

mentor support network*

2021 MSN Educational Scholarship Program

Applications close 25 September 2020

Guidelines for Nominators

1. The MSN scholarships program is open to young students who are:
 - aged at least 15 on 31 December 2020
 - attending school or enrolled in an apprenticeship program (including V.E.T.) in the Hunter Region (see below for Region definition)
 - committed to continuing their education
 - in challenging financial circumstances which make it difficult for them to secure the educational supports necessary to their success.
2. Scholarships are not necessarily awarded because of academic achievement but because of a demonstrated desire to achieve educational goals despite financial difficulties.
3. Priority will be given to school students who will be entering Year 11 (or equivalent), although others that have a 'exceptional case' may still apply.
4. Applicants **must** be nominated by a current MSN organisational member.
5. Application forms **must** be completed by the students themselves (although your advice and support may assist them).
6. A paper form can be downloaded at <http://www.mentorsupportnetwork.com.au/support/mentor-support-network-educational-scholarship> It should be returned by post to Mentor Support Network, PO Box 3149, Merewether, NSW 2291 or e-mailed to: jane.kift@mentorsupportnetwork.com.au.
7. An organisational member may submit as many nominations as they wish, but MSN reserves the right to limit numbers at any one school or organisation. If more than **three** nominations are submitted, must be ranked by the nominator, based on merit.
8. The nominator **must** send an **individual letter of reference** for each nominee describing the student's circumstances and the impact the scholarship will have on them. This letter will assist the interviewers in their assessment of the student's situation and potential as a scholarship recipient. Letters can be sent by e-mail to jane.kift@mentorsupportnetwork.com.au or posted to Mentor Support Network, PO Box 3149, Merewether, NSW 2291.
9. Students who have already received a scholarship are eligible to reapply, although such 'top-ups' will be at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

10. While some may be less, (e.g. for a top-up), scholarships are generally between \$1,000 and \$3,000 based on each student's circumstances. Funds will be paid directly by electronic bank deposit to the recipient on presentation of a Scholarship Claim Form together with receipts. Funds can be drawn in several tranches.
11. Scholarship monies must be used for educational purposes only (for example: tutoring fees, textbooks, stationery, computer hardware and software, internet connections, educational excursions, course fees and materials, and specialist equipment). They may not be used for school fees and non-educational personal needs. A full list of options is provided with Claim Form Guidelines.
- 12. The application form and nominations letter must be received by midnight 25 September 2020.**
13. Students selected for an interview will be notified in mid-October and at that time told the date and time of their interview. Interviews will be conducted on 26, 27, and 28 October at the Engineers Australia Office, Suite 3, Tonella Commercial Centre, Dick Street, Newcastle West. This location is close to Newcastle Interchange and Marketown (A map will be provided with notification of interviews).
14. Students selected to receive a scholarship will be notified by 2nd November 2020.
15. Scholarships are for 2021 only and cannot be deferred.
16. Scholarship recipients will be required to attend an **Information Session**, which will be followed by an **Awards Presentation** on 24 November 2020. (Note: This event has been brought forward so that successful applicants can make purchases before the start of the 2021 school year).
17. Scholarship monies must be spent before the end of 3rd term, September 2021.
18. Should a scholarship recipient leave their educational institution or school, they and/or their nominator are to immediately notify MSN.

The Hunter Region is that region included within the local government areas known or formerly known as Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Port Stephens, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter, Great Lakes, Cessnock, Dungog, and Gloucester.

If you have any questions, please contact the Scholarship Chair, Jane Kift:

jane.kift@mentorsupportnetwork.com.au / 0418 431 646

Thank you for your support of the applicants.