

AEU VIC SECONDARY REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIP

Connecting public school students from refugee backgrounds with the support, networks and opportunities to thrive



Overview of Scholarship

The Australian Education Union (Victorian Branch) Secondary Refugee Scholarship is a Public Education Foundation initiative supporting students of refugee background in Victorian public schools through the final years of their secondary education. Funded by the AEU Victorian Branch, the scholarship aims to help students stay engaged in learning, meet the costs of senior schooling, and work towards their goals beyond school.

Is this scholarship for you? It is open to students of refugee background attending a Victorian public school who are entering the final three years of secondary school, are experiencing disadvantage, and show a desire to complete Year 12 and pursue post-secondary studies.

About the Australian Education Union

The Australian Education Union (Victorian Branch) has supported public school students through the Public Education Foundation since 2021, funding between one and three scholarships each year. This scholarship reflects the AEU's ongoing commitment to equity in public education and to supporting students to complete their schooling and move confidently into further study, training or work.



Eligibility Criteria

To apply, students should be:

- From a refugee background and experiencing disadvantage
- Currently attending a Victorian public school, entering the final three years of secondary education
- Facing financial, social, geographic or systemic barriers that could limit access to opportunity without intervention
- Showing a desire to complete Year 12 and pursue post-secondary study, training or employment
- Supported by their school as a student who will engage positively with the scholarship



Selection Process

Applications are made to the Public Education Foundation's National Secondary Refugee Scholarship. Schools are encouraged to nominate students and assist them to apply. Applications are reviewed by a selection panel, and the Australian Education Union (Victorian Branch)-funded scholarships are awarded to eligible Victorian applicants from this pool.

Successful students are then onboarded, a code of conduct is agreed, and funds are distributed.



Funding/Assistance

- \$4,500 total (\$1,500 per year across the final three years of secondary education)
- Funds are paid to the student by prepaid Visa card and sent to the school for distribution
- Continued payments depend on confirmed enrolment
- Any unspent funds do not roll over to the next school year

Acceptable Use of Scholarship Funds

Approved expenses must support the student's education, learning experience, wellbeing or access to enrichment opportunities. Acceptable uses include:

- Digital learning and equipment – laptops, tablets, software, internet access
- Compulsory school expenses – subject fees, textbooks, study materials, uniforms
- Enrichment – camps, excursions, workshops, conferences, competitions
- Learning environment – desk, chair, lighting, headphones
- Tuition support – tutoring, specialist learning support

PEF Scholarship Funds Usage Guidelines will be provided to each scholarship recipient and their school.



Application Form

As part of the application and induction process, the following are typically confirmed:

- Confirmation of current enrolment at a Victorian public school
- Evidence of the barriers or hardship affecting the student's transition through senior study
- School support and endorsement of the student's engagement and involvement
- Student induction, including agreement to the program code of conduct
- A spending plan agreed between the student and the school



How to Apply

Not sure which scholarships you're eligible for? Complete the Eligibility Quiz to see all scholarships that may apply to you. Apply online via [PEF-Apply](#). You will need to sign up before you can access the application form. Make sure all sections are complete before you submit.

Submitting Your Application

- Applications open: June 2026
- Applications close: September 2026

You can save your application in progress and return to it at any time before the closing date. Once you click Submit, your application is sent to the Public Education Foundation and will be reviewed during the Panel assessment period. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in December.



Further Information and Contact Details

For further information, please contact the Public Education Foundation Scholarships team:

- Email: scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au
- Phone: 02 7814 2806