

The scholarship solution

There are many different types of scholarships. For undergraduates, some scholarships are there to provide financial assistance to a student and getting one is based on their family's financial situation.

Others are given to those with outstanding abilities, such as those who perform well athletically and would thus receive an athletic scholarship. Financial aid usually covers all or some of the tuition costs and sometimes even accommodation. There are also scholarships which are given based on ethnicity and academic success.

A scholarship gives a person access to an institution, or is a financial aid for students wanting to further their education. It is generally provided by tertiary institutions or the government, sometimes to provide disadvantaged groups in society with a higher education.

A range of criteria might be used to determine who gets a scholarship. This can include gaining entry into the course first or academic excellence. For instance by the end of the year of application, one will have to have completed a university degree with outstanding results. Some scholarships even have a "bond" requirement. This is where students have to work for an employer for a specific time, or be required to repay the value of the support from the scholarship.

One of the most recently introduced scholarship program in Australia is the Commonwealth Scholarships Programme. This was introduced in 2004 to help students from low socio-economic backgrounds to gain access to higher education, especially

those from rural and regional areas and Indigenous students.

The scholarships offered assist in covering education and accommodation costs. They are generally awarded on a competitive basis and are non-repayable. The government usually sets guidelines for tertiary institutions on how to give out these scholarships, but the

institution does this at their own discretion.

Some scholarships have benefits attached to them. These can range from return air travel for students studying overseas or overseas students studying in Australia, to paying the full tuition fee. They are generally designed to assist students in their studies.

Scholarships can also be obtained by students wishing to study abroad, or by students from overseas wishing to study in Australia. For instance Australian Development Scholarships enable students from developing countries to study in Australia. These are either employees who are nominated by their

government after a competitive selection process, or applicants who don't need to be nominated by their government or employer, but meet the selection criteria. The scholarships are intended to help students drive change and influence the development outcomes of their own country. For this reason, the students are required to return to their country within a specific time, after they have received and completed their scholarship. Students who wish to migrate to Australia are generally not encouraged to get such scholarships.

Tertiary institutions are usually required to provide a compulsory Introductory Academic Program of between four and six weeks to all ADS students before they commence their studies. It will generally look at the study and life in Australia, accommodation options, information about health and welfare services, and student support services.

For Post-grads the array of scholarships, Fellowships, awards and grants is even greater with many targeted very specifically to an area of research.

Scholarships are open to nearly all fields and levels of study. Tertiary institutions have different eligibility requirements and selection criteria. Finding out information about all the different scholarships available can be time consuming and involves web scouring and contacting the tertiary institutions you wish to apply to. But if you are successful, it will be all worthwhile.

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Chrisoula Georgiou



“Can be time consuming but if successful, it will be all worthwhile”

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