

Scholarship Funds Usage Guidelines

Scholarships are intended to support scholars in their education and to reduce barriers to learning, participation and achievement. Funds are provided to assist scholars who may otherwise face financial, social or geographic disadvantage. They must be used for education-related costs and items that enable students to engage, progress and succeed in their learning environment.

If you are unsure whether something is allowed, please contact the Scholarships Team before making purchases.

Please read the following guidelines

Acceptable uses of scholarship funds <i>These items are considered education-related and generally approved</i>		Not acceptable uses of scholarship funds <i>These items aren't considered education-related or don't align with scholarship intent</i>	
Learning devices and digital access	- Laptop, tablet or similar device required for schoolwork or university studies - Home internet/Wi-Fi for homework or online learning - Mobile data for online coursework - Sim-only data/top-ups for hot spotting - Webcams, headsets and basic accessories for online learning - Study-related software, apps or online platforms (e.g., languages, coding, subject tools)	Personal and lifestyle expenditure	- Holidays or leisure travel - Entertainment, gaming or non-academic subscriptions - Food outside of school (e.g., takeaway, cafés) - Jewellery, cosmetics, fashion clothing (non-academic)
Course materials and consumables	- Stationery, textbooks and required reading - Subject or coursework materials (e.g., art, design, science, engineering consumables) - Printing, copying and library card/printing credits (school,	Technology not intended for learning	- Mobile phone handsets or plans - Gaming laptops, consoles, VR headsets or games - Smart watches, Apple Watch or similar accessories

	TAFE, university or public library)		
Tutoring and academic support	• Face-to-face or online tutoring • Exam preparation or revision programs • Academic coaching or courses (e.g., for entry to university)	Medical, legal or household costs	• Medical, dental, prescriptions or medication • Household bills (e.g., rent, groceries, electricity, water) • Support of other persons or family expenses
Uniforms and clothing for education	• School uniform and shoes • School sports uniform and shoes for school activities • Subject-specific attire (e.g., lab coat, chef whites, aprons, PPE) • Modest clothing required for assessed presentations, placements or interviews	School activity exclusions	• School voluntary contributions • Fees for non-school recreational sport or activities • Travel/accommodation to attend PEF awards or similar events
Practical and access costs	• Public transport costs for compulsory school excursions, work experience, TAFE units or university requirements • Travel to local libraries or educational programs • Equipment, tools or safety gear required for VET courses, apprenticeships or practical subjects	Other exclusions	• Driving lessons • Anything not related to education
Learning environment at home	• Desk, chair, lamp and ergonomic study aids • Whiteboard, planner or organisational study tools • Noise-reducing resources (e.g., study headphones)		
Assistive and access supports	• Reading glasses • Assistive technology for learning (e.g., dyslexia overlays, accessible keyboards)		

	Sensory or environmental supports that enable concentration or participation		
School-based costs*	- School subject costs, electives and academic fees - School excursions and camps - Coursework tools and specialised equipment		
Tertiary, VET and placements	- Compulsory registration or licensing fees (e.g., WWCC, CPR, RSA, child safety) - Discipline-specific conferences/competitions, where assessed or required - Folio/portfolio printing or specialist materials - Relocation costs associated with study (program-dependent) - Accredited micro-credentials linked to course progression - Placement-specific attire or equipment		
Community or cultural activities	Educational programs delivered by recognised community or cultural organisations (e.g., museums, galleries, coding spaces, STEM clubs)		

Receipts and Proof of Purchase

Students must keep receipts for all purchases over \$200 made with scholarship funds. Receipts may be requested as part of reporting requirements, and an audit of purchases will be conducted on a random sample of scholarships throughout the term of the scholarship. For further information, please refer to PEF's [Scholarship Terms and Conditions](#).

If you're not sure, PEF can advise on whether your request is eligible. Before purchasing, email scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au or call (02) 7814 2806.

** Scholarship funds may be used for school-based costs only where these fees are not already subsidised or covered by the school, government programs or equity provisions. Scholars and families are encouraged to check with their school first, as many public schools can waive or reduce fees for equity reasons.*