



BIG PICTURE LEARNING AUSTRALIA SCHOLARSHIP

Get what you need, to get where you want to go, to
become who you want to be

Overview of Scholarship

Big Picture Learning Australia (BPLA) grew out of two reform movements: the National Schools Network, funded in 1991, and the work of Big Picture Learning in the United States. Founded here by educators Viv White and John Hogan, BPLA now partners with schools in city, regional and remote communities, most of them public, to organise learning around the student instead of a fixed timetable. Students work in small advisories with a teacher who knows them well, follow their own interests and questions, spend time in real workplaces through internships, and show what they have learned by exhibiting it to an audience.

That design opens doors, and it costs money. Travel to a placement, materials and equipment for a project, uniforms, excursions, a laptop, the everyday expenses of getting through to Year 12. BPLA is funding this scholarship, so cost is not the reason a young person's interests stall.

The Public Education Foundation's Big Picture Learning Australia Scholarship supports students at the BPLA network schools listed below. It provides financial assistance across the secondary years so students can take up what their school is offering them and keep going.

Is this scholarship for you? This scholarship is for students enrolled at one of the BPLA network schools listed below, who will be in Years 7 to 12 in 2027, and whose families are feeling financial pressure. If that doesn't sound like you, PEF's [Eligibility Quiz](#) can help you find a scholarship that does.





Eligibility Criteria

To apply, students must be:

- Enrolled in Year 7 to 12 at a public school within the BPLA network (in 2027)
- Experiencing equity, social or physical hardship
- Australian citizen or permanent resident

BPLA Network

BPLA collaborates with a diverse network of schools across Australia that implement its innovative, student-centred educational model. These schools span urban, regional, and remote areas, offering personalised learning experiences tailored to individual student interests and needs.

A full list of schools in the BPLA network is available on the [BPLA website](#).



Selection Process

Applications are assessed on the strength of the following:

- A written narrative to tell us why you would appreciate a scholarship and how you plan to use the funds, if awarded. You may wish to describe your educational and career goals or simply tell us about some of the interests you are keen to explore, or the skills you would like to develop with assistance from the scholarship
- Please include a supporting statement from your Advisory Teacher/Principal

How applications are assessed

- Need. What difference the scholarship would make to this your circumstances
- Purpose. A clear sense of what the funds would be used for and why it matters to you
- Engagement in your learning. Evidence you are invested in your interests, projects or internships, whatever stage you are at
- Your own voice. An honest, personal account rather than a polished one



Funding/Assistance

- \$1,000 total contribution per student over one year
- Funds are paid directly to your school (by prepaid Visa card)
- Scholarship funds must be used in line with the acceptable use guidelines below; misuse of funds can affect your ongoing eligibility
- Let PEF know if your contact details, school, or circumstances change, so they can keep supporting you without delays
- [Studiosity's](#) 24/7 online study feedback services

Acceptable Use of Scholarship Funds

Use the scholarship for school-related expenses like:

- Laptop, iPad, or printer
- Software and stationery
- Uniforms and school shoes
- Textbooks and school supplies
- Internet and study furniture
- School camps and excursions
- VET-related work experience
- Face-to-face or online tutoring

[PEF Scholarship Funds Usage Guidelines](#) will be provided to each scholarship recipient and their school.

Application Form

Written Components

Tell us your story (max. 400 words)

Tell us why a scholarship would make a difference for you, and how you would use the funds if you received one. There is no single right way to answer this.

You might write about:

- what you are interested in now, and where you would like to take it
- a project, internship or piece of work you are proud of, and what you learned doing it
- what you are hoping to do after school, if you know yet. It is completely fine if you don't
- the things that currently get in the way, and what the scholarship would let you do instead
- the specific things you would put the money towards, like equipment, materials, travel to an internship, a course or a piece of software

Write it in your own voice. We're looking for you.

Specific Information

- Your and your parent or guardian's contact details, school name, principal's name and email, and a school contact person for communication
- Cultural background and family details, and disability, care or language information, if applicable
- Your most recent school report, learning plan or portfolio summary, in whatever form your school provides it
- A supporting statement from your Advisory Teacher or Principal



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