIPS BY STUDY AREA

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRO



AgriFutures Australia

The AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship is an initiative supporting students enrolled in full-time study at an Australian university by providing a bursary of \$5000 per year for the final 2 years of your degree, plus many other benefits. See eligibility [here](#).



Career Harvest

The Career Harvest website lists a range of scholarships from all over Australia, including graduate, postgraduate and vocational scholarships.



NSW Farmers Association

The NSW Farmers tertiary education scholarship provides 5 scholarships of \$4000 per year to students who meet the following criteria:

Only members can apply for the scholarships:

- As a student, you may apply if you have held a membership of any category for a period of two consecutive years at the time of application, or
- Your partner or your parents/legal guardians must have been full members of the Association for at least two consecutive years before the date on which you apply.
- If you are at university, you must be a full-time student enrolled in the second or subsequent year of the course.
- If you are studying at TAFE or at a private Vocational Education College, you can apply if you are enrolled in the first year of your course.
- If you are undertaking a post-graduate course, you can apply if you are enrolled in the first year of the course.

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION



Building and Construction Foundation Scholarships

The Foundation provides a range of financial assistance to individuals. Applications are received on a rolling basis (no deadlines). Applicants must reside or study in Victoria.

BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT



Real Insurance – Real Futures Grant

This grant awards a \$5000 one-off grant to one applicant each year. To be eligible, you must be enrolled full-time in an accredited Australian Tertiary Education Institution and be studying for a certificate, diploma, degree or traineeship in Business or Finance.



Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand offers a variety of scholarships to students currently at university or who are committed to the CA Program.

These scholarships offer financial support to candidates to help them succeed in their accounting careers.

CREATIVE ARTS



Creative Australia

Creative Australia scholarships provide financial support under the categories acting, architecture, ballet, instrumental music, opera, painting, poetry, prose, sculpture and singing to help talented Australian artists achieve their dreams.

EDUCATION



NSW Department of Education

The NSW Government has a range of scholarships available to students studying undergraduate and postgraduate education degrees. These scholarships start at \$7500 per year of full-time study and include a range of other benefits. Visit their website for more information.



Australian Department of Education

The Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships provide the opportunity for students to receive:

- Up to \$40,000 per student for full-time undergraduate students
- Up to \$20,000 per student for full-time postgraduate students

Note: successful applicants must sign a Scholarship Agreement to teach in a government school or early learning setting for a time equivalent to the length of their teaching degree.



NSW Teachers Federation Future Teach Scholarships

This scholarship is a part of the Federation's ongoing commitment to the teaching profession in public schools and is one of the many ways the Federation supports its student members.

Awardees can use their \$4000 scholarship to help with educational expenses directly related to their teacher training, such as a laptop, textbooks, computer software and stationery.

Federation's Future Teacher Scholarships Committee will award up to 15 scholarships to successful applicants across the following categories:

- Future teachers (open to all applicants)
- Future teachers who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Future teachers from a rural or remote area (significant distance from the nearest tertiary institution)
- Future teachers in their first year of a teacher education program
- Future teachers from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

HEALTH



National Rural Health Alliance

The National Rural Health Alliance lists many health scholarships funded by the federal and state governments for healthcare students in Australia.



Rural Pharmacy Scholarship

The Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme provides support to those students living in remote and rural areas. The scholarship gives the opportunity for students to complete undergraduate or postgraduate studies.

Eligibility:

- You must be an Australian citizen
- You need to be enrolled or accepted for enrolment in an Australian university as a full-time student and be studying an undergraduate or graduate degree that leads to a registrable qualification as a pharmacist
- You have lived in a rural or remote area for at least five consecutive years or eight years total since the age of five.
- You need to be a member of (or be intending to join) your university's student Rural Health Club and be able to prove evidence of enrolment.



Australian Rotary Health

Australian Rotary Health provides scholarships for Rural Nursing, Rural Medicine, and Indigenous Health.

- **Rural Medical Scholarships** – ARH uses its rural medical scholarship program to create an incentive for students to undertake at least one year of work placement in rural Australian communities. Each annual scholarship is worth \$5,000.
- **Rural Nursing Scholarships** – ARH uses its rural nursing scholarship programs to create an incentive for students to undertake their final year of clinical placement in rural Australian communities. Each annual scholarship is worth \$12,500.
- **Indigenous Health Scholarship** – These yearly scholarships are awarded to Indigenous tertiary students to reduce the barriers of tertiary study and qualification in Australian Indigenous populations. Each scholarship is worth \$5,000 per year.



Australian College of Nursing (ACN)

ACN are proud to administer a range of Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate aged care, nursing and midwifery courses, as well as scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying entry-level health courses.



NSW Health

NSW Health offers a range of scholarships and grants to assist with the costs of education and practical placements.

NSW Health also offers [Tertiary Health Study Subsidies](#). The Tertiary Health Study Subsidy Program (THSSP) provides financial support to students studying an eligible health qualification. These payments can help with fees, technology, travel, or other study-related costs. Recipients must commit to being part of the NSW Health workforce, the largest health system in Australia, offering a variety of roles and locations across NSW.

NSW Health offers two types of subsidies:

- Students commencing study can receive up to \$12,000 paid over three years (\$4,000/year) if they are studying an eligible health qualification and intend to work for NSW Health for at least 5 years after they finish their course.
- Students graduating from an eligible health qualification can receive a one-off \$8,000 payment if they have completed an eligible health qualification, have an offer of employment with NSW Health in a role that requires that qualification, and are committed to working for NSW Health for at least 5 years.



NSW Nurses and Midwives Association

NSWNMA administers a range of scholarships and subsidies to nurses and midwives. It also provides links to a range of related scholarships not administered by NSWNMA.



Real Insurance – Real Futures Grant

This grant awards a \$5000 one-off grant to one applicant each year. To be eligible, you must be enrolled full-time in an accredited Australian Tertiary Education Institution and be studying for a certificate, diploma, degree or traineeship in the following fields:

- Medicine – including medical and health sciences, surgery and medical research
- Healthcare – including health and fitness-related specialties, sport sciences, health services assistance and international health
- Specialist Healthcare – Including nursing, optometry, dentistry and pharmacy.



Choosi Futures Grant

A financial assistance of \$5,000 that's offered to one lucky student enrolled in a full-time, accredited Australian education institution studying a certificate, diploma, degree, or traineeship in any of the following areas: Medicine, Health Sciences & Healthcare, and/or Specialist Healthcare.



Indigenous Allied Health Australia

Indigenous Allied Health Australia offers a range of scholarships and bursaries for Indigenous students in various areas of health.



Australian Nurses Memorial Centre

Australian Nurses Memorial Centre (ANMC) offers a range of scholarships for nurses and midwives undertaking postgraduate study.

Eligibility:

- Study must be by coursework or research and must be at an Australian university or other accredited higher education institution
- Must be able to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress
- Must acknowledge the ANMC when presenting at conferences, or in media reports and publications related to study or research.



Australian Seniors Aged Care Grant

To apply for the Australian Seniors Aged Care Futures Grant, entrants will need to write a long-form description (maximum 650 words) on why they want to work in their selected industry and the difference they hope to make in their particular field of study.

Eligibility requirements:

- Must be enrolled full-time in an accredited Australian Tertiary Education Institution and be studying for a certificate, diploma, degree or traineeship in any of the following areas:
- Aged Care
- Aged Care Nursing
- Dementia Care
- Disability Care
- Any other courses leading to similar careers as an aged carer
- Citizens or permanent residents of Australia can apply
- You must be 18 years of age or older to apply.



Health Education and Training (HETI)

Scholarships and grants offered by HETI aim to provide equal access to education in areas of need.

This includes financial support for:

- Undergraduate and Postgraduate study
- Practical placements
- Travel for study
- Relocation costs for new grads
- Training in areas of need

HUMANITIES



Aboriginal Languages Trust

The ALT Educational Scholarship Program is funded by the Aboriginal Languages Trust to support eligible Aboriginal individuals in undertaking training or education related to learning and teaching Aboriginal Language for the benefit of their Communities, as well as for Aboriginal Languages across NSW more broadly.

The purpose of the ALT Educational Scholarship Program is to:

- Support Aboriginal individuals to undertake their language training and education to grow the number of Aboriginal language speakers, educators and teachers across NSW communities.
- Undertake research to strengthen the use and practice of Aboriginal Languages within NSW Aboriginal Communities, whilst valuing Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing and ensuring the community has sovereignty over Language research outcomes.



Australia War Memorial

The Summer Vacation Scholarship Scheme provides an exciting opportunity for students hoping to make history their career.

Summer Scholars will:

- Acquire skills in public history by working with staff in the Memorial's Military History Section
- Learn about the range and significance of the Memorial's collections
- Gain an understanding of a historian's work in a cultural institution

To apply, applicants must be:

- History students undertaking postgraduate studies or
- Entering their Honours (fourth) year of an undergraduate course

The scholarships are also open to students enrolled in museum or public history courses.

LAW



Law Council of Australia

The Law Council of Australia lists various scholarships available to students. Visit their website to find out more.



Roberts Gray Lawyers Scholarship Program

Roberts Gray Lawyers is offering an annual \$5,000 scholarship to an Australian law student to support the pursuit of excellence in law. Consideration will be given to supporting students who are addressing disadvantage and/or overcoming adversity.



RSPCA Sybil Emslie Animal Law Scholarship

The RSPCA Sybil Emslie Animal Law Scholarship is intended to celebrate Sybil Emslie's lifelong commitment to the care and protection of animals by encouraging legal scholarship and practice dedicated to advancing animal welfare. It aims to support the work of animal law undergraduate, Masters and PhD students and practising lawyers through the provision of a \$2,500 cash grant.



Postgrad Australia

Postgrad Australia has a list of scholarships available to postgraduate law students. Visit the website for more information.

STEM



Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship

For recent high school graduates commencing a STEM degree at one of five partner universities (Murdoch, QUT, RMIT, Western Sydney, or Wollongong). The scholarship has a value of up to \$20,000 over three years, covering study costs and a leadership program in Singapore. It also includes mentoring, networking, and the annual Westpac Scholars Summit in Sydney.



Women of STEM

This scholarship will be offered to young women aged 18–20 who are studying a degree in a STEM-related field. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide the chosen applicants with financial aid to be used for general living expenses, course expenses, textbooks, extracurricular activities, or any additional education. The recipient must be actively enrolled and studying during the duration of the scholarship.



ATSE – Elevate: Boosting diversity in STEM

The Elevate program aims to address inequities in STEM through comprehensive scholarships enabling more diverse women and non-binary people to access tertiary STEM education, professional skills development and STEM leadership opportunities with industry and academia.

The program provides:

- A scholarship
- Access to skill-building workshops
- Access to peer mentoring and networking events
- Access to 24/7 wellbeing and psychosocial support

Applicants are required to meet all three eligibility criteria:

- Identify as a woman or non-binary person
- Be enrolling as a domestic student at an Australian University
- Be planning to undertake a STEM degree OR higher studies to improve business acumen (leadership category only).



CSIRO Scholarships

The CSIRO Scholarship and postgraduate programs provide the future generation of scientists with the opportunity to launch their scientific careers working alongside leading scientists in world-class facilities to deliver real-world solutions. Opportunities include an annual vacation scholarship program (advertised in July) for undergraduates and a variety of postgraduate scholarships.

OTHER



Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP)

The CPP offers social work, nursing, midwifery and teaching students support while they're undertaking mandatory placements. This program is run by the Commonwealth Government. Keep an eye on their website for updates on application details. The current payment is \$338.60 per week.



Country Women's Association (CWA)

CWA of NSW offers a variety of Education Grants to students from NSW. Visit their website for more information on the grants available and how to apply.



Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT)

AVCAT offers scholarships and bursaries for Australian residents who are children or grandchildren of ex-serving veterans. Applications open 18 August, so check the eligibility criteria below:

- Australian residency status
- Planning to enrol or enrolled in a tertiary course of study for one or more academic years at a university, TAFE or a registered training organisation in Australia
- Be studying or planning to study full-time, online or face-to-face
- If an applicant has received a Long Tan Bursary, they cannot be considered for another
- In receipt of, or eligible to receive, a means-tested Commonwealth Educational Benefit – Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY, Austudy or Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES)
- Be a child or a grandchild of an ex-serving veteran
- The veteran must be an Australian ex-serving veteran with operational service, including eligible war service, war-like service and peacekeeping/peacemaking service, or 3 or more continuous years of full-time service as a member of the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force, OR served in an organisation during war-like situations which is recognised by DVA.



Bendigo Bank

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank are committed to supporting young Australians. Each year, they award scholarships to first-year tertiary students. You need to be studying at an Australian University, College or TAFE campus for the first time. Keep an eye on their website for applications for Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Rural Bank, Bendigo Bank TAFE and Indigenous scholarships.



Graduate Women Victoria

Graduate Women Victoria offers an annual program of scholarships and bursaries for women and non-binary/gender-diverse students enrolled in universities in Victoria. Scholarships and bursaries are normally offered in five categories:

- Indigenous undergraduates
- Fourth Year Honours Arts
- Education – Masters degree
- Masters Coursework, Masters Extended and Masters Research students
- PhD and Doctoral degree students.



RMHC Charlie Bell Scholarships

A serious illness or injury can make life stand still. Making any progress can feel almost impossible. That's why the Charlie Bell Scholarship program exists. One-off grants of up to \$5,000 are awarded to deserving young people, giving them the chance to get their schooling or career back on track.

Eligibility:

- You need to be between 15 and 20 years of age (permission from a parent or guardian is required for children under the age of 18)
- You need to have been treated at a Children's Hospital for a serious illness or injury
- You must be eligible to attend a tertiary or vocational institution, such as a university or TAFE.



Youth Off The Streets Scholarship

Every year, over 20 young people from across Australia are awarded a Youth Off The Streets scholarship. These scholarships are for students who can demonstrate financial need.

Eligibility:

- Must be aged between 16 and 21 years
- Must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia or New Zealand
- Must have a clear need for financial assistance and be studying in Australia for the two-year period of the program.



Australia Awards

These awards provide opportunities for people from developing countries, particularly those countries located in the Indo-Pacific region, to undertake full-time undergraduate or postgraduate study at participating Australian Universities and Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutions.



Research Training Program (RTP)

The Australian Government provides funding to eligible HEPs through the RTP to support their training of domestic and overseas students undertaking research doctorate and research Masters degrees.



Elite Athlete University Scholarships

Across the Australian Elite Athlete Education Network (EAEN), there is a range of scholarships available for the benefit of Elite Athletes. In consultation with the EAEN, the AIS has compiled a list of relevant scholarships across Australia.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH ENGINES



Good Universities Guide



The Good Universities Guide website provides a comprehensive list of scholarships you can browse via their search engine.



Indigenous Pathways Portal



The Indigenous Pathways Portal lists scholarship opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Scholarships are easily filtered in the scholarship search section.



Country Education Foundation NSW



The Country Education Foundation website has a search engine where you can search for scholarships based on your requirements.

COMMON INSTITUTIONS SCHOLARSHIP LINKS



Australian Catholic University



University of Canberra



Australian National University



University of New England



Canberra Institute of Technology



University of New South Wales



Charles Sturt University



University of Sydney



Curtin University



University of Tasmania



Deakin University



University of Wollongong



TAFE NSW



APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

How to Apply for Scholarships Successfully

1. Start Early and Get Organised



Create a spreadsheet to track each scholarship's deadline, requirements, and your progress. Remember — many scholarships close well before the academic year starts, so plan ahead.

2. Tailor Every Application



Avoid generic applications. Research each scholarship's values and selection criteria, then shape your application to clearly show how you align with their specific goals.

3. Tell Your Story Honestly and Specifically



Selection committees review hundreds of applications, so be genuine. Share your real motivations, challenges you've overcome, and your aspirations. Specific examples will always stand out more than broad, general statements.

4. Address the Selection Criteria Directly



Structure your application using headings that reflect the listed criteria. Provide clear, concrete evidence for each point to make it easy for assessors to confirm you meet the requirements.

5. Get Feedback Before You Submit



Ask trusted people, such as CUCSM staff or mentors, to review your application before you send it. A fresh set of eyes can catch errors and offer valuable suggestions.

6. Apply Even If You're Not a Perfect Fit



Don't rule yourself out. Selection is often holistic, and your unique strengths and experiences may well make up for any gaps in the criteria.

7. Prepare for Interviews



If your application progresses to an interview stage, practise speaking clearly about your goals, why you deserve the scholarship, and the contribution you plan to make to your field and community.

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

How to Express Your Interest & Passion

1. Show, Don't Just Tell



Instead of claiming you're passionate, demonstrate it through what you've actually done. Think independent projects, extra reading beyond your coursework, attending workshops in your own time, or teaching yourself relevant skills online.

2. Go Deep, Not Wide



Sustained involvement in one or two areas is more impressive than a long list of unrelated activities. Two years of volunteering at a hospital and launching a health literacy program says far more about your commitment to medicine than ten scattered activities ever could.

3. Highlight Your Curiosity and Self-Direction



Point to moments where you went beyond what was required. Did you chase a research question that fascinated you? Reach out to an expert? Start a study group? These show genuine, intrinsic motivation — not just box-ticking.

4. Show How You've Pushed Through Challenges



Commitment shines brightest under pressure. Share how you've persisted through difficult subjects, balanced study with work or caring responsibilities, or found creative ways to access opportunities and resources.

5. Connect Your Past to Your Future



Link what you've done to where you're heading. How has your experience shaped your goals? What specific aspects of your field excite you? Vague answers like "I want to help people" are far less convincing than specific interests backed by real evidence.

6. Demonstrate Initiative and Impact



Have you contributed something meaningful? Whether it's founding a club, mentoring peers, joining a community project, or creating something tangible — a paper, an app, an artwork — these show you take action, not just interest.

7. Engage with Ideas in Your Field



Show that you think critically about your discipline. Can you speak to current debates? Explain what questions interest you most? Describe how your thinking has evolved. Assessors want to see that you're genuinely engaged, not just studying a subject, but living it.

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

How to Express Your Interest & Passion

8. Demonstrate Consistency Over Time



A pattern of related activities built over months or years is far more convincing than a flurry of recent achievements that look like last-minute résumé-padding. Authenticity matters — and it shows.

9. Share Your Personal Connection



The most memorable applications include a genuine story about why this field matters to you. What first sparked your interest? How has your thinking developed since then? Honest reflection will always resonate more than a polished but rehearsed response.

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

How to Demonstrate Financial Need Effectively

1. Lead with Facts, Not Emotion



Present your situation objectively using specific figures and circumstances. "My family's annual household income is \$45,000, supporting four people" is far more effective than describing how much you struggle. Numbers speak for themselves — no embellishment needed.

2. Keep Your Tone Professional and Rational



Write as though you're giving someone the information they need to make a fair, informed decision. Avoid dramatic language, excessive adjectives, or anything that sounds like a plea for sympathy. Straightforward and professional will always land better.

3. Describe Your Circumstances Without Dwelling on Hardship



State the facts without complaint. For example: "I work 20 hours per week to contribute to household and education costs" is stronger than expressing how exhausted or overwhelmed you feel by that reality.

4. Frame Your Finances as Context, Not Your Identity



Your financial situation is relevant background — not the headline. You are a capable student with goals and ambitions who happens to face financial barriers. Let that come through in how you write about yourself.

5. Be Specific About Costs and Gaps



Break down your actual expenses, accommodation, textbooks, transport, technology, and clearly explain what is and isn't covered. Showing you've done the maths demonstrates responsibility and gives assessors the concrete detail they need.

6. Show What You're Already Doing



Highlight the steps you've already taken: applying for other scholarships, working part-time, budgeting carefully, or choosing more affordable options. This shows resourcefulness and initiative, not helplessness.

7. Frame the Scholarship as an Enabler, Not a Lifeline



Position the scholarship as opening a door, not preventing a crisis. Instead of "without this I can't continue," try "this scholarship would allow me to focus fully on my studies without taking on additional work hours that would compromise my performance."

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

How to Demonstrate Financial Need Effectively

8. Acknowledge Your Support Systems



If family or others are contributing what they can, say so. Recognising that support, even when it's limited, shows appreciation and a realistic, grounded understanding of your situation.

9. Keep the Focus Forward



Spend more of your response on what you will achieve with support than on your current difficulties. A scholarship is an investment in your future, and assessors want to see that future clearly.

10. Don't Compare Yourself to Others



Avoid suggesting you're more deserving than other applicants. Focus on your own circumstances and let assessors draw their own conclusions.

11. Use a Clear Structure to Stay Balanced



Consider organising your response like this:

- Brief context of your financial situation
- Specific costs and gaps
- What you're already contributing
- How the scholarship enables your goals

This keeps the financial discussion proportionate and prevents it from overwhelming the rest of your application.

Remember: selection committees understand that financial hardship is real. They don't need convincing; they simply need accurate, clearly presented information to assess your eligibility.

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

SITUATION

S

Explain the situation just enough to give context – they don't know to know every detail!

ABOUT 20% OF YOUR RESPONSE

TASK

T

Now outline the task, challenge, or event you are going to explain. This should be a specific example relevant to the question.

ABOUT 10% OF YOUR RESPONSE

ACTION

A

Describe the actions you took, highlighting the skills or character traits that were mentioned in the question.

ABOUT 60% OF YOUR RESPONSE

RESULTS

R

What were the positive results, or the outcome of your actions?

ABOUT 10% OF YOUR RESPONSE

Here is a simple example of some ways you could start answering the question:

How will your degree contribute to rural communities in the future?

PROVIDING CONTEXT

S

"Rural communities like Cooma struggle to retain skilled workers..."

DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM

T

"Our community needs passionate nurses who are willing to stay in our town long term. I began nursing motivated by this cause and have taken steps to make sure my degree enables me to contribute in this way..."

DESCRIBE THE ACTIONS

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"For example, I arranged all of my placements in rural NSW to better equip me for rural nursing. This has included managing increased workloads and creating good community connections in the places I have worked. One particularly impactful experience was..."

EXPLAIN THE OUTCOMES

R

"Ultimately, I am gaining confidence in rural health settings and intend to return to Cooma to work as a nurse upon graduation."



NEED HELP? REACH OUT

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