ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applicants who are commencing studies at Excelsia must have submitted a completed *Application for Admission* before they will be considered for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who meet entrance requirements as outlined in the relevant School Course Information Brochure and the current Excelsia Student Handbook.

About the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship

- The scholarship covers the cost of tuition for one full year through fee remission
- The scholarship is not transferable to another degree.
- The scholarship is not transferable to another institution.
- If there are no eligible students in any year, the scholarship will not be awarded.
- A recipient of the scholarship may not hold it in conjunction with another scholarship offered by Excelsia.

Eligible applicants

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be:

a. an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person under the Commonwealth definition
b. enrolled full-time
c. able to demonstrate through their application:
    - personal achievement in prior studies or training, and a commitment to their chosen degree and/or future field of endeavour, or
    - any adverse circumstances which may have impacted previous educational outcomes, and a commitment to their chosen degree and/or future field of endeavour.

Documentation

To confirm your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, please provide the appropriate documentation as outlined below. Excelsia requires specific evidence to support your declaration of Aboriginality. Please note that documentation from a current Excelsia staff member cannot be accepted as a supporting letter.

Your confirmation can take one of the following forms:

- A certified copy of a 'Confirmation of Identity' document issued by a registered Community Organisation, such as a Land Council. This document must include a common seal to verify your Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

If you are unable to provide the above, you will need to submit one of the following:

- Supporting documents, such as a genealogy record (e.g., Linkup NSW).
- A letter of support using the Excelsia University College template or alternatively an official letterhead from a recognised Indigenous or First Nations community member or organisation on official letterhead. This could be from entities such as an Aboriginal Medical Service, a principal of a high school, an Aboriginal Education Consulting Group, Family and Community Services, Aboriginal Housing, or any other incorporated Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporation.

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Assessment and interview
Assessments and interviews will be arranged by the Scholarship Committee. Applicants will be advised of the decisions in writing.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS

i. The level of scholarship is awarded by a Scholarship Committee, based on merit, as assessed by means of interview and documentary evidence.
ii. Scholarships do not cover:
    - elective studies taken beyond course requirements
    - repetition of failed units
    - private music tuition
    - performance-related costs, or
    - other miscellaneous charges incurred during study (including the cost of textbooks, stationery, supplies and fines).
iii. The decision of the Scholarship Committee is final.

CRITERIA FOR CONTINUATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP OR THE FORFEIT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

There are a number of requirements for scholarship recipients.

i. The scholarship will continue to be paid provided the recipient:
    a. maintains satisfactory progress, and
    b. maintains full-time enrolment.
ii. In general, the recipient may forfeit the scholarship if they:
    a. do not maintain satisfactory progress
    b. do not maintain a full-time enrolment
    c. are found to have breached Excelsia's Student Code of Conduct in a disciplinary proceedings
    d. discontinue their degree at Excelsia
    e. take a leave of absence, or
    f. defer their enrolment for a period of greater than 12 months.
iii. If a recipient faces circumstances that require a leave of absence or access to part-time study, the recipient can apply to the Scholarship Committee for approval to retain the scholarship on a pro rata basis. The Scholarship Committee has the discretion to determine the ongoing status of the scholarship.

Application Details

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

COURSE DETAILS

Please indicate the course for which you have applied:

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Please explain your reasons for applying for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship. You may choose to highlight any personal achievements or difficult circumstances that have impacted your academic journey.

2. In what ways across the next five years will this scholarship enhance your educational and career goals, and how do your personal experiences, achievements, and challenges shape your commitment to your chosen field of study? You may attach supporting documentation if you wish.

APPLICANT'S DECLARATION

I declare that the information I have provided in this application is correct and complete.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE_____DATE _____

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