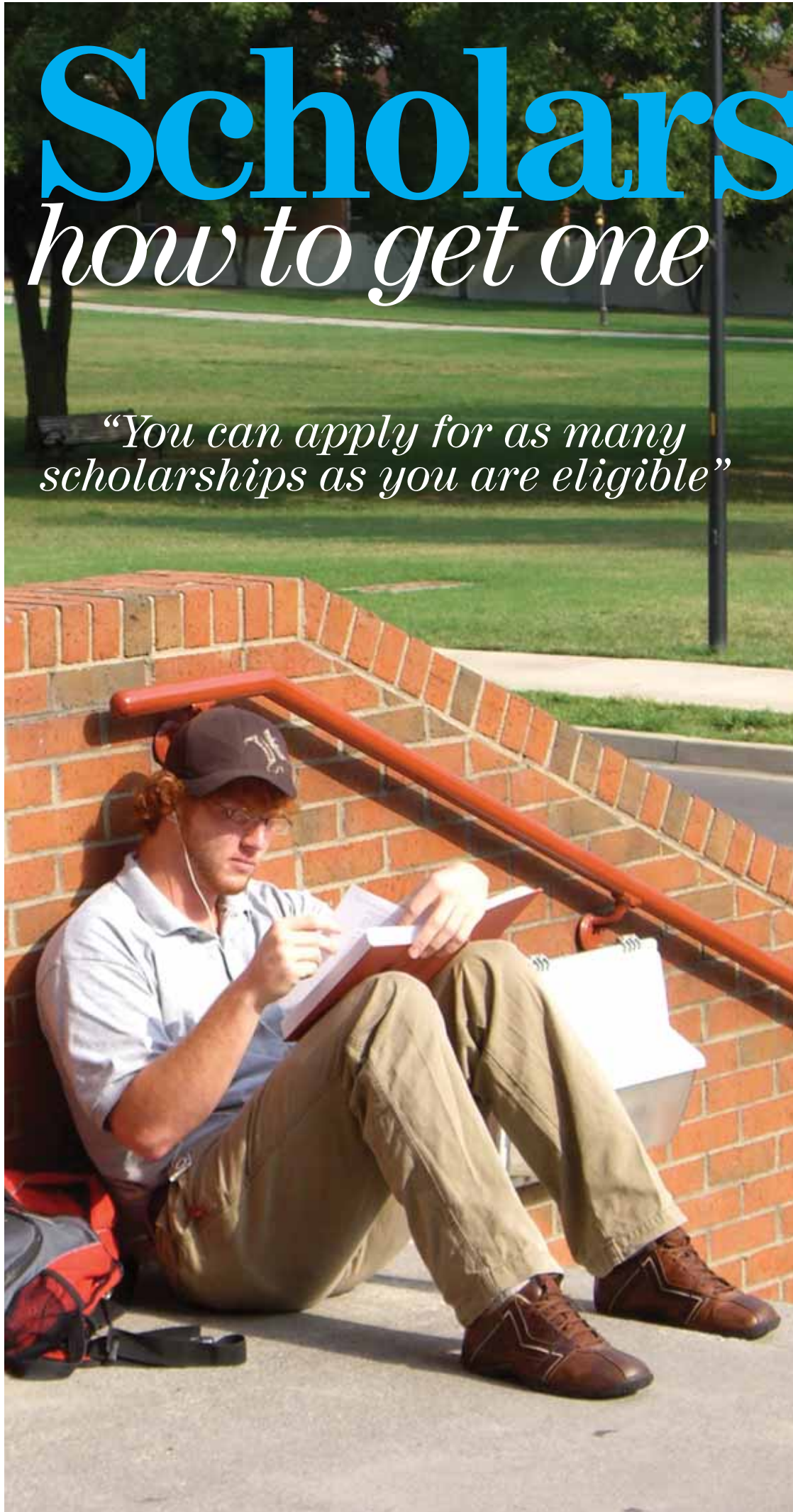


Scholarships:

how to get one

“You can apply for as many scholarships as you are eligible”



Scholarships aim to promote development and excellence in student education. There are several different types of scholarships available, depending on each student's needs.

For instance, there are sporting scholarships for swimming and football, and there are scholarships for educational courses such as law, arts or medicine.

The main purpose of a scholarship is to facilitate choice in higher education for all students and also, increase participation in higher education for students who come from low socio-economic status backgrounds. Once the application is submitted, higher education providers assess applicants and approve the scholarship recipients based on their set guidelines.

These guidelines vary for each university and course. However, all courses and universities have one thing in common; they all require students to have substantially high grades for them to be eligible for a scholarship.

Australian scholarships open the door to a wide range of study and award opportunities. For starters, there are several educational opportunities for vocational education and training, undergraduate and postgraduate studies and post-doctoral research opportunities.

In addition to this, students gain professional development opportunities in various sectors such as business, industrial, community groups, education and government. For instance, there is the Australian Leadership Awards fellowship program which is for students interested in short-term study and research. This program offers development opportunities to current and future students in the Asia-Pacific region, however, links the study back to Australian research.

In Australia, we also have the Commonwealth Scholarships Program which promotes further study for people in regional areas and from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The Commonwealth scholarships program has substantially expanded as a

result of the Scholarships for a Competitive Future measure announced in the 2008-09 Budget. This measure doubles the number of available scholarships to 88,000 by 2012.


This most recent expansion of Commonwealth scholarships follows an increase in the number of new Commonwealth scholarships in 2008 from 8500 to 12,900.

Many students from low socio-economic status backgrounds and Indigenous students face particular challenges in meeting their education costs. Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships (CECS) have been introduced to provide such students with a scholarship of \$2162 per year.

The cost of accommodation can be a significant burden for students from regional and remote areas who need to move away from home to commence higher education. Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships (CAS) provides selected students from low socio-economic backgrounds from regional and remote areas with a scholarship of \$4324 per year.

There are several opportunities available for students to obtain scholarships. The first step would be to determine what course you want to do, then follow it up by researching which universities have this course available. After that, you will need to carefully review each criterion for your course and determine whether you are eligible for the scholarship.

Once all this is complete, you fill out your application form and submit it to the university. The next step is a waiting game to see if you made the final cut.

There are thousands of students that apply each year to obtain a scholarship, and due to the nature of the course, only a select few are chosen. Fortunately, you can apply for as many scholarships as you are eligible for, and with a bit of luck, you will get chosen for the one you are most suited to. 

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