

2025 First Nations Scholarships

Supported by the Kenneth
Myer Fellowship Trust

Guidelines

Applications open 19 June 2024

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

First Nations Scholarships

Who can apply?

AFTRS 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.
- Be an applicant or continuing student in the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production, Graduate Diploma of Radio & Podcasting full time or part time, Master of Arts Screen or Master of Arts Screen: Business full time or part time.
- Be an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen.
- 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.

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.

AFTRS 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.

AFTRS' fund for the scholarships is managed through the First Nations and Outreach team and overseen by the CEO.

Application form

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

All applications will be treated confidentially.

Application Dates

Applications open 19 June 2024 and close:

- Master of Arts Screen: 10 September 2024
- Master of Arts Screen: Business: 11 November 2024
- Bachelor of Arts Screen: 4 November 2024
- Graduate Diploma in Radio and Podcasting: 10 November 2024

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 First Nations and Outreach team before applying.

Conditions

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

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.

How to apply

1. Complete the ONLINE application form and upload supporting documents
2. You must give AFTRS:
 - 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 in 2025 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 applicants 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 panel 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.

Assessment rubric

If applying on the basis of financial need and/or other educational disadvantage

Item Weighting/ Selection Criteria	85-100	75-84	65-74	50-64	0-49
A: Personal Statement (40%)	Personal statement demonstrates that financial support is crucial in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Personal statement demonstrates considerable need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Personal statement demonstrates some need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Personal statement demonstrates limited need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Personal statement demonstrates no need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS or no personal statement submitted.
B: Supporting Documentation (30%)	Documentation demonstrates that financial support is crucial in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Documentation demonstrates considerable need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Documentation demonstrates some need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Documentation demonstrates limited need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Documentation does not support the application or no documentation submitted.
C: Financial Breakdown (30%)	Financial data demonstrates that financial support is crucial in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Financial data demonstrates considerable need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Financial data demonstrates some need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Financial data demonstrates limited need for financial support in order to commence/continue study at AFTRS.	Financial data does not support the application.

Assessment rubric

If applying on the basis of significant artistic excellence and career aspirations

Item Weighting/ Selection Criteria	85-100	75-84	65-74	50-64	0-49
A: Works of distinctive and creative storytelling (50%)	There is a compelling artistic voice in the work presented. The work is conceptually and technically ambitious. The work is highly engaging and thought provoking	There is a clear artistic approach in the work presented. The work is conceptually and technically strong. There is a depth to the work and it engages the audience.	The work is conceptually or technically solid. The work plays with interesting ideas and engages the audience	The work is working towards conceptual coherence and/or technical proficiency. The work has limited engagement and depth.	The work is incoherent and poorly executed. No risks were taken. The finished project is simplistic and derivative.
B: Personal Statement (35%)	The applicant demonstrates an exceptional commitment to study and a career in the creative industries.	The applicant demonstrates a strong commitment to study and a career in the creative industries.	The applicant demonstrates a solid commitment to study and a career in the creative industries.	The applicant demonstrates some commitment to study and a career in the creative industries.	The applicant has not demonstrated commitment to study and/or a career in the creative industries.
C: Letter of Support (15%)	The applicant demonstrates an exceptional commitment to study and a career in the creative industries.	The applicant demonstrates a strong commitment to study and a career in the creative industries.	The applicant demonstrates a solid commitment to study and a career in the creative industries.	The applicant demonstrates some commitment to study and a career in the creative industries.	The applicant has not demonstrated commitment to study and/or a career in the creative industries.

Further information

Payments

The amount of annual support may vary, between:

- Up to \$7,500 for the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production;
- Up to \$12,500, for the Graduate Diploma in Radio & Podcasting (full time)
- Up to \$6,500 for the Graduate Diploma in Radio & Podcasting (part time), per year
- Up to \$25,000 for Master of Arts Screen
- Up to \$12,500 for Master of Arts Screen: Business, depending on a student's individual circumstances.

In exceptional circumstances, higher financial support may be given.

Payments will be made pro rata according to study load and following the applicable census date each semester.

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/

• 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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TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12011
CRICOS Provider Code: 03662D



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