



2019 Indigenous Scholarship Program

Now in their second year, our Indigenous Scholarships are designed to help with the costs of study, including course fees, accommodation costs, and textbooks for students studying at university, TAFE or towards an apprenticeship.

Our Indigenous Scholarship Program is administered in partnership with the Community Enterprise Foundation (CEF).

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 leave university in their first year compared to other domestic students. Among 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 or towards an apprenticeship.

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

Timeline

3 December 2018 – applications open
29 January 2019 – applications close
February 2019 – recipients announced

Scholarships available

Category 1	Category 2
2 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)
Category 3	Category 4
2 x \$5,000 to study at TAFE (excl. apprenticeships/traineeships)	4 x \$5,000 to study towards a TAFE apprenticeship or traineeship at an approved Registered Training Organisation

Applications can be made across more than one category.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for a scholarship in 2019, you should consider the following criteria:

Category 1 (two scholarships available)

To be eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- First year undergraduate in 2019 (first attendance at an Australian university)
- Studying full-time in 2019 (in an approved Australian course)
- Residing in Australia while undertaking study

Category 2 (one scholarship available)

To be eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- First year undergraduate in 2019 (first attendance at an Australian university)
- Studying full-time in 2019 either on campus or online at the University of Wollongong (in an approved Australian course)
- Residing in Australia while undertaking study

Category 3 (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)
- Residing in Australia while undertaking study
- Eligible courses include Certificates I, II, III or IV, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas or Associate degrees
- Apprenticeships and traineeships are not eligible for Category 3

Category 4 (four scholarships available)

To be eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Be enrolled in TAFE or working in an approved Registered Training Organisation (RTO) for the duration of the apprenticeship/traineeship
- Residing in Australia while undertaking study
- You are still eligible if you have successfully completed study at TAFE or approved RTOs previously

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, TAFEs and RTOs
- Students who are taking a gap year in 2019
- 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 our website to apply. Applications close at midnight AEDT 29 January 2019.

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 2019.

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 2019?

The scholarships are only available to students studying in 2019. Check back in for our 2020 scholarships next year.

What happens if I am unsuccessful?

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email.

I'm studying towards an apprenticeship at TAFE. Can I apply for Category 3?

No. Students studying towards an apprenticeship or traineeship can apply for Category 4.

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, previous recipients 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 year 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 5pm AEDT

Email us

customerservice@csbanking.com.au

Scholarship enquiries should be forwarded to foundation@bendigobank.com.au

Visit us

communitysectorbanking.com.au or any branch of Bendigo Bank

Apply here

communitysectorbanking.com.au/grants/scholarships



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