

NATIONAL TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Public Education Foundation National Tertiary scholarship is open to current Year 12 students who attend public high schools in **metropolitan regions** in all states and territories across Australia. The scholarships seek to support motivated individuals with demonstrated merit, who are facing hardship, to realise their career goals.

To check if you are eligible to apply for this scholarship please check the [MySchool website here](#) for your school. Only students whose **school location** is designated as '**major cities**' are eligible to apply for this scholarship. If your school location is not designated as major cities, please apply for the National Rural & Remote Tertiary scholarship.

The scholarships provide financial assistance to high potential students who intend to continue studying either at TAFE or University **after completing Year 12 in 2026**. The funds assist with the transition into and progress through post-school education e.g. University bachelor degree, TAFE accredited apprenticeship or a TAFE Advanced Diploma.

Each scholarship offered consists of an annual payment of up to \$3,000 provided at the commencement of each academic year, up to **a maximum of 3 years**. For students required to relocate in order to take up study, an additional one-off payment **may** be provided to assist with initial relocation expenses. **The value of the scholarship offered to successful students will be based on their personal circumstances and choice of post-school education.**

The scholarship is intended to cover educational expenses such as:

- Course fees
- Necessary equipment
- Stationery and books
- Laptop
- Face-To-Face Tutoring or Online Tutoring

At the end of each academic year, the student will be required to submit to the Public Education Foundation evidence of their successful progression through their study in the form of an academic transcript. If a student is not progressing satisfactorily through their study, the Public Education Foundation reserves the right to terminate the scholarship.

If a student discontinues their University or TAFE education, 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

- Attends a Public School in **metropolitan regions across Australia (designated as *Major Cities* according to the [MySchool website](#))**
- Currently in Year 12
- Australian citizen or permanent resident
Note: Students who do not currently have either permanent residence or Australian Citizenship will be considered on a case by case basis
- Commitment to studying a TAFE course or University degree as a full-time student in 2027

SELECTION CRITERIA

Successful applications should meet the following criteria:

- Evidence that current study, academic records or work experience is appropriate to the nominated tertiary study or training
- Determination to complete the nominated study or training
- Strongly articulated commitment to their chosen career path
- Experiencing equity hardship(s) that may prevent them from otherwise successfully transitioning to post-school study or training
- Positive attitude towards schooling and a high attendance rate
- Participation in school life
- Contributes 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, a representative from the funding partner and independent experts. After considering all applications, the selection panel will recommend the selected applicant for the approval of the Public Education Foundation's Board.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome in December 2026. If successful, the scholarship recipient's school will receive notification directly.

HOW TO APPLY

All applications for the National Tertiary Scholarship must be submitted via the Foundation's online portal. You will need to sign up for a [PEF-Apply](#) account to access the form. ***Note – ALL sections of the application must be completed, including the Principals supporting statement, before the application can be submitted.***

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 for applicants born outside of Australia)
- Parent/guardian details
- School and principal details
- 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
 - your mob/family/traditional owner/language group
 - 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
 - how many adults live on your home
 - how many of those adults are working
 - who is the primary caregiver at home
 - how many other school aged (or younger) children live in your house
 - highest education qualification of your immediate family
 - 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 how your current studies (including subject selection) and work experience support your planned University/TAFE studies.
- A brief outline of what your commitment is to your chosen career. (maximum 250 words)
- A brief explanation regarding the barriers you see for your future studies
- Your University/TAFE course preferences including name of institution, name of degree/course and course fees (you *must* submit at least one preference, but you can enter up to three).
- 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) ***Please advise your referee that our Panels are not in a position to contact them for additional information. The reference should provide all information they feel is relevant.***

- 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**). ***This statement must be completed by your Principal before the application can be submitted.***

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, or that you endorse the application. Generic responses, or copy/paste responses from the applicants or referees statements **WILL** disadvantage the applicant.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

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

Applications close on Friday 4 Sept 2026. Applicants will be notified before 18 December 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call the Public Education Foundation on 02 7814 2806 or email us at scholarships@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