

ACACIA PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP – SYDNEY METRO

The Public Education Foundation's Acacia Program Scholarship provides financial assistance and mentoring/career advice to high potential students, in need, attending schools in specific schools or school regions in the **Sydney metropolitan area** (See basic eligibility section for complete list of eligible schools).

The Acacia Program scholarship was designed to assist students in need who may otherwise not have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The scholarships are available to eligible students **currently enrolled in Year 10** in the listed schools, with one scholarship available in each region.

The scholarship has been established to enable alumni of Australian public schools to give back to their school region, and to public education more broadly, through scholarships, mentoring and advocacy. The scholarship aims to highlight to students the diversity of careers and possibilities available to them through the Australians who sponsor the award and have access to this network. We hope to show students:

- Examples of people who have succeeded who come from where they come from, who they can relate to and see themselves in; and
- Examples of people who are involved in a wide variety of careers and who are doing what they are interested in doing, to show them a path into the career they want.

Each scholarship consists of a bursary of \$1,000 per year for two years (total \$2,000) to support the students' studies whilst enrolled in high school, plus mentoring/career information opportunities with Acacia Fellow.

The scholarship is to cover educational expenses such as:

- Laptop, iPad or similar device
- Subject or study related software, printer, stationary and textbooks
- Uniforms and equipment
- Excursions and camps
- Curricular and extra-curricular learning opportunities
- Furniture for study such as desk, chair, lamp etc
- Home wifi for study
- Face-To-Face or Online Tutoring

If a student leaves public high school before completion of the scholarship period, the scholarship will lapse. Any unspent monies at the end of the scholarship period must be refunded to the Public Education Foundation scholarship fund.

Before applying for this scholarship, please ensure that you read the [scholarship terms and conditions available on our website](#).

BASIC ELIGIBILITY

- High potential student
- Attends a public high school in the **Auburn region**;
 - Auburn Girls High School, **Chester Hill High School**, Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School, **Verona School**
- **OR** attends a public high school in the **Bondi region**;
 - Centennial Park School, **Randwick Boys High School**, Randwick Girls High School, **Rose Bay Secondary College**
- **OR** attends a public high school in the **Botany Bay region**;
 - JJ Cahill Memorial High School, **Matraville Sports High School**, South Sydney High School, **Yudi Gunyi School**
- **OR** attends a public high school in the **Chipping Norton region**;
 - Bass High School, **East Hills Boys High School**, East Hills Girls Technology High School, **Holsworthy High School**, Moorebank High School
- **OR** attends a public high school in the **Inner-Sydney school region**;
 - Alexandria Park Community School, **Inner Sydney High School**, Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, **Sydney Secondary College Balmain**, Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt
- **OR** attends a public high school in the **North Sydney region**;
 - Cammeraygal High School, **Chatswood High School**, Mosman High School, **Willoughby Girls High School**
- **OR** attends a public high school in the **Pittwater region**;
 - Barrenjoey High School, **Ku-ring-gai High School**, Narrabeen Sports High School, **Pittwater High School**
- **OR** attends a public high school in the **Quakers Hill region**;
 - Doonside Technology High School, **Glenwood High School**, Quakers Hill High School, **Riverstone High School**, Seven Hills High School, **Wyndham College**
- **OR** attends a non-selective public high school in **The Beaches region**;
 - Northern Beaches Secondary College – Balgowlah Boys Campus, **Northern Beaches Secondary College –Cromer Campus**, Northern Beaches Secondary College – Mackellar Girls Campus
- Currently in Year 10 (in 2021)
- Australian citizen or permanent resident

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Experiencing equity, social or physical hardship(s) that may prevent them from otherwise successfully completing school study or training
- Displays potential to do well at school
- Has a positive attitude to school and a high attendance rate
- Intention to complete their HSC and continue to University or TAFE education
- Demonstrate they participate in school life
- Demonstrate they contribute in the community and/or in extracurricular activities

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel will review all scholarship applications and assess them against the selection criteria. The selection panel will include representatives of the Public Education Foundation and independent experts. After considering all applications, the selection panel will recommend the selected applicants for the approval of the Public Education Foundation's Board. The successful applicant(s) will be notified in December 2021.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome via email. If successful, the scholarship recipient's school principal will also receive notification directly.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the Acacia Program Scholarship, students can access the link to the online portal via the Foundation's website - <http://www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au/scholarships>

Please note that all applications must be submitted via the Foundation's online portal. You will need to sign up for a [PEF-Apply](#) account to access the form.

Prior to starting your application, you should compile the following information ready to submit:

- Applicant details including:
 - full name
 - gender
 - date of birth
 - phone number
 - address
 - email (***please ensure you nominate an email account you regularly access***)
- Residence status (copy of residency Visa or Citizenship certificate is a requirement)
- When you came to Australia (if applicable)
- Number of years in formal education before coming to Australia (if applicable)
- Parent/guardian details (at least one but up to two)
 - name
 - phone number
 - relationship to student
 - email address
- School details:
 - name of school
 - address
 - principal name
 - email
- School Point of Contact – the person at the school who you would like correspondence sent to – name, phone number and email

- Basic information about you / your family:
 - whether you are Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or Pacific or South Sea Islander
 - who is the primary caregiver at home
 - highest education qualification of your immediate family
 - if you are from a Non-English-Speaking Background
 - country of origin of your parents and yourself
 - which languages you speak and are spoken at home
 - if you have a diagnosed disability or learning difficulty
 - whether you have been in out-of-home care
 - socio-economic background
 - how you found out about the scholarship
- A statement outlining why you are a suitable candidate for this scholarship and how you meet each of the selection criteria. (Maximum 400 words)
- A brief outline of your plans after you have completed your HSC (maximum 150 words)
- Briefly outline how you feel you meet the criteria in relation to financial need/disadvantage (maximum 150 words)
- A copy of all pages of your most recent school report ready to upload
- A personal reference from someone who knows you. It could be a teacher, coach, family friend or an employer. (PDF or Word format, maximum 400 words)
- A supporting statement from your Principal which addresses the selection criteria (the applicant must initiate a request **via the online application** to the Principal. This will result in an email being sent to the Principal asking them to **complete a statement of support online**)

Note for Principals: Please be aware that your statement is a critical component of the application form and your feedback is given considerable weight in the process of panel deliberations. The panels are looking for feedback that goes well beyond simple confirmation that the student is enrolled in your school.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Once you have finalised your application and all elements are complete (including references and supporting statements as required) you can submit it for review.

Applications must be submitted by 11.59pm on Tuesday 19 October 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call the Public Education Foundation on 02 7814 2806 or email us at info@publiceducationfoundation.org.au.

We also encourage you to visit our website to learn more about the Foundation and the work that we do - www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au