

First Nations Scholarships

Supported by AFTRS and the Kenneth Myer
Fellowship Trust

ALL COURSES

Guidelines - 2027

Applications open 29 June 2026

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

Eligibility and application information

Who can apply?

You can apply for this scholarship if you:

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

Purpose

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

You can apply in the way that best reflects your situation, either by demonstrating your creative potential or by sharing information about your experiences and any barriers to study.

The scholarships are intended to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with the costs of studying at AFTRS. Each scholarship may contribute to a range of course-related expenses, including relocation, living costs, study resources and other related needs.

From 2027, AFTRS First Nations Scholarships will be offered for the duration of the course for course applicants, or for the remaining units for progressing

students. Scholarship values are adjusted according to the number of units yet to be completed. For more information, please see the Payments section below or contact our team.

How to apply

Firstly, apply for the course in AFTRS application portal. Then, check which scholarships you are eligible for.

You may select one or all of the scholarships recommended. Apply by providing the requested information and documents before the closing date.

All applications will be treated confidentially.

Application dates

Applications open 29 June 2026 and close;

- Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production – 21 October 2026
- Master of Arts Screen Business, Graduate Diploma in Radio and Podcasting and Master of Arts Screen – 17 November 2026

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.

Creative Potential Scholarship application tasks

1. Upload a personal statement, in approx. 500 words, that describes your circumstances, your creative and career aspirations and the opportunity the scholarship would give you and/or your community.
2. Upload a letter of support from a screen or broadcast industry stakeholder or an experienced screen or broadcast practitioner.

Equity Scholarship application tasks

Upload a personal statement, in approx. 500 words, that describes the socio-economic circumstances that may affect your education and the opportunity the scholarship would give you.

Demonstrating need

If applying on the basis of financial need, you will be asked to provide information about your personal and financial circumstances. Ways of doing this can include:

1. Do you receive support from Centrelink?

If you receive a means-tested Commonwealth income support payment through Centrelink such as Parenting Payment (single), Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Jobseeker, Austudy, ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance, you will be asked to upload a recent income statement.

If you do not receive support from Centrelink, you will be asked to provide your weekly income and expenses.

2. Savings and other assets:

You will be asked to declare the value of any real estate, savings, shares or other types of investments, for example, bitcoin and upload recent statements.

3. Disadvantage Criteria

You will be asked to identify the different experiences, responsibilities or barriers that may affect your ability to study and to upload documentation that attests to this.

What we're looking for

A selection panel will review all applications and decide who will be awarded the scholarship.

The panel will consider each applicant's personal statement. If applying on the basis of creative potential, the panel will also consider your creative work from the course application and your letter of support. If applying on the basis of equity, the panel will consider your personal or financial circumstances.

The panel may contact you by email to request further information or supporting documents if needed to make a final decision.

The scholarship may not be awarded if no applicant meets the eligibility criteria.

All decisions are final and cannot be reviewed or discussed.

General information

Certification of documents

Most supporting documents must be certified copies with the exception of original digital files and medical documentation.

You can find AFTRS' certification requirements here:

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

Translation of documents

If your supporting documents are not in English, please provide 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.

General information

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. Documents must include your legal name.

Medical documentation must include your full legal name, and your health practitioner's registration number and Medicare provider number.

Screenshots are not accepted.

File names must be clear and descriptive, using only letters and numbers (no symbols).

The maximum file size is 3 GB.

We ask that you submit your own original work. This means work created in full or in part using generative AI tools should not be included. What happens next

What happens next

Notification of outcome

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

Payments

The amount of support may vary by course.

- Up to \$30,000 for the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production
- Up to \$10,000 for the Graduate Diploma in Radio and Podcasting
- Up to \$8,000 for the Master of Arts Screen: Business
- Up to \$25,000 for Master of Arts Screen (progressing students only)

Scholarship payments are based on the number of units in which you are enrolled per semester. One instalment will be paid each semester after the relevant census dates.

For progressing students, the total scholarship value will be adjusted to reflect your stage in the course, with payments based on the number of units yet to be completed and your study load each semester.

In exceptional circumstances, higher financial support may be given.

Payments will continue while you stay enrolled, meet the eligibility criteria, and follow the expectations in the Student Handbook and AFTRS Code of Conduct.

Confirmation of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander identity

AFTRS recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity is personal and may look different for everyone.

To award this scholarship, we are required to confirm eligibility through a Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent letter from a recognised Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisation with a common seal.

This will be requested from successful applicants. If you already have this document, you may provide it at that stage. If not, we encourage you to begin the process early, as it can take time.

We understand this process may not be straightforward for everyone. If you are in the process of obtaining documentation or would like support, please contact our team.

Scholarship payments may be delayed until this documentation is received.

Scholarship conditions

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

You cannot defer the commencement of the scholarship.

AFTRS may create public communications related to this scholarship. Throughout the course you may be asked to take part in communications, impact surveys, provide updates or attend scholarship-related events.

We will always seek your consent before using your image or quoting you in AFTRS internal or external communications.

Participation is completely optional. Choosing not to take part will not affect your scholarship.

Support and enquiries

If you have questions about this scholarship, your eligibility or access needs, please contact our Scholarships Team.

Asking questions will not affect your application.

02 9805 6622

scholarships@aftrs.edu.au

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

aftrs.edu.au/scholarships

Australian Film Television and Radio School

The Entertainment Quarter
Moore Park
Sydney NSW 2021

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12011
CRICOS Provider Code: 03662D



Australian Government
AFTRS