



## Mentor Support Network Scholarship Program Guidelines

1. The Mentor Support Network (MSN) scholarships program is open to young students who are:
  - aged at least 15 on 31st December of the applying year
  - attending school or enrolled in an apprenticeship program (including VET) in the Hunter Region (see below for Region definition)
  - committed to continuing their education.
  - in challenging financial circumstances which make it difficult for them to secure the educational supports necessary to their success.
2. Priority will be given to school students who will be entering Year 11 (or equivalent), although others that have an 'exceptional case' may still apply.
3. Scholarships are not necessarily awarded because of academic achievement but because of a demonstrated desire to achieve educational goals despite financial difficulties.
4. Applicants **must** be nominated by a school/college/organisation representative and **must** include an individual letter of reference from the supporting person.  
An application **will not** be considered without a letter of reference accompanying it.

The supporting letter from a nominator should describe the student's circumstances, academic and career goals and the impact the scholarship will have on them.

This letter will assist the interviewers in their assessment of the student's situation and potential as a scholarship recipient. It **must** be included with the application.

5. Completed applications can be submitted digitally to [scholarships@mentorsupportnetwork.com.au](mailto:scholarships@mentorsupportnetwork.com.au)
6. Application forms and guidelines can be found on the MSN website at [www.mentorsupportnetwork.com.au](http://www.mentorsupportnetwork.com.au)
7. An organisation may submit up to five applications, but MSN reserves the right to limit numbers at any one school or organisation. If more than **three** nominations are submitted, **they must be ranked** by the nominator, based on merit. If not ranked they will not be considered.
8. The application form and nomination letter must be received by **midnight** on the last day of term three of the applying year.

9. Students selected for an interview will be notified in mid-October of the date, time and venue of their interview and of the interview format (usually panel of three). Possible questions or topics they may be asked at interview will also be included. Students may bring any additional documentation such as latest school reports/projects that could support their application to present to the panel.

Except in exceptional circumstances, support persons who accompany students to the interview are **not** able to be present at the actual interview unless prior approval has been given to attend.

A map will be provided with notification of interviews.

10. All interviews will be conducted in late October or early November.
11. Students selected to receive a scholarship will be notified and they must then:
- Attend an information session and presentation ceremony to be held late November /early December. Failure to attend may result in scholarship withdrawal. Please contact the committee if there is an issue. Parents/guardians, nominator and school representatives are also invited to attend.
  - Continue to be enrolled in school or another educational institution in the Hunter Region, for the duration of the scholarship program.
12. Scholarships are for the following academic year and **cannot** be deferred. Scholarships are generally between \$1,000 and \$3,000 based on each student's circumstances. Funds will be paid directly, by electronic bank deposit, to the recipient on presentation of a scholarship claim form together with receipts. Funds can be drawn in several transactions.
13. Should a scholarship recipient leave their educational institution or school, they and/or their nominator are to immediately notify MSN.
14. Application forms can be found below this information or at [www.mentorsupportnetwork.com.au](http://www.mentorsupportnetwork.com.au)

**NB: Refugee Scholarships.** Some criteria and important dates for *Refugee Scholarship* applications and presentation may vary to those mentioned here depending on the year. Please see specific guideline that are available when applications open.

**The Hunter Region** is that region included within the local government areas known or formerly known as Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Port Stephens, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter, Great Lakes, Cessnock, Dungog, and Gloucester.

**Good luck and thank you for applying.**

**If you have any questions, please contact the MSN Scholarship Committee**  
[scholarships@mentorsupportnetwork.com.au](mailto:scholarships@mentorsupportnetwork.com.au)