



2018 Indigenous Scholarship Program

As proud supporters of reconciliation, and committed to Closing the Gap nationally, we created the Indigenous Scholarship Program for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students studying at either university or TAFE in 2018. The scholarships are designed to help with the costs of study, including course fees, accommodation costs, and textbooks.

Our Indigenous Scholarship Program is administered in partnership with the Community Enterprise Foundation (CEF). This is the first year the program has run.

Why an Indigenous Scholarship Program?

While the number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students enrolling in university is growing, these students are more than twice as likely to drop out of university in their first year compared to other

domestic students. Amongst Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who had seriously considered leaving university, financial difficulty was the most commonly reported reason (44 per cent)¹.

For this reason, we are committed to providing financial assistance to students while they are studying at university or TAFE.

¹ Closing the Gap, Prime Ministers Report 2017, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, p46

Timeline

7 December 2017 – applications open
29 January 2018 – applications close
February 2018 – recipients announced

Scholarships available

Category A	Category B	Category C
1 x \$10,000 to study at any Australian university (\$5,000 per year for two years)	1 x \$10,000 to study at the University of Wollongong (\$5,000 per year for two years)	2 x \$5,000 to study at TAFE

Applications can be made across more than one category.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for a scholarship in 2018, you should consider the following criteria:

Category A (one scholarship available)

To be eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- First year undergraduate in 2018 (first attendance at an Australian university)
- Studying full-time in 2018 (in an approved Australian course)

Category B (one scholarship available)

To be eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- First year undergraduate in 2018 (first attendance at an Australian university)
- Studying full-time in 2018 at the University of Wollongong (in an approved Australian course)

Category C (two scholarships available)

To be eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Be enrolled (or offered a place) in an eligible course of at least 10 weeks duration (or part-time equivalent)
- Eligible courses include full-time or competency based completion (apprenticeships), Certificates I, II, III or IV, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas or Associate degrees

Exclusions

Scholarships will not be awarded to:

- Students who do not identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Courses at international institutions
- Courses at institutions other than Australian universities and TAFEs
- Students who are taking a gap year in 2018
- TAFE provided VETIS, foundation level training and short courses.

Application process

Applications must be submitted electronically through the CEF; the philanthropic arm of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Group.

Applicants will be requested to demonstrate:

- That they identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- The extent to which the scholarship would make an impact in their lives
- Their involvement in the local community
- Academic achievement
- Any need the scholarship would help them overcome

Visit www.bendigobank.com.au/foundation to apply. Applications close at midnight AEDT Friday 29 January 2018.

Frequently asked questions

Do I have to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander to apply?

Yes. This scholarship is only available to people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander studying in 2018.

Can I apply for more than one category?

Yes.

Do I need to be a customer to apply?

No, you do not need to be a customer of Community Sector Banking or Bendigo Bank to apply.

What if I'm taking a gap year in 2018?

The scholarships are only available to students studying in 2018. Check back in for our 2019 scholarships next year.

What happens if I am unsuccessful?

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email.

What is the selection process?

Following an initial eligibility assessment by the CEF, a selection committee made up of Community Sector Banking staff, the chair of our Reconciliation Action Committee and Indigenous customers will assess applications based on merit, need and previous involvement with the applicant's local community. Successful applicants will be notified over the phone.

Where does the money come from?

Community Sector Banking directly funds the scholarship program from its profits.

What can the money go towards?

The scholarship can cover accommodation costs and/or expenses directly related to study. For example, course costs, study related materials and equipment, text books, tutoring, internet fees, or study relocation costs.

When are payments made?

Payments can be made to successful recipients upon completion of CEF paperwork. Successful university recipients will receive scholarship payments at the start of each semester for two years. TAFE recipients will receive it prior to their course commencement date.

Do I need to provide receipts or reporting?

Successful recipients will need to provide evidence of their expenses at the end of each year (such as receipts or transcripts). You will also be asked to share some of your experiences with us, including how the scholarship has helped you.

About Community Sector Banking

We are proudly Australia's specialist in not-for-profit banking; we remain passionate about social change and partnering with not-for-profits to create real impact.

Community Sector Banking formed as a 50:50 joint venture between shareholders Bendigo Bank and the Community 21 consortium of not-for-profit organisations, including Oxfam, Scope and Yfoundations. We bring together the best of business and the not-for-profit sector.

Call us

1300 CSBANK (1300 272 265)

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 6pm AEDT

Email us

customerservice@csbanking.com.au

Visit us

communitysectorbanking.com.au or any branch of Bendigo Bank

Apply here

www.bendigobank.com.au/foundation

