

# Scholarship Application Help Guide

## General advice for preparing your scholarship application

- Provide all the necessary information required with supporting documentation. The more information you provide, the better we can assess your application.
- Allow yourself enough time to put a complete application together, generally at least one hour.
- Gain feedback. Ask a family member or friend to read your application.
- If you need further guidance, contact us (link to [swin.edu.au/scholarships](https://swin.edu.au/scholarships)).

## Putting together your personal statement

Refer to the Selection/Eligibility Criteria in the Scholarship listing for information on what to include in your personal statement.

Writing a personal statement is an opportunity to:

- tell us who you are.
- tell us what you have done and how the impact it has had on you
- tell us what you hope to achieve throughout your tertiary education and beyond.

Think about how your life experiences add value to your application. Be specific about your own journey; avoid statements that could have been written by anyone about anyone.

You may also be required to demonstrate your passion in your field of study. What made you interested in the field of study you have selected? What inspired you to want to know more?

Engage the selection panel members by demonstrating your knowledge and aptitude for your chosen field of study. What are your ambitions? What do you aim to achieve in the future?

Some key topics you may be asked to cover in your personal statement include:

- financial hardship
- educational disadvantage
- leadership/community engagement
- benefits of receiving the scholarship

## Financial hardship

Evidence of financial hardship may include but is not limited to holders of:

- Health Care Card
- Youth Allowance
- Newstart Allowance
- Austudy
- Abstudy
- Disability Support Pension; and/or
- Carer's Payment

Bank statements and salary slips submitted can only be considered if an explanation is provided in your personal statement on how these reflect financial hardship. If you feel comfortable, share your story in your personal statement to tell us the hardships that you may have experienced. Focus on your goals and how you plan to reach them, despite the challenges.

### Educational disadvantage

Evidence of education disadvantage may include:

- disability or medical condition
- delay or interruption to career or studies because of family responsibilities or illness
- relocation from a rural or regional area to undertake tertiary study
- English as a second language
- identification as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- financial difficulty or low income

### Leadership potential/commitment to the community

- What experiences have motivated, inspired and shaped you?
- Be specific when demonstrating your commitment in the community. For example, say "my internship with the Sierra Club's Bald Eagle Project" rather than "my internship with a renowned environmental organisation's project to save endangered species."
- You may support your application by providing certificates and/or letters of participation.

### Benefits of the scholarship

- Think about the tangible benefits of having additional funding to help with your studies.
- Would you still need a part-time job?
- Consider spending more time on your studies or the opportunities of extracurricular activities/community involvement/networking that will build essential skills such as leadership, teamwork and/or communication.
- Reflect on the added value of scholarship benefits that include a mentoring program or an internship. How would they affect your life or your career in the long term?

### Written References

References must be less than 12 months old. You may like to forward the scholarship advertisement to your referee, so they are able to target their response.

Generally, a scholarship application will ask you to provide an academic reference and a character reference. References from people related to you cannot be considered.

#### Academic reference

- Seek an academic reference from a person competent to comment on your capacity to undertake or continue tertiary studies. For example, this could be from a subject or course co-ordinator or school principal.
- If you are returning from a break in your studies and do not have a recent academic reference, you may explain this in your personal statement. If you have another type of reference that you wish to submit in lieu of an academic reference, explain this in your personal statement.

#### Character reference

- Your character reference should be a person competent to comment on your suitability for the scholarship, for example, an employer or a community leader.

### Contact

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