

2026 First Nations Scholarships

Supported by the Kenneth Myer Fellowship Trust

Guidelines

Applications open 18 June 2025

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

First Nations Scholarships

All

Who can apply?

applications will be treated confidentially.

First Nations Scholarships are open to new and continuing students.

To be eligible to apply, you must:

- Identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and be accepted as such within your community.
- Show you are in need of financial assistance to meet the costs associated with studying at AFTRS **OR** show significant creative excellence and how your career aspirations would benefit.
- Show how this scholarship would support you to complete the course.
- Be an applicant or continuing student in the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production, Graduate Diploma in Radio and Podcasting, Master of Arts Screen or Master of Arts Screen: Business
- Be an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen.

Application Dates

Applications open 18 June 2025 and close;

- Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production – 28 October
- Graduate Diploma in Radio and Podcasting – 17 November
- Master of Arts Screen Business– 17 November
- Master of Arts Screen: Production – 21 October

Dates are subject to change. Please check AFTRS website for updates.

Applications may, however, be accepted outside these dates. If you wish to do this, you are encouraged to contact the Student Centre.

Purpose

AFTRS First Nations Scholarships, generously supported by the Kenneth Myer Fellowship Trust, are awarded on the basis of creative excellence or equity.

The scholarships are intended to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with the costs associated with higher education at AFTRS.

Each scholarship may contribute towards a range of purposes associated with the course such as relocation costs, study resources and other costs, at the school's discretion.

Application form

Complete the online scholarship application form and provide any documentation requested by the closing date.

Conditions

The successful applicant must have accepted an offer or be a continuing student in the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production, Graduate Diploma in Radio and Podcasting, Master of Arts Screen or Master of Arts Screen: Business.

There are limited funds for scholarships so AFTRS may not be able to support everyone who applies.

The recipient cannot defer the commencement of the scholarship.

AFTRS may produce public communications in connection with the scholarship. The recipient will be asked for their consent to provide AFTRS with an irrevocable royalty free license to use and reproduce their image and story solely for the purposes of internal and external communications. Participation is at the discretion of the recipient.

How to apply

1. Complete the online application form and upload supporting documents
2. You must submit:
 - a) A confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent form executed by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisation with a common seal.
 - b) A personal statement describing your circumstances and the opportunity the scholarship would give you
 - c) A statement declaring any other financial help you are getting to study including Centrelink payments such as ABSTUDY
 - d) If applying on the basis of financial need and/or other educational disadvantage: proof of real and

enduring financial need. This may be proof you receive or will receive a means tested Australian government income support payment like Centrelink ABSTUDY. You may also give proof of other circumstances that may affect your education such as any carer responsibilities, sole parent responsibilities, long-term medical condition or disability or ongoing effects of abuse, or regional or remote disadvantage.

e) If applying on the basis of significant creative excellence and career aspirations: Provide works of distinctive and creative storytelling for assessment and a letter of support from a screen or broadcast industry stakeholder or an experienced screen or broadcast practitioner.

What we're looking for

The selection panel will consider either the applicant's creative excellence or equity based on the supporting documents in their application.

AFTRS will determine which, if any, applicant will be awarded the scholarship.

If the selection committee finds that no applicant meets the eligibility criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded.

AFTRS' decision is final and no correspondence about decisions will be entered into.

Other information

In assessing your application, the selection committee may request you provide additional supporting documents to enable them to make a final decision. You will be contacted via email to request specified documents if required.

You will be notified by email whether your application is successful.

Further information

Payments

The amount of annual support may vary by course.

- Up to \$7,500 for the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production
- Up to \$12,500 for the Graduate Diploma in Radio and Podcasting
- Up to \$25,000 for the Master of Arts Screen
- Up to \$12,500 for the Master of Arts Screen: Business

The amounts listed apply if the recipient is consistently enrolled in 4 subjects in the academic year 2026.

For a recipient enrolled in fewer than four subjects at any time, payments will be adjusted proportionally according to actual study load. One instalment will be paid to the recipient each semester following the applicable census dates.

This scholarship is for the academic year 2026 only. This scholarship will not rollover or be extended beyond 2026.

In exceptional circumstances, higher financial support may be given.

Payments are conditional on the recipient remaining enrolled, in good academic standing, and continuing to meet the eligibility criteria, and maintain the standards set out in the Student Handbook and AFTRS Code of Conduct.

Certification of documents

Any documents you provide as support material must be certified copies. AFTRS' certification requirements are available at:

www.aftrs.edu.au/students/future-students/how-to-apply/

Translation of documents

If supporting documents are not in English, applicants are required to supply certified copies of the following:

- The document in the original language; and
- An English translation of the document by an accredited translator. Do not send original supporting documents.

Additional information - notes on submission of materials

- Do not exceed the total maximum word count – additional materials will not be reviewed.
- You do not have to complete your application in one sitting. Save your application and log back in at any time prior to the closing date to pick up where you left off.
- File names should be clear and descriptive and only include alphanumeric characters (not symbols).
- Do not include your contact details in any documents.
- You are not permitted to submit any work that has been created in part or whole by a generative AI tool such as ChatGPT and claim it as your own. If you are using any work that is not yours it must be referenced – this is essential to ethical creative practice and academic integrity. Failure to reference is also considered plagiarism.

Learn more

If you haven't found the information you need,
or need support with your application, contact our
Scholarships Team.

1300 223 877

scholarships@aftrs.edu.au

Alternatively, you can contact the First Nations and
Outreach team at fno@aftrs.edu.au

aftrs.edu.au/scholarships

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