

Scholarship & Financial Support Guide 2026



**Helping regional students explore scholarships,
relocation assistance and financial support
available for university study in WA**

Welcome

For many students, the idea of moving away to study at university can feel exciting — but also financially overwhelming. The good news is that there are a wide range of scholarships, government payments, loans and support programs available to help make university more affordable and accessible.

This booklet has been created to help North Albany Senior High School Year 12 students and their families explore the financial support options offered by universities, government organisations and community groups. Whether you are aiming for academic excellence, overcoming personal challenges, relocating from regional WA, experiencing financial hardship, or contributing to your school and community, there may be support available to help you take the next step toward your future.

Inside, you'll find information about scholarships, accommodation support, relocation assistance, financial aid and useful tips for applying.

What is a Scholarship?

A scholarship is financial support provided to help students pay for education-related expenses such as university fees, accommodation, textbooks, travel or living costs. Scholarships are usually awarded based on factors such as academic achievement, financial need, leadership, community involvement, sporting ability, cultural background or personal circumstances. Unlike a loan, scholarships generally do not need to be repaid.



There are a huge range of scholarships to help provide valuable financial support for your studies.



MERIT-BASED

Awarded for academic excellence or leadership qualities



HOUSING

Financial assistance to cover accommodation if having to relocate



NEEDS-BASED

For students from disadvantaged backgrounds such as living in regional area



INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC

Tailored to students enrolled in specific degrees, faculties or fields of study



IDENTITY-BASED

For students who are part of a specific community, culture or group.



INDIGENOUS

Available to students who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Best places to look for scholarships

Curtin University: curtin.edu.au/study/discover/scholarships

Edith Cowan: ecu.edu.au/scholarships/overview

Murdoch University: murdoch.edu.au/study/scholarships

Notre Dame: notredame.edu.au/study

UWA: uwa.edu.au/study/scholarships

Bendigo Bank: bendigobank.com.au/bendigo-bank-scholarships

Commonwealth Teaching: education.gov.au/teaching-scholarships

Financial Assistance

Worried about the cost of university? There are many financial support options available to help you manage tuition fees, accommodation, and living expenses while studying in WA.

HECS/HELP (Higher Education Loan Program)

HECS/HELP are government loans that help eligible university students pay their tuition fees. Instead of paying upfront, students can defer their fees and repay the loan later through the tax system once their income reaches a certain level.

You only start repaying your loan when your income reaches \$67,000 per year (2025–26). Repayments are automatically taken through the tax system and increase as your income increases. There is no interest charged; however, the balance is indexed each year in line with inflation.

HECS-HELP makes higher education more accessible, but remember that it is a debt that must be repaid over time.

studyassist.gov.au/financial-and-study-support/hecs-help

Tertiary Access Payment (TAP)

Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) is a one-off government payment designed to support students from regional and remote areas who need to relocate for tertiary study (such as university or TAFE). It helps with the upfront costs of moving away from home, including expenses like accommodation, travel, and study setup. The payment amount is up to \$5000 and varies depending on how far a student needs to move and their level of study. For more information visit:

servicesaustralia.gov.au/tertiary-access-payment



Youth Allowance & AUSTUDY

Youth Allowance and Austudy are Australian Government payments that may provide financial support to eligible students while studying at university. These payments can help with living expenses such as accommodation, food, transport and study costs while completing full-time study.

Youth Allowance is generally available for students aged 18-24 and under who are studying full-time, completing an apprenticeship or looking for work. Eligibility depends on factors such as age, study load, income and parental income.

Austudy is designed for students aged 25 years and older who are studying full-time in an approved course or apprenticeship.

For more information and eligibility requirements visit:

servicesaustralia.gov.au/youth-allowance OR
servicesaustralia.gov.au/austudy

Rent Assistance

Rent Assistance is an additional Australian Government payment that may help eligible students with the cost of renting while studying away from home. It is usually available to students receiving payments such as Youth Allowance or Austudy who pay private rent, board or lodging. The amount students receive depends on their rental costs and living arrangements.

For more information and eligibility requirements visit:

servicesaustralia.gov.au/rent-assistance



Scholarships for Regional Students

Curtin University



Harry Perkins Memorial Scholarship

Needs-based - \$2000 per semester

All undergraduate degrees

Opens 22 Jul Closes 23 Nov

Principal's Regional Starter Scholarship

Merit-based - \$1500 (one-off)

All undergraduate degrees

Opens 22 Jul Closes 23 Nov

** Must be nominated by school principal*

Enquiries: scholarships@curtin.edu.au or 1300 222 888

Murdoch University



MU Access Engineering Scholarship

Industry-specifics / Needs-based - \$1500 per sem

Engineering degrees

Opens 5 Oct Closes 8 Mar

George Alexander Foundation Scholarship

Merit-based / Needs-based - \$12,000

All undergraduate degrees

Opens 1 Jul Closes 31 Jan

Ngala Kwop Biddi Brighter Futures Scholarship

Merit-based - \$4250 per semester

All undergraduate degrees

Opens 1 May Closes 30 Sept

**Must be nominated by school's leadership staff*

Enquiries: 1300 687 3624

Edith Cowan University



ECU Equity Scholarship

Needs-based - \$1500 per semester

All undergraduate degrees

Opens 1 Feb Closes 28 Feb

Inspiring Minds Equity Scholarship

Needs-based - \$3000 (one-off)

All undergraduate degrees

Opens 1 Aug Closes 30 Aug

Corporeal Health Scholarship

Industry-specific / Needs-based- \$10,000

Health Sciences or Psychology degree

Opens 1 Mar Closes 30 Mar

Dentons Aspire Law Scholarship

Industry-specific / Needs-based - \$10,000

Law degree

Opens 1 Mar Closes 30 Mar

Dorothea Swift Nursing Scholarship

Industry-specific / Needs-based - \$4000 per semester

Nursing degree

Opens 1 Mar Closes 30 Mar

Enquiries: enquiries@ecu.edu.au or 134 328



University of Western Australia



UWA Fogarty Foundation Scholarship

Merit-based - \$12,500 per year

All undergraduate degrees

Opens 1 Feb Closes 28 Feb

UWA Winthrop Scholarship

Merit-based - \$10,000 per year

All undergraduate degrees

Opens 5 Jan Closes 20 Jun

UWA Connect Scholarship

Needs-based - \$5000 per year

All undergraduate degrees

Opens 15 Dec Closes 3 Mar

Ted Maslen Scholarship

Industry-specific / Needs-based - \$2,500 (one off)

Science degrees

Opens 16 Dec Closes 3 Mar

Bruce Goulds Memorial Commerce Scholarship

Industry-specific / Needs-based - \$10,000

Accounting or Finance degrees

Opens 15 Dec Closes 3 Mar

Enquiries: 131 892 or 6488 1000



Notre Dame University



Notre Dame Opportunity Scholarship

Needs-based - up to \$20,000

All undergraduate degrees

Bernadette Magee Scholarship for Regional WA Students

Needs-based - \$5000 per year

All undergraduate degrees

Notre Dame Get Set Grant

Needs-based - \$1000

All undergraduate degrees

Justin John Honner Perpetual Scholarship in Nursing

Industry-specific / Needs-based - \$10,000 per year

Nursing & midwifery degrees

Enquiries: scholarships@nd.edu.au or 1800 878 916

***Note:** There are many more scholarships available which are advertised on each university website. Please refer to each website and search for eligibility criteria based on you personal circumstances*

Other Scholarships (all universities)

Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships

Industry-specific / Needs-based - \$40,000

Teaching degree

Opens 25 Nov Closes 12 Jan

Bendigo Bank

Needs-based - \$5,000 (TAFE) / \$6,500 per year (Uni) for 2 years

All undergraduate degrees or TAFE courses

Opens 1 Dec Closes 31 Jan

Accommodation Scholarships

Accommodation scholarships help reduce the cost of living away from home while studying at university or TAFE. They may cover some or all of the costs of on-campus residential colleges, student accommodation, or other approved housing. These scholarships are particularly valuable for students from regional and remote areas who need to relocate to continue their education. Eligibility may be based on factors such as financial need, academic achievement, leadership, community involvement, or where you live.

For information about scholarships and financial support related to accommodation, please access links below.

St Catherine's College (Curtin): stcats.com.au/curtin/fees-and-scholarships

St Catherine's College (UWA): stcats.com.au/uwa/fees-and-scholarships

St George's College: stgc.uwa.edu.au/fees-and-scholarships

St Thomas More College: stmc.uwa.edu.au/scholarships-and-bursaries

Trinity Residential College: trc.uwa.edu.au/our-pricing/scholarships/

University Hall: unihall.uwa.edu.au/Scholarships

UniLodge: <https://www.unilodge.com.au/accommodation-scholarship>



Applying for a Scholarship



Before you begin, have these items ready

- Student ID number
- School reports
- Current resume
- Evidence of finances
- Letter of reference (could be from a teacher or employer)

What scholarships could you apply for?

Research the university of your choice and look through their scholarship information. Identify two scholarships you could apply for and write them below.

Name of scholarship

Min and max payment

Opening and closing dates

Eligibility requirements

.....

.....

Contact information

Name of scholarship

Min and max payment

Opening and closing dates

Eligibility requirements

.....

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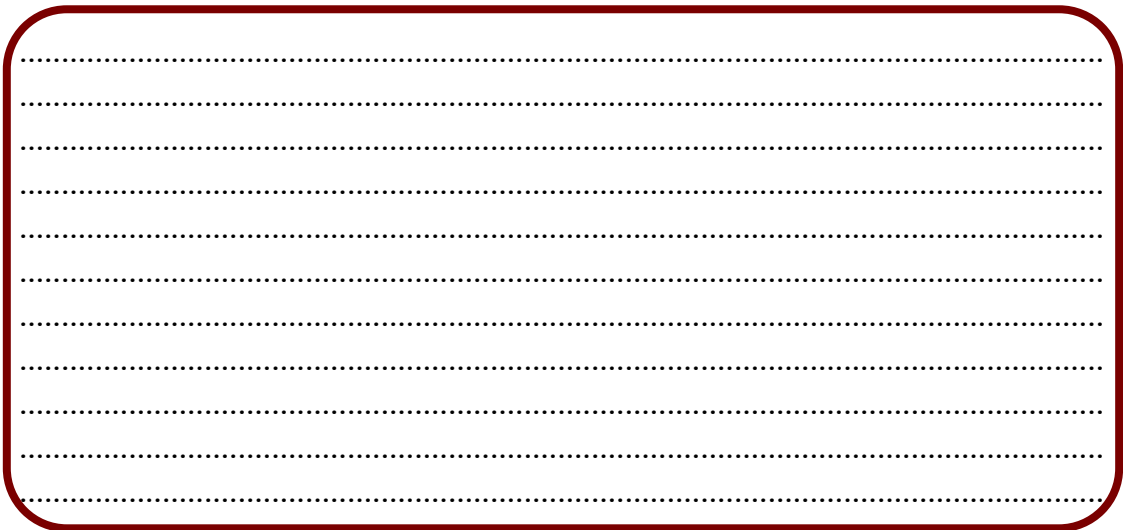
Contact information

Practice Questions

Why have you chosen to study this course?

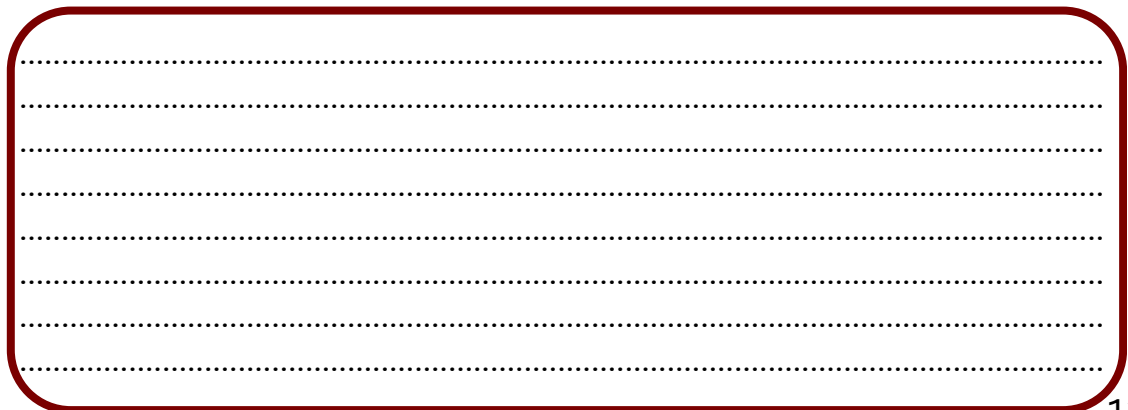
In answering this question consider your passions, strengths and what drives you.

- What do you hope to gain out of a career in the industry the course provides?
- Express enthusiasm and passion towards your subject
- Discuss your future career pathway
- Demonstrate skills and experiences



Why are you applying to study at this university?

Look beyond the academics and consider aspects such as social groups, campus facilities or internships that may appeal



Explain barriers to education or accessing university

Use the SAO technique to demonstrate the IMPACT that particular factors have on your study, achievements and opportunities in the past, present and/or future.

The SAO technique

S = Situation (what happened?)

A = Action (what did you do?)

O = Outcome (result?)

** This technique can be applied to answering leadership questions too*

Example

Situation = As my family lives more than five hours away from Perth, attending university will require me to move away from home and live independently. The high cost of housing, transport and everyday living expenses has created financial pressure and uncertainty about accessing university.

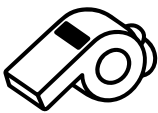
Action = To prepare for this transition, I have researched scholarships, student accommodation and financial support options, while also working part-time and developing budgeting and independent living skills.

Outcome = These experiences have helped me become more responsible, resilient and motivated to pursue my university goals despite the financial and personal challenges involved in relocating for study.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Highlight your passions and leadership skills

Ensure your application demonstrates your areas of passion, your aspirations and your leadership qualities. This may seem intimidating at first but it is a great opportunity to describe yourself, your skills and your contribution to your community. Consider all the things you may have been involved in throughout high school such as, sports umpiring, student councillor meetings, volunteering, participation in a local play.

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Finances

Supply the CORRECT financial information.

- Depending on individual circumstances this might include your parents / guardians income or information about your personal income
- Read the questions carefully and only list finances that are guaranteed (not those you assume you'll receive in the future).
- Make sure documentation includes the correct dates, times and relevant headings

Proof-read and Edit

Proofread your application several times.

- Check for grammatical and spelling errors, missing information, vagueness or wordiness in your responses.
- Consider asking for help from parents/guardians, teachers, deputies, your principal or the actual universities
- Always check that your application has been successfully received. Never assume. Contact the university directly to ensure your application has been officially lodged.

Support Services

Anglicare WA - Financial Counselling

Free and confidential service that can help with:

- Budgeting and savings plans
- Understanding Centrelink and entitlements



Available face-to-face, phone or online

Albany Office: 9845 6666 or albany.reception@anglicarewa.org.au

Great Southern University Centre

The Great Southern University Centre (Albany) provides a local study hub that supports students to complete university or TAFE courses online while staying in the region. It offers a quiet, purpose-built study environment with access to reliable high-speed internet, modern study spaces, meeting rooms, and technology to help students succeed in their studies.



Students also benefit from on-site support, including academic guidance, mentoring, and connections to universities and training providers, helping them feel supported while studying remotely.

The UniCentre is a great option for students who want to save on the cost of relocating, allowing them to remain living at home with their family for longer while still accessing quality tertiary education.

Need help finding the perfect scholarship for you? Book a 1:1 session with their student support team who can guide you through the process. Link here: gsunicentre.edu.au/studentinfoandadvice

46 Frederick Street, Albany | 9823 8500 | gsunicentre.edu.au

Wrapping Up

Applying for scholarships and financial support can seem overwhelming at first, but taking the time to research opportunities and prepare strong applications can make a significant difference to your future study journey. Remember that scholarships are not only awarded for academic achievement, many also recognise financial need, leadership, community involvement, resilience, regional background and personal circumstances.

As a regional student, there are a range of supports available to help make university more accessible and affordable, including scholarships, government payments, relocation assistance and accommodation support. Don't be afraid to apply for multiple opportunities and ask for help along the way.

Most importantly, believe in your ability to achieve your goals. University may feel like a big step, but with preparation, persistence and support, it is absolutely possible.

Good luck with your future studies and career journey!



**The NASHS
Careers Team**

Good Luck
YOU GOT
THIS