



RAS Foundation Rural Scholarships – Frequently Asked Questions

Are the scholarships awarded on the basis of academic merit?

The scholarships are not awarded on academic merit; however it is a requirement that scholarship recipients will complete their nominated studies and pass their course. As part of the scholarship, progress reports along with academic transcripts are to be submitted twice a year.

What is the difference between a Rural Scholarship and a VET Scholarship?

If you are studying a course at university for a Bachelor qualification or higher you will need to apply for a RAS Foundation Rural Scholarship. If you are studying a VET qualification at college or TAFE, you should apply for a RAS Foundation VET Scholarship.

How much is the scholarship?

Scholarships of up to \$6,000 are available for full-time students and up to \$3,000 for part-time students. The scholarships are paid in three instalments throughout the year, with the first instalment paid in April of each year.

What if I don't know exactly which course I am going to study?

That's OK, you can apply for a RASF scholarship anyway, but you will need to indicate your chosen area/s of study.

What if I don't know which university I will be attending?

If you are a first-year student and you are unsure which college or university you will be attending, please tick 'unsure' on the question.

Do I have to attend an interview in Sydney?

No, you do not have to attend an interview in Sydney as part of the scholarship assessment process. Interviews are conducted via phone or zoom video conferencing.

Am I still eligible for a scholarship if I am studying part-time?

Yes, you are still eligible to be considered for a scholarship if you are studying part-time. A part-time scholarship is valued at up to \$3,000 payable over 3 instalments.

Can I still apply if I am a distance/online student?

Yes, you are still eligible to be considered for a scholarship if you are studying via distance.

Completing the Budget section in the application form

What are the course fees in the Budget section?

Course fees are those that are related to your studies for your nominated course that you are unable/have opted not to pay for via a HELP-HECS loan or VET Student Loan (VSL).

What are relocation fees?

Relocation fees are one-off costs that you may incur when relocating from home to university or college. Examples of these types of costs are:

- transportation of your belongings to campus
- purchase of furniture if moving into unfurnished accommodation
- bond for rental accommodation

Relocation fees are not your rent or bills for shared housing or board and lodging fees for on-campus accommodation, even if you are required to pay these costs in advance. Costs associated with rent or board and lodging should be included in your weekly expenses.

What are practical placement costs?

These are costs that you may incur if you are required to temporarily relocate to participate in practical placements for your course. These may include additional transportation costs and accommodation costs.

How do I reflect my employment income if it fluctuates throughout the year?

You will need to average your income out on a weekly basis. For example, if you are only able to work during your holidays, please total your expected income for the year and average it out on a weekly basis rather than entering the weekly amount you receive during the weeks when you are able to work.

What accommodation costs do I put down in the Budget section if I am a first-year student and unsure of the costs that I will incur?

You will need to make an estimate of your expected costs. Visit the website of your university or college to look at the range of accommodation options on offer to assist with your budget.

How do I contact the RAS Foundation if I have additional questions?

Please email us at foundation@rasf.org.au if you have any other questions regarding the RAS Foundation Rural Scholarships or the application process.