

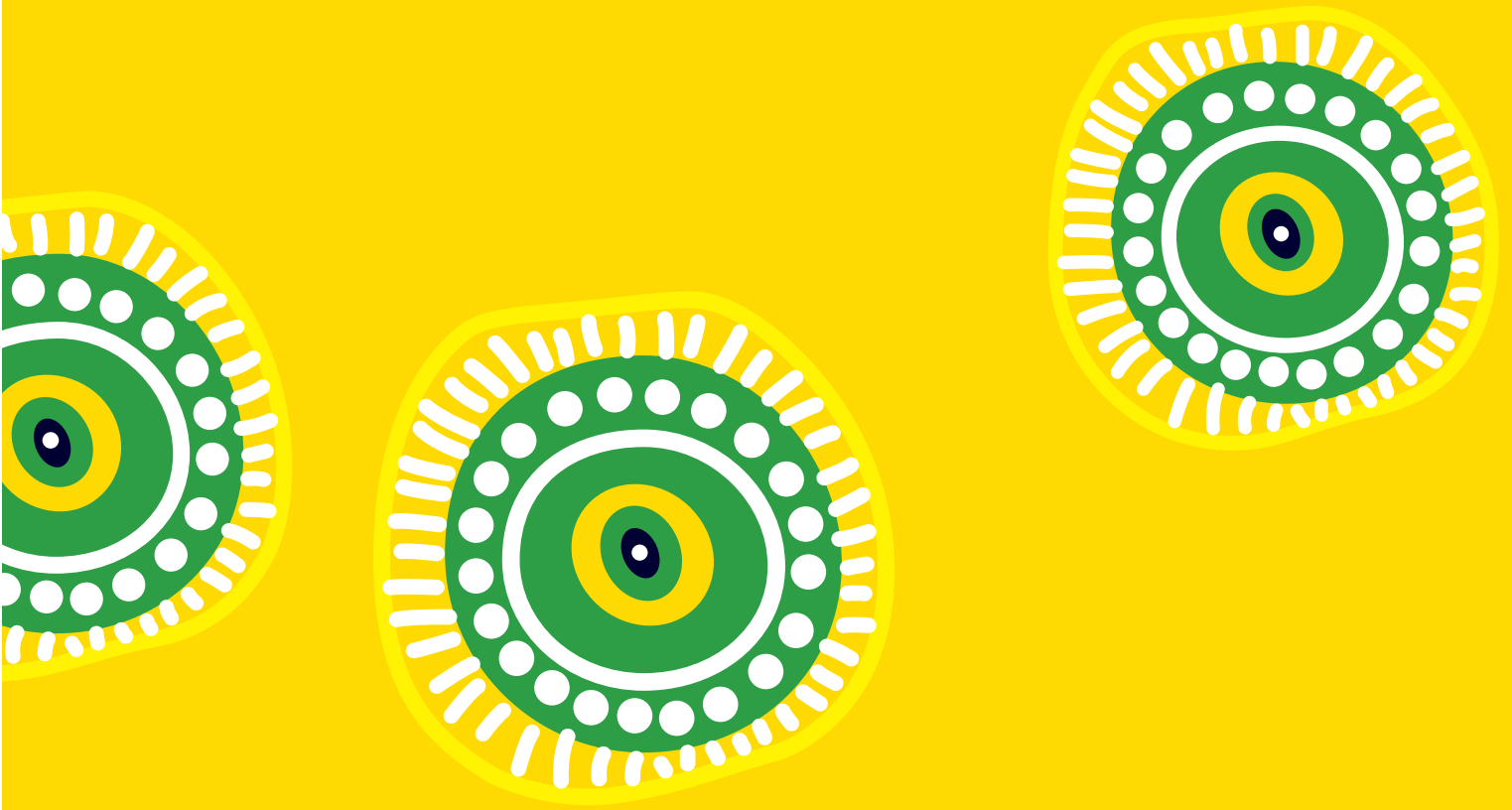


**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**



# 2025 AIS Athlete Education Scholarship Program Grant Guidelines

Prepared by  
**AIS Sport Wellbeing & Engagement**  
Februaryf 2025



### **Australian Sports Commission Acknowledgement of Country**

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where its offices are located, the Ngunnawal people and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, the people of the Yugambah Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

The ASC extends this acknowledgment to all the Traditional Custodians of the lands and First Nations Peoples throughout Australia and would like to pay its respects to all Elders past, present and future.

The ASC recognises the outstanding contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to society and sport in Australia and celebrates the power of sport to promote reconciliation and reduce inequality.



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# Introduction

The Australian Sports Commission has always acknowledged and been supportive of athletes having an underpinning education to support them during both their sporting career and in preparation for life after sport. Educated athletes are more likely to thrive, have more career options and contribute positively to the Australian community.

Whilst the Elite Sport Education Network (ESEN) has been in place since 2004 to support flexible study around high performance sport, more can be done to recognise and support athlete education aspirations, particularly given the rising costs of education in Australia. Ensuring Australia's athletes become life-long learners, and value education as part of their identity, is key to the legacy and impact sport can have in Australia.

Since 2020, the AIS, in partnership with the John and Myriam Wylie Foundation has provided \$473,000 of scholarship funding to categorised athletes attending ESEN endorsed tertiary institutions. In 2025, this partnership continues to grow and will support athletes with a co-investment of \$150,000. Additionally, through the Australian Government's record investment in High Performance sport, an extra \$50,000 in funding is available specifically for eligible Para-athletes, bringing the total grant funding pool to \$200,000 in 2025.

## Grant Program Objectives

The purpose of the AIS Athlete Education Scholarship Program is to provide financial support to current Australian high performance athletes, who are committing themselves beyond their training and competitions, to pursuing education opportunities.



# Important Dates

Activity	Key Date
Applications open	Monday 10 February 2025
Applications close	Friday 14 March 2025
Notification of outcomes	April 2025
Funded activity to be completed by	31 December 2025

\*Applications must be submitted before 2:00pm AEDT. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Please note the time differences for each state below.

- NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS: 2:00pm
- QLD: 1:00pm
- SA & NT: 1:30pm
- WA: 11:00am

## CONTACT

For any questions about the AIS Athlete Education Scholarship:

Email [AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au](mailto:AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au)

Phone +61 2 6214 1020

Business hour Monday-Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm (AEDT) \*Excluding national holidays

Website [AIS Education Scholarship | Australian Institute of Sport.](#)



# Funding Availability and Eligibility Criteria

## Funding availability

A total funding pool of \$200,000 is available for allocation through the 2025 Athlete Education Scholarship Program.

\$150,000 is available to all applicants, with a further \$50,000 available to eligible Para-athletes only.

The maximum scholarship amount available to any individual is up to \$5,000.

Scholarship amounts will be determined by the ASC as part of the assessment process. The amounts may vary between applicants and may not be the full amount applied for.

## Eligibility Criteria

### Who is eligible to apply for a Scholarship?

To be eligible to apply for a 2025 AIS Athlete Education Scholarship, an athlete must:

- a) At the time of application, be categorised by their National Sporting Organisation (NSO) as Podium, Podium Potential, Podium Ready, Developing or Emerging within the AIS Athlete Categorisation Framework.
- b) Be intending to enrol or currently enrolled in a course/unit of study in period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.
- c) Have no anti-doping rule violations or match fixing offences at any time.

Applicants who have received an AIS Athlete Education Scholarship in previous years are ineligible.

## Eligible use of grant funds

### What can the Scholarship money be used for?

Scholarship funds can be used as a contribution to the following activities:

1. Course / Tuition fees
2. Textbooks (hard copy and/or e-books), stationary, learning materials
3. Student contributions (e.g. HECS)
4. Student services & amenities fees
5. Technology purchases (e.g. iPad, laptops)
6. Police checks that are requirement for course of study
7. Uniforms that are a requirement for a course of study
8. CPR and First Aid courses that are a requirement for a course of study
9. Travel to placements that are a requirement for a course of study

Scholarship funds cannot be used for the following activities:

1. Travel and accommodation related to a sporting event
2. Travel and parking costs related to day-to-day activities at your education institution



An 'Approved Course' is a recognised Australian University degree or TAFE course from an educational institution that is part of the Elite Sport Education Network (ESEN). A listing of educational institutions can be found at [Elite Sport Education Network | Australian Institute of Sport](#)

### What evidence is required to apply for a Scholarship?

At the time of applying, all applicants will be required to demonstrate evidence of enrolment in an Approved Course in the period **1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**.

If successful, applicants will be required to provide evidence of successfully completed unit or course of study for which the Scholarship was awarded by 31 December 2025, at a pass level or greater.

Accepted evidence includes:

1. An academic transcript that includes the recipients' details and course results
2. Provision of a summary of how the scholarship funds were distributed using the table provided in the acquittal form

In the case a successful applicant decides to defer enrolment of their course, they must email the ASC ([AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au](mailto:AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au)) to provide details of their deferred enrolment, including reasons for the deferral and revised timeline for completion (e.g. selection in a national team participating in an international competition). The ASC will assess on a case-by-case basis and respond via email confirmation of whether the applicant's funds can be retained in line with deferral.

## How to apply

Before applying for an Athlete Education Scholarship, you will need to read and understand these guidelines, including the Terms and Conditions in Appendix 1.

Only one application should be submitted per athlete.

Applications are to be completed online on the ASC website at (<https://www.ais.gov.au/career-and-education/AES>) by the closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.

To complete the application, applicants need to have the following information:

- current athlete categorisation details
- educational institution and course details
- any supporting documentation to your application e.g. summary of enrolment
- personal bank account details
- residential address

Supporting documentation for your application will only be accepted if it clearly identifies:

- applicant full name
- educational institution
- course name
- confirmation of enrolment
- evidence that study date is within period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

You will receive an automated email receipt if the application is submitted successfully. You are responsible for ensuring the completeness and accuracy of the information within the application. Giving false or



misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code 1995* and may result in your application being excluded from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately using the details below.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you. However, we do not have to accept additional information or requests from you to correct or change your application after the closing time.

If you need further guidance on the application process or wish to withdraw a submitted application, please contact:

**Email:** [AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au](mailto:AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au)

## Application form

When submitting an application, applicants will be able to select between a written and video response for certain components of the form.

If selecting to respond via written application, applicants will be asked to submit responses to each question within the assessment criteria in 300 words or less.

If selecting to respond via video:

- the video must not be more than 2 minutes in length per question
- must address the question prompt on the application form
- must be uploaded by providing an accessible link in the application form

Note: If applicants elect to answer specified questions via a video response and are found to be successful, the ASC may transcribe key points from the response and present that back to the applicant during negotiation of the Funding Agreement. Applicants will have the opportunity to clarify the information recorded but they will not be able to change their responses.

## Attachments to your application

Where relevant, supporting documentation attached to your online application must not exceed 25MB. This excludes video application response files.

# Assessment Criteria

All applications will initially be assessed by the ASC against the eligibility criteria. Only one application will be considered per athlete.

Eligible applications will then proceed to assessment against the following criteria through a competitive process:

1. Level of detail provided of the course you are enrolled in, and why you selected this course (10%)
2. Demonstrate the requirement of financial support for your educational needs, including the benefits and support gained by receiving financial assistance (20%)
3. Completion of the budget table explaining how the grant amount will be spent (30%)
4. Demonstration of how your participation in study will support your holistic development and unlock your full potential to win well in sport and in life (40%)





This assessment will be undertaken by an Assessment Panel, which will comprise representatives from the ASC, high performance sport system, education network, alumni athletes and independent members.

The Assessment Panel will consider each eligible application on its merits based on how well it meets the selection criteria and how it compares to other applications.

The Assessment Panel will provide recommendations for the consideration of the Grant Approver, who will provide the final approval for the award of Scholarships under this program.



# Grant Approver

Executive General Manager, AIS Performance is the Grant Approver and will make the final decision as to grant recipients and funding amounts after considering the assessors' recommendations and the availability of grant funds for the Program.

## Notification

All applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of their application including:

- any funding amount to be awarded; and
- the specific terms and conditions of any funding.

There is no review or appeal process after the final decision is made by the ASC.

Successful applicants will enter into an agreement with the ASC in relation to the Scholarship funding, which will be substantially based on the sample terms and conditions at Appendix 1 to these guidelines.

## Conflict of Interest

Conflicts of interest could arise if the applicant and ASC staff, an assessment panel member or advisor:

- Has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process,
- Has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently, or
- Has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant.

Applicants will be asked to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of their knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest, the ASC must be informed in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest regarding ASC staff will be handled in accordance with ASC Conflict of Interest Policy. Assessment panel members will also be required to declare any conflicts of interest.

## Disclosure of Information

The ASC must treat any personal information according to the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles.



Personal information can only be disclosed to someone for the primary purpose for which it is collected, unless an exemption applies.

Personal information submitted via the online application is collected by the ASC for the purpose of considering applications for and administering the Program.

The personal details of successful applicants (including name, home state, sport, the value of the scholarship awarded and a brief description of the purpose for the scholarship) may be released by the ASC to the public and the media for the use of promotional and educational purposes.

To view the ASC Privacy Policy, visit: [https://www.sportaus.gov.au/legal\\_information/privacy\\_policy](https://www.sportaus.gov.au/legal_information/privacy_policy)

## Enquiries and feedback

If you have any questions regarding the Athlete Education Scholarship program, please contact:

[AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au](mailto:AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au)

If you wish to lodge a complaint regarding the scholarship opportunity this can be done using the ASC complaints form. [Feedback and Complaints | Australian Sports Commission](#)



# Appendix 1- Terms and Conditions

1. If the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) decides to offer a scholarship under the Program to the applicant (**Scholarship**), the Scholarship will be awarded subject to any terms the ASC sets out in the applicant's letter of offer, these terms and conditions, and the Program Guidelines (as updated from time to time) (**Agreement**).
2. The ASC will make a single payment of the Scholarship amount to the successful applicant (**Recipient**) subject to sufficient funding being available to the Program and the Recipient complying with this Agreement.
3. The Recipient must:
  - a. promptly notify the ASC if the Recipient becomes aware that he or she no longer fulfils the Eligibility Criteria (as set out in the Program Guidelines) for receipt of the Scholarship;
  - b. successfully complete the nominated unit or course of study for which the Scholarship is awarded (**Course of Study**) by 31 December 2025, at a pass level or greater;
  - c. only use the Scholarship as a contribution towards course fee or study related costs in the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025;
  - d. keep records detailing the use and expenditure of the Scholarship and make them available to the ASC or its authorised representatives on request;
    1. provide by 31 December 2025 a statement and accompanying evidence in the form required by the ASC, verifying that the Course of Study has been successfully completed, and that the Scholarship has been spent in accordance with this Agreement. This may include production of the Recipient's academic transcript for the Course of Study and evidence of expenditure of the Scholarship.
4. The Recipient:
  - a. declares and warrants, at the date of agreeing to these terms and conditions, that he or she has not at any time been found to have breached any anti-doping rule or policy applicable to the Recipient, and has not engaged at any time in any conduct that constituted a breach of any anti-doping rule or policy applicable to the Recipient;
  - b. agrees to maintain a high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia; and
  - c. agrees not to do anything to bring the Recipient, the ASC, or the Recipient's National Sporting Organisation into disrepute.
5. Without limitation to any other rights of the ASC, if the ASC reasonably believes, at any time following the award of the Scholarship, that:
  - a. the Recipient has provided false or misleading information in the application process;
  - b. the Scholarship has been spent other than in accordance with this Agreement;
  - c. the Recipient will not complete the Course of Study at a pass level or greater, or has otherwise breached any of its obligations under this Agreement; or
  - d. the Scholarship amount is additional to the requirements of the Course of Study,then the ASC may by written notice, require the Recipient to repay to the ASC, at the ASC's absolute discretion, all or part of the Scholarship. The amount notified must be repaid within 30 days of any such notice.
6. The Recipient must, if requested by the ASC, co-operate with the ASC in relation to promotional and educational initiatives regarding the Program and the ASC's Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement activities.



7. The personal details of Recipients (including name, home state, sport, the value of the Scholarship awarded and a brief description of the purpose for the Scholarship) may be released by the ASC to the public and the media for the use of promotional and educational purposes.
8. If the Recipient is under 18 years of age, he or she must also obtain agreement of their parent or guardian to these terms and conditions and the Program Guidelines prior to entering this Agreement.
9. The Recipient agrees to indemnify the ASC and its officers, employees and contractors against any claim, loss or damage arising in connection with undertaking the Course of Study, or a breach of this Agreement. This obligation to indemnify the ASC will reduce proportionally to the extent that any act or omission involving fault on the part of the of the ASC, contributed to the claim loss or damage.
10. This Agreement does not create a relationship of employment, or agency between the Recipient and the ASC.

This agreement is governed by the law of the Australian Capital Territory.



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[ausport.gov.au](http://ausport.gov.au)



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