Prestigious Scholarships

How to Apply

2017
Overview

1. What prestigious scholarships are on offer?
2. What are the advantages of gaining a prestigious scholarship?
3. What do prestigious scholarship bodies look for?
4. What are the typical application steps?
5. How can I improve my chances of success?
6. Sample statements
1. What prestigious scholarships are on offer?
What prestigious scholarships are on offer?

There are a wide range of prestigious scholarships on offer including:

- Fulbright Scholarship
- Schwarzman Scholarship
- Rhodes Scholarship
- Endeavour Scholarship
- Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship
- John Monash Scholarship
- Museum Victoria Scholarship
What prestigious scholarships are on offer?

Information about these scholarships is available on the relevant websites and Monash Graduate Education can provide you with slides that provide information about what is involved.
2. What are the advantages of gaining a prestigious scholarship?
What are the advantages of a prestigious scholarship?

- Access to a broad network of other students, and established academics and professionals. This has immediate and life-long advantages.
- Often provide support to study at leading international institutions.
  - E.g. Fulbright scholarships enable study at US institutions.
What are the advantages of a prestigious scholarship?

- Typically a higher and more flexible level of financial support.
  - E.g. John Monash scholarships provide AUD $70,000 per year for up to 3 years.

- In some cases access to high quality professional development.
  - E.g. Westpac Leadership Development Program delivered by industry leaders
3. What do prestigious scholarships bodies look for?
What do prestigious scholarship bodies look for?

- Academic talent
- Leadership/career potential
- Alignment between individual and their proposed study with the aims and values of the funding body
- The willingness and ability to be a current and future ambassador for the funding body
- Diversity
  - Fields of study, applicants
4. What are the typical application steps?
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Application requirements vary but will always include:

- **Written application**
  - Including supporting documents such as referee statements

- **Panel interview**
4. What are the typical application steps?

Applications can sometimes require:

- **Multiple interviews**
- **Online assessment**
  - Quizzes or tests to check mathematical, language and logical reasoning.
  - Sometimes timed and progressively more challenging.
- **Assessment centre**
  - Formal centre for testing intelligence and interpersonal skills.
5. How can I improve my chances of success?
How can I improve my chances of success?

Pre-application:
- Start early.
- Familiarise yourself with the scholarship website including aims, eligibility, selection criteria, terms and conditions, FAQ’s, and closing dates.
- Consult with current or previous winners of the scholarship to get a sense of what is involved and how to navigate the process.
How can I improve my chances of success?

Pre-application

- Select referees carefully, contact them early and explain the details of the scholarship, what you require from them and by when.
- If necessary and feasible, contact the scholarship body for more information.
  - Some scholarship organisations are happy to take questions while others are too busy.
How can I improve my chances of success?

Written application:

- Clearly address each of the criteria for the scholarship.
- Use concrete examples and quantitative measures to back up statements wherever possible.
- Link your responses to the aims and goals of the scholarship organisation.
- Ask other people to give you feedback before submitting.
How can I improve my chances of success?

Written application:

- Proofread your application for spelling and grammatical errors.
- Don’t undersell yourself.
- Don’t stretch the truth.
How can I improve my chances of success?

Interview

- Questions will typically fall into 2 categories:
  1. Opinion. E.g. ‘How is your study relevant to the future of Australia?’
  2. Behavioural. E.g. ‘Tell us about a time when you have demonstrated leadership.’
How can I improve my chances of success?

Interview

- Use the S.T.A.R. format when responding to behavioural questions.
  - Situation (‘The local primary school had a need for greater scientific literacy’)
  - Task/Action (‘I responded by visiting the school every month to set up a science in action program’)
  - Result (‘The program has now been running for a year and has been funded by local government’)

[Image of people writing at a desk]
How can I improve my chances of success?

Interview

- Link your responses back to the aims of the scholarship body.
- Consider likely questions and prepare thoughtful responses.
- Practice your interview beforehand.
- Stay relaxed - don’t be afraid to pause and think.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Don’t undersell yourself.
How can I improve my chances of success?

Online assessment:

- Practice beforehand if necessary
  - (e.g. https://www.practiceaptitudetests.com/)
- Remove any distractions (e.g. phone, pop-ups) before commencing assessment.
How can I improve my chances of success?

Assessment centre:

- Prior to assessment, consider how you might demonstrate behaviours consistent with aims and goals of scholarship body.
  - E.g. How will you show your ability to listen and reflect not just talk?
- Stay relaxed.
6. Sample statements
Sample statements

How could these sample statements be improved?

- ‘I have done very well in my studies.’
- ‘While there are some awards I have missed out on, I have received 2 academic awards over the last year.’
- ‘I feel I have a significant contribution to make to leading the national and international agenda but at this stage I am not sure how.’
- ‘I feel I could be a good ambassador for any scholarship foundation including this one.’
- ‘This scholarship would enable me to go overseas which is something I have always wanted to do.’
Sample statements

How could you demonstrate the following attributes?

- Academic ability
- Leadership
- A desire to improve society by solving important challenges
- Willingness to be an ambassador for a program or organisation