

Opportunity Scholarships

Frequently Asked Questions 2010

How is the online application to be completed?

It is suggested the Nominating Professional (NP) complete all the (NP) questions and then save the document. The NP can then supply the nominating student (NS) with the login password to complete those questions for the NS.

What do I do if I have any queries regarding the online form?

If you have any queries please ring FYA on 9670 5436

Who may apply?

Any student enrolled in an Australian government school, at both primary and secondary levels. Application must be completed with support of a Nominating Professional.

Can an organisation apply?

Schools, institutions and welfare agencies supporting VCAL and VET students and TAFE colleges, supporting students, under 20 years of age can apply.

What makes a SUCCESSFUL Opportunity Scholarship application?

A successful application focuses on ONE talent where the student shows real ability, promise and commitment. The student may have ability in all curriculum areas, but the application and budget will reflect a stronger story if they are focused on ONE Talent area. The student must write about their talent in detail. The student is required to express why they love this activity and must convince the Education Foundation panel of their enthusiasm for this Talent. The student tells of the activities they have been involved in or awards they have received in this talent. The student must express their aims for the future development of this talent or how they want to use this talent in the future. The Opportunity Scholarship looks to assist a student to grow in their Talent, to develop a skill and interest to keep them engaged in school and empowered to share their talent with other students.

An application which is COMPLETE and ACCURATE in all details will have more success in being shortlisted for selection.

What do we apply for in the BUDGET?

The BUDGET must identify how the Talent is to be resourced. It is not a shopping list. EVERYTHING in the budget must be related to the TALENT.

For example -If the student is talented in writing then the requests might be paper, books to read in their particular area of interest, a software program on editing, a course with a professional writer, a course in illustrations- emphasis on drawing, a new desk and chair. This must match what the student or teacher has indicated in their statements. Eg. I want to write a novel about a girl who goes overseas to live on a Greek island. My computer needs updating to include a program on editing so that I can improve my style of writing. I usually write while sitting on the floor, so some pieces of furniture would assist my concentration and posture. '

What is the definition of Talent?

Opportunity Scholarships are for students who have capacity for achievement or success or a special natural ability or aptitude or a high potential in a curriculum area. This ability must be examined in relation to the level of the achievement of the individual student- not the class standard. So students who are gifted across many curriculum areas might apply as well as students who might have only one area of achievement.

If the student has previously received funding from Education Foundation can they re-apply for new funds?

Yes. Students are encouraged to reapply for additional funds, at the end of 12 months on conclusion of previous funding, particularly if it is in support of the continuation of the talent expressed in the previous application.

What is the maximum amount of funding that a student can apply for?

Amounts up to \$1000. However, on some occasions amounts of more than \$1000 may be awarded but this decision will be made by the Selection Panel.

Can more than one student from the same family apply?

Yes. Each application is considered individually.

Can schools apply for more than one student?

Yes, more than one student from a school can apply, and more than one student from a year level can apply.

Why are Year 12 applications only accepted in Round One?

As Round Two Scholarships will not be finalised until November/December 2010, Year Twelve students will have completed their secondary schooling. Scholarship funding needs to be expended over the following twelve months and a report submitted thereafter.

How do I lodge an application?

You can lodge an application online by accessing the application form from the FYA website at www.fya.org.au

Applications should only be made after first reading the Opportunity Scholarships Guidelines.

Does FYA have a set number of scholarships it can award each year?

No. The amount of scholarships funds available is dependent on donations made to Education Foundation a division of FYA .250 Opportunity Scholarships were awarded in 2009.

How will I know if FYA has received the application?

Each application will be acknowledged by online receipt

How will I know if the application has been successful or unsuccessful?

A letter will be sent to the Nominating professional of all applicants informing them of the outcome of their application.

If I am unsuccessful, may I appeal the decision?

No. The decision made by the Selection Panel is final and no further correspondence will be entered into, however, you are welcome to apply in the next round of Opportunity Scholarships.

If I am unsuccessful, can I get feedback on my application?

No. The decision made by the Selection Panel is final and no further correspondence will be entered into. A letter to the nominating professional will outline the trends of the round selection panel results.

How will the Scholarship money be paid to me?

The Nominating professional will be sent a Grant Agreement for the Opportunity Scholarship. When this Grant Agreement is signed and the banking details completed and returned to FYA the payment will be made into the organisation/schools' bank account by electronic funds transfer.

How will the Opportunity Scholarship monies be paid to the student?

The school Finance Manager and Nominating professional and student can organise the most appropriate payment method. The student may present receipts to the school or the school may pay the Service provider directly.

What other organisations provide student scholarships?

The Smith Family – Learning for Life program <http://www.ignite.auz.net/ignite/default.cfm>
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) – scholarship scheme to assist students from Year 3 to Tertiary – <http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/scholarship/default.aspx>
Rural and countryside funding – <http://www.countryeducationfoundation.org.au>

What if I have other questions that have not been covered?

For further information, please contact Loretta Liston on **(03) 9670 5436** Monday to Friday or Program Coordinator Kath McCann Tuesday or Friday on **(03) 9604 6202**