

What scholarships can I apply for and where can I find more information?

Scholarships Available

Scholarships involve a sum of money awarded to a student to help cover living expenses, study costs and/or travel.

There are several different types of scholarships available to students. Basically undergraduate university scholarships can be provided via the Commonwealth Government, the university being attended, or other sources including community organisations, businesses, disability organisations or church groups.

Equity scholarships

Equity scholarships are specifically designed to help students struggling to meet the costs associated with studying at university. To be eligible for an equity scholarship you must be able to demonstrate financial hardship which may be due to low-income, difficult family circumstances, living in a rural or remote area and/or the effect of extra costs associated with disability or medical condition.

Equity scholarships include the Commonwealth Government funded scheme called the 'Commonwealth Learning Scholarships Programme' and the 'Institution Equity Scholarships' funded by individual universities. Both types of equity scholarships are administered by individual universities. The selection criteria is set by individual universities for both types of scholarships and often target additional equity groups including people with disability, women in non-traditional study areas, inhabitants of rural and remote communities, people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background and/or those from non-English speaking background..

For many (but not all) equity scholarships you may apply through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) or the individual university running the scholarship. Some universities do not use the central UAC process for their equity scholarship programs and only accept applications made directly to the university. Equity scholarship applications to UAC open in August and close in late September. See the [UAC website](http://www.uac.edu.au) (www.uac.edu.au) for more information about the UAC application process.

Equity scholarships may affect your eligibility to claim Centrelink benefits. Check with Centrelink about the effect of a scholarship on your ability to receive other payments, allowances or concessions before you accept a scholarship offer.

Other types of scholarships

Other scholarships are also available from many various sources and may be awarded based on a wide range of categories. The criteria may be based on academic, sporting or art achievement, contribution made to the community, the area you are living in, field of study or career, family circumstances and/or type of disability or medical condition.

These scholarships may be funded by businesses, church groups, community organisations or other bodies. Universities also offer scholarships based on these types of criteria (additional to equity scholarships). The amount of money awarded and for how many years it may be granted to the student varies greatly depending on the individual scholarship conditions

Finding scholarships

Finding the right information about a scholarship that fits you can be difficult. Because there are so many scholarships available and from so many different sources it can be like trying to find a needle in a haystack. Scholarships are publicised in various forms and places.

Searching tips

Here are some tips on finding a scholarship that suits you:

- Start searching for scholarship information as early as possible, say February the year before you plan to enter university.
- Look in as many places as possible, including:
 - Major and local newspapers
 - Newsletters from local community or church groups
 - The internet (see below for websites)
- Search more than once and expect the search to take a long time. Don't give up too easily – you might find something next time you look.
- Recruit help from as many people as possible. Ask all your friends and family to listen and keep a look out for information about university scholarships.
- If you are currently using any type of disability or community service, ask them for any scholarship information.
- Seek advice from professionals about available scholarships and where to search to find further information. Be sure to ask your careers advisor, Transition Support Teacher, case worker and Disability Liaison Officer (at any university).
- Most universities have a contact person specifically for queries about scholarships. Ring the university and ask to speak to the scholarships officer, or other person who can provide the appropriate information.

- If and when you find a potentially appropriate scholarship to apply for:
 - Note down the scholarship name, the organisation, contact details and closing date
 - Make contact with the organisation to request any written information and
 - Check the small details because some scholarships can be very specific about the scholarship conditions (e.g. selection criteria, items money can be spent on, maximum amount, etc).

Useful websites

Information about equity scholarships

- [Universities Admissions Centre \(NSW & ACT\)](#)
UAC's website (www.uac.edu.au) provides explanation of equity scholarship programs available in NSW & ACT and how to apply for scholarships through UAC. Also provides links to participating universities.
- [Study Assist](#)
The Study Assist website (www.studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/) This website provides information to students about Australian Government assistance for financing tertiary study.

Information about other scholarships

- [Government Education Portal](#)
The Government Education Portal website (www.education.gov.au/goved/go) brings together information about government and other services relevant to a wide range of issues about education in Australia. It provides some information about scholarships, including links to specific scholarship programs
- [Education Network Australia Online](#)
EdNA Online (www.edna.edu.au) is a free information service about education in Australia. Searching on 'scholarships' provides links to other websites with specific scholarship information.
- ['myfuture: Australia's career information service'](#)
This website (www.myfuture.edu.au) is run by a combination of government agencies specifically for young Australians about future career and study options. It includes a database of scholarship information & allows you to search for information based on keywords.
- [The Australian Grants Register](#)
This website (www.grantsearch.com.au) lists grants, scholarships and public funding available to students, other individuals, non-profit organisations, welfare agencies, etc. The website runs on a subscription basis and involves a fee. A hard-copy of the register is also published every two years (available to be ordered via the website)

and is generally available in public, school and university libraries.

- Other types of websites to search:
 - University websites
 - Local councils
 - Church groups
 - Check internet search engines by searching on 'scholarships'.
- Also see the Get Ready for Uni website for some examples of private scholarships available specifically for people with disability