

Distinguished Scholarships: Enhancing your application

Jeremiah Byrnes – Director, Student Academic Experience

1. What prestigious scholarships are on offer?
2. What are the advantages of gaining a prestigious scholarship?
3. What do prestigious scholarship bodies look for?
4. What principles should I consider as I apply?
5. What are the typical application steps?
6. How can I improve my chances of success?
7. Activities

1. What prestigious scholarships are on offer?

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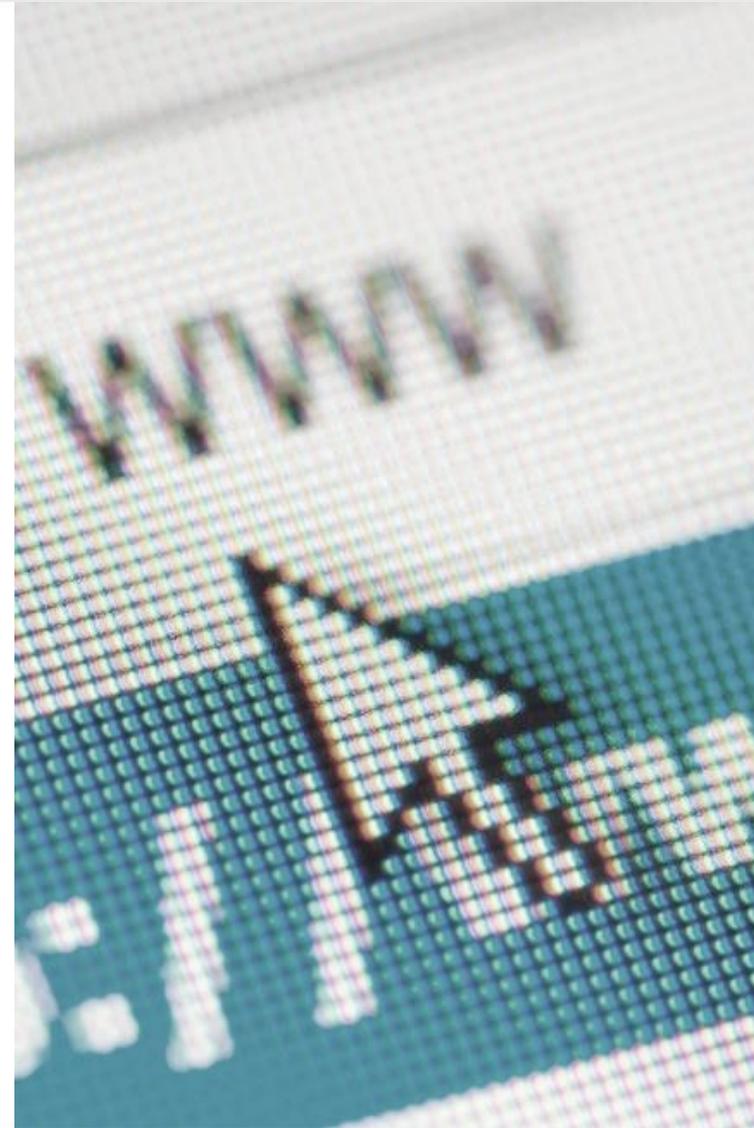
There are a wide range of prestigious scholarships on offer including:

- Cambridge Australia
- Endeavour Scholarship
- Frank Knox Fellowships (Harvard)
- Fulbright Scholarship
- General Sir John Monash Foundation Scholarship
- Rhodes Scholarship
- Schwarzman Scholarship
- Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship

What prestigious scholarships are on offer?

Information about these scholarships is available on the relevant Monash websites.

- Monash > Fees and scholarships > Scholarships > Distinguished Scholarships (<https://www.monash.edu/study/fees-scholarships/scholarships/scholarship-groups/other/distinguished-scholarships>)
- Info pack (<https://www.monash.edu/students/distinguished-scholarships>)



2. What are the advantages of gaining a prestigious scholarship?

What are the advantages of a prestigious scholarship?

- Access to a broad network of other students, and established academics and professionals. This has immediate and life-long advantages.



What are the advantages of a prestigious scholarship?

- Typically provides support to study at leading international institutions.
 - E.g. Fulbright scholarships enable study at US institutions.



What are the advantages of a prestigious scholarship?

- Typically a higher and more flexible level of financial support.
 - E.g. John Monash scholarships provide AUD \$70,000 per year for up to 3 years.



What are the advantages of a prestigious scholarship?

- In some cases access to high quality professional development.
 - E.g. Westpac Leadership Development Program delivered by industry leaders



3. What do prestigious scholarships bodies look for?

What do prestigious scholarship bodies look for?

- Academic talent
- Leadership/career potential
 - Will this person use this opportunity to make an impact in their field and society more broadly?
- Alignment between individual and their proposed study with the aims and values of the funding body
 - Will this person contribute to our vision and goals? E.g. Improved relationship with China.



What do prestigious scholarship bodies look for?

- The willingness and ability to be a current and future ambassador for the funding body
 - Would we be confident and proud to have this person represent us?
- Diversity
 - Fields of study, applicants



4. What principles should I consider as I apply?

What principles should I consider as I apply?

- Do not underestimate yourself
- Allow time to prepare
- Have a medium to long-term plan which includes the scholarship
 - Where are you heading?
 - How will this scholarship help you?



What principles should I consider as I apply?

- **Quality not quantity**
 - Attention to detail
 - Tailor your application according to the aims and ethos of the scholarship
- **Choose your referees carefully**
 - Recognised position
 - Recognised organisation
- **Monash will support you**



5. What are the typical application steps?

4. What are the typical application steps?

Application requirements vary but typically include:

- Written application
 - Personal information
 - Your plan (study & career)
 - May include short essays
 - Supporting documents such as referee statements
- Panel interview
 - Usually multiple rounds (e.g. State and national)



4. What are the typical application steps?

Application may also involve:

- Video interviews (e.g. Vieple)
- Online assessment
 - Quizzes or tests to check mathematical, language and logical reasoning.
 - Sometimes timed and progressively more challenging.
- Assessment centre
 - Formal centre for testing intelligence and interpersonal skills.



6. How can I improve my chances of success?

How can I improve my chances of success?

Pre-application:

- Familiarise yourself with the scholarship website including aims, eligibility, selection criteria, terms and conditions, FAQ's, and closing dates.
- Consult with current or previous winners of the scholarship to get a sense of what is involved and how to navigate the process.



How can I improve my chances of success?

Pre-application

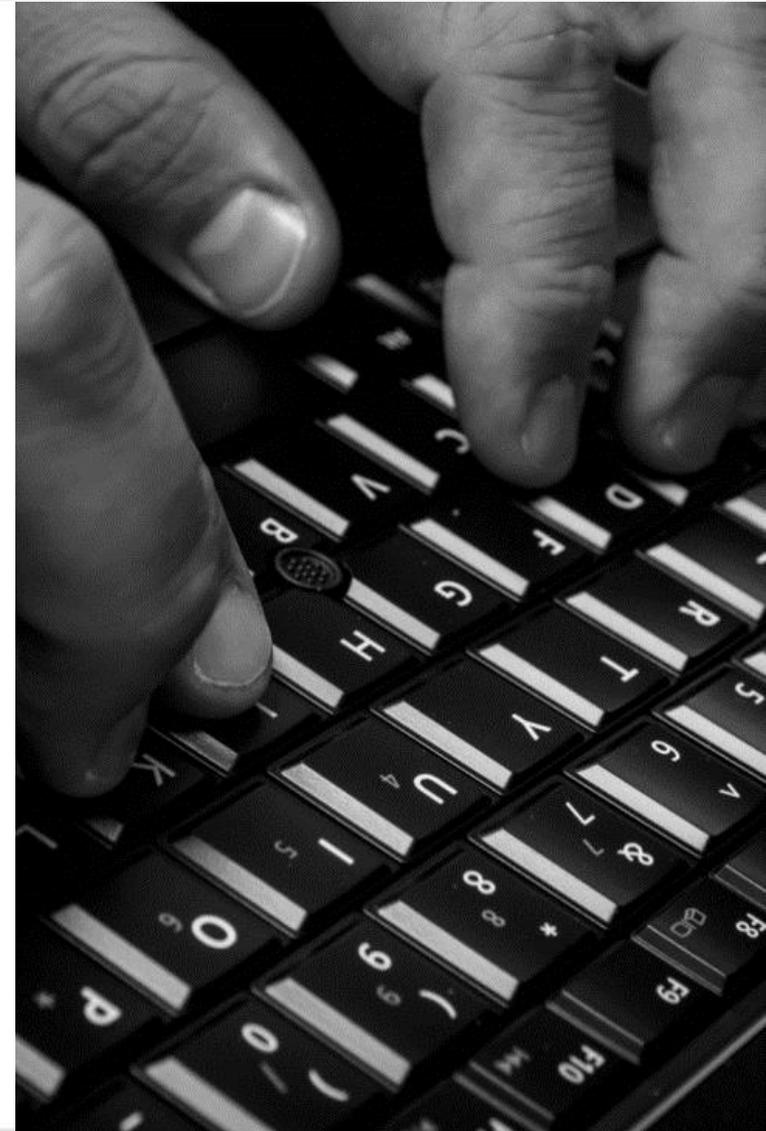
- Contact referees early and explain the details of the scholarship, what you require from them and by when.
- If necessary and feasible, contact the scholarship body for more information.
 - Some scholarship organisations are happy to take questions while others are too busy.



How can I improve my chances of success?

Written application:

- Clearly address each of the criteria for the scholarship.
- Use concrete examples and quantitative measures to back up statements wherever possible.
- Link your responses to the aims and goals of the scholarship organisation.
- Ask other people to give you feedback before submitting.



How can I improve my chances of success?

Written application:

- Proofread your application for spelling and grammatical errors.
- Don't stretch the truth.



How can I improve my chances of success?

Interview

- Questions will typically fall into 2 categories:
 1. Opinion. E.g. 'How is your proposed study relevant to the future of Australia?'
 2. Behavioural. E.g. 'Tell us about a time when you have demonstrated leadership.'



How can I improve my chances of success?

Interview

- Use the S.T.A.R. format when responding to behavioural questions.
 - Situation ('The local primary school had a need for greater scientific literacy')
 - Task/Action ('I responded by visiting the school every month to set up a science in action program')
 - Result ('The program has now been running for a year. It has been funded by local government and reached 200 children.')



How can I improve my chances of success?

Interview

- Consider likely questions and prepare thoughtful responses.
- Link your responses back to the aims of the scholarship body.
- Practice your interview beforehand.
- Stay relaxed - don't be afraid to pause and think.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Don't stretch the truth.



How can I improve my chances of success?

Online assessment:

- Practice beforehand if necessary
 - (e.g. <https://www.practiceaptitudetests.com/>)
- Remove any distractions (e.g. phone, pop-ups) before commencing assessment.



How can I improve my chances of success?

Assessment centre:

- Everything is observed.
- It is important to balance assertiveness with the ability to listen and reflect.
- Prior to assessment, consider how you might demonstrate behaviours consistent with aims and goals of scholarship body.
- Stay relaxed.



7. Activities

How could these sample statements be improved?

1. 'While there are some awards I have missed out on, I have received 2 academic awards over the last year.'
2. 'I feel I have a significant contribution to make to leading the national and international agenda but at this stage I am not sure how.'
3. 'I feel I could be a good ambassador for any scholarship foundation including this one.'
4. 'This scholarship would enable me to go overseas which is something I have always wanted to do.'

How could you demonstrate the following?

1. Academic ability
2. Leadership
3. Community engagement
4. Readiness to make the most of the opportunity

How could you answer these questions using the STAR method?

1. Tell us about a time you worked to solve a problem in your community.
2. Tell us about a time when you have worked to develop a national or international network.
3. Tell us about a time when you have used your current studies to help others.
4. Tell us about a time when you have led or coordinated a team.