Applying for Tertiary Scholarships

This handout provides general information about applying for tertiary scholarships for students in Queensland. Even if you think you may not get one, go ahead and apply for a scholarship. What do you have to lose? The following information will help you get started.

During Years 11 and 12 it is important to participate in a variety of activities (academic, sports, cultural and/or community) so you can demonstrate a range of achievements when applying for scholarships in Year 12. A good strategy is to keep a list of your activities and achievements during the two years so you have a starting point for your application.

Scholarship categories

Most scholarships tend to fall into one of the following categories.

Academic scholarships

Usually specific institutions award these scholarships on the basis of achievements during Years 11 and 12. The criteria could include academic achievement alone or academic plus other achievements (e.g. community involvement, awards).

Equity scholarships

In general, equity scholarships assist financially disadvantaged students with the costs involved in tertiary study. Other forms of disadvantage (e.g. disability) may be considered. There are institution specific and Commonwealth Government equity scholarships. These scholarships may include bonus points to assist in gaining entry to courses.

Indigenous scholarships

These scholarships apply specifically to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. There are institution specific and Commonwealth Government Indigenous scholarships. These scholarships may include bonus points and/or pathways to assist in gaining entry to courses.

Sports scholarships

Sporting scholarships assist outstanding athletes to balance their studies with the demands of elite-level sport. Selection criteria usually include participation in competition at state, national or international level. These scholarships may include bonus points to assist in gaining entry to courses.

Field of study scholarships

Normally these scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit to students applying for courses in specific fields of study e.g. Economics, Agriculture.

Campus scholarships

Some institutions offer these scholarships. They are awarded usually on the basis of academic merit to students applying for courses at a specific campus of an institution.

International student scholarships

These scholarships are awarded to international students who have a visa to study in Australia. There are institution, organisation and Commonwealth Government scholarships for international students.

Residential college scholarships

Some residential colleges at universities offer scholarships. Normally they are awarded on the basis of academic achievement.

Industry scholarships

Usually these scholarships are awarded to students studying in a specific field (e.g. engineering, surveying) by organisations involved in the field. Sometimes these scholarships provide employment during or at the completion of the course.

Scholarship applications

Most education institutions in Queensland and interstate that offer scholarships have a scholarship web page with details about the scholarships available, the value of each scholarship, the selection criteria and the application process, including the application due date. The initial application for most scholarships is online, followed by a submission of supporting documents (e.g. references, certificates), either by mail or hand delivered.

In general scholarship application due dates occur from July – December each year, with most university scholarship applications due in October, November and December. However, due dates can be earlier or later. It is the responsibility of the applicant to find out when applications are due.
Application tips

The following tips come from a number of institutions and successful applicants.

- Apply for all the scholarships you are eligible for to maximise your chances.
- Follow the application directions exactly and answer all parts of each question (applicants who follow directions are highly regarded).
- Include all documents requested.
- Start preparing your application early.
- Do drafts of your application – get feedback. The final draft should be readable and logical.
- Ask referees for supporting statements early, not at the last minute.
- If asked to write about your achievements, include information such as awards gained, leadership (including coaching), volunteering and other community participation, teamwork (sport, work, etc.), examples of initiative, career aspirations and how the university course can help achieve them.
- Submit your application by the due date.

Some institutions hold scholarship preparation workshops. These are usually advertised on their websites.

Helpful websites

Queensland universities

Australian Catholic University
http://www.acu.edu.au/419704
Bond University
CQUUniversity
http://www.cqu.edu.au/study/scholarships
Griffith University
http://www.griffith.edu.au/scholarships
James Cook University
http://www.jcu.edu.au/scholarships/
Queensland University of Technology
http://www.qut.edu.au/study/undergraduate-study/undergraduate-scholarships
The University of Queensland
http://scholarships.uq.edu.au/
University of Southern Queensland
http://www.usq.edu.au/scholarships
University of the Sunshine Coast
http://www.usc.edu.au/study/scholarships

Selected interstate universities

Australian National University
http://www.anu.edu.au/study/scholarships-fees
Southern Cross University
http://scu.edu.au/scholarships/

The University of Melbourne
http://services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships
The University of New England
http://www.une.edu.au/study/scholarships
The University of Sydney
http://sydney.edu.au/scholarships/
University of Tasmania
http://www.utas.edu.au/scholarships

Commonwealth Scholarships

Relocation Scholarship
Student Start-Up Scholarship
Scholarships for Indigenous students
Scholarships and awards for international students

Miscellaneous scholarships

CAS Hawker Scholarship
http://www.hawkerscholarship.org/
Indigenous scholarships
Nursing scholarships
http://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships
Supporting Women Scholarships
http://www.supportingwomen.qld.gov.au
The Robertson Scholars Leadership Program
http://robertsonscholars.org/
Tuckwell Scholarships
http://tuckwell.anu.edu.au/

Other scholarship search sites

myfuture http://www.myfuture.edu.au/ (search ‘Scholarships’)
Hobsons Course Finder