



AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship **Conditions of Award**

1. Overview

- 1.1 The AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship (the Scholarship) aims to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors in Australia by supporting Indigenous students to complete a medical degree.
- 1.2 One Scholarship is currently awarded each year.

2. Scholarship Value

- 2.1. The value of the Scholarship is \$11,000 per annum (provided in one lump sum each year).
- 2.2. It is the responsibility of applicants to seek advice from Centrelink on how the Scholarship payment may affect ABSTUDY or any other government payments.

3. Scholarship Duration

- 3.1. The Scholarship is awarded for the full course of study of a medical degree, subject to satisfactory academic progress and continued full-time enrolment.
- 3.2. The Scholarship is tenable for each year of medicine that the recipient successfully completes.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. To be eligible for the Scholarship, applicants must be:
 - 4.1.1. of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. For the purposes of this Scholarship, an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person is; someone of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; who identifies as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives or has lived. ***Applicants must provide an official letter from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community organisation supporting their claim;*** and
 - 4.1.2. enrolled full-time at an Australian medical school and has successfully completed at least their first year of medicine. Students who are currently in their first year of medicine are eligible to apply for the Scholarship for their second year, but must provide evidence of successful completion of their first year in order to be awarded the Scholarship.

5. Applications

- 5.1. The AMA calls for Scholarship applications in November each year and typically close at the end of January the following year.
- 5.2. **Applicants must complete the application form and submit it, along with the required supporting documentation, to the AMA Federal Secretariat by the nominated closing date.**
- 5.3. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**

6. Selection

6.1. The Scholarship will be awarded on the recommendation of a selection panel drawn from the AMA's Taskforce on Indigenous Health. Selection of the Scholarship recipient will be based on:

A 500-word statement answering the following topics:

1. The statement provided by the applicant clearly articulates their aspirations and purpose for studying.
2. The statement provided by the applicant thoughtfully describes the use(s) to which they hope to put their medical training.
3. The statement provided by the applicant adequately explains the way in which the scholarship finances would be used by the applicant to aide their study.
4. The statement provided by the applicant explicitly articulates how the applicant's previous experiences will inform and enrich their future practice of medicine.
5. The applicant demonstrates a strong commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and health.

Reports from referees familiar to the applicant, giving strong evidence of the applicants' contributions, community connection, and future potential.

7. Scholarship Payments

7.1. Each year, payment of the Scholarship will occur following the AMA's receipt of the recipient's:

- 7.1.1. official results for the academic year; and
- 7.1.2. formal proof of full-time enrolment in a medical degree for the subsequent academic year.

7.2. The documents listed at 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 must be official university documents such as a formal academic transcript or a letter from the relevant university.

8. Deferrals

8.1. Recipients must notify the AMA, in writing, of any intention to defer study. The AMA may consider granting a deferral of study for a maximum of 12 months, whilst allowing the recipient to retain the Scholarship. This is subject to approval by the AMA.

8.2. Scholarship payments are not applicable to periods of deferred study and will be suspended for the duration of the deferral period.

8.3. Scholarship payments will resume on the date that study is recommenced.

9. Termination

9.1. The Scholarship terminates:

- 9.1.1. on successful completion of a medical degree; or
- 9.1.2. if a recipient withdraws from a medical degree.

9.2. The Scholarship may also be withheld or terminated if a Scholarship holder's performance in any semester is unsatisfactory in the opinion of the head of the medical faculty or institution. The final decision to withhold or terminate a Scholarship is at the discretion of the AMA.

9.3. The Scholarship may be suspended, terminated or withheld if any false or misleading information is provided on the application, or relevant information is omitted from the application.

9.4. The Scholarship may be suspended, terminated or withheld in the case of gross misconduct by the Scholarship holder, which may include, but is not limited to, academic misconduct or any conduct which brings the Scholarship or the AMA into disrepute.



10. Publicity

- 10.1. Recipients may be contacted by the AMA to participate in publicity of the Scholarship from time to time. This may include, but is not limited to, an interview, a photograph and a formal Scholarship presentation ceremony. The AMA may also request written responses from recipients which can include a basic profile, descriptions of university experiences and information about how the Scholarship has supported recipients in undertaking their studies.