

Scholarship Policy

Preamble

Scholarships at Hunter Christian School are meticulously crafted to identify and foster talent while empowering students to pursue their interests. Hunter Christian School is dedicated to cultivating a diverse student body through a range of scholarship opportunities. Beyond the financial aid provided by these scholarships, students at Hunter Christian School become part of a vibrant community committed to excellence both inside and outside the classroom.

Recipients of scholarships at Hunter Christian School are expected to embody the school's values prior to enrolment, throughout the application process, and throughout their tenure at the institution. The scholarships at Hunter Christian School are guided by the motto: "Igniting a life of purpose," underscoring the belief that dedication and resilience lead to achievement.

The selection criteria detailed below govern the awarding of scholarships. Hunter Christian School upholds the integrity of its scholarship program through transparent decision-making processes and a commitment to open communication with families as they navigate the scholarship journey.

Policy Statement

At Hunter Christian School, we are dedicated to fostering a culture of academic excellence and supporting the aspirations of our students through our Academic Scholarship program. We believe that by investing in the intellectual growth and development of our scholars, we contribute to their success and the advancement of our school community as a whole.

Procedures

At Hunter Christian School, we believe in recognizing and nurturing academic excellence among our students. Our Academic Scholarship program is designed to support and celebrate the intellectual achievements of exceptional students who demonstrate a commitment to learning and embody the values of our school community.

- Eligibility Criteria: Academic scholarships at Hunter Christian School are awarded to students who exhibit outstanding academic performance, intellectual curiosity, and a dedication to personal growth. Eligibility for consideration includes:
 - Demonstrated excellence in academic achievements, typically evidenced by outstanding grades and standardised test scores.

- Evidence of active participation in extracurricular activities, community service, or leadership roles.
- Commitment to upholding the values and ethos of Hunter Christian School.
- Selection Process: The selection of academic scholarship recipients is conducted through a rigorous and impartial process. A scholarship committee comprised of the Academic Council evaluates applications based on the established criteria. Selection may involve academic assessments, interviews, and reviews of personal statements or recommendations.
- Scholarship Benefits: Academic scholarships at Hunter Christian School provide recipients with financial assistance towards tuition fees. Additionally, scholarship recipients gain access to special academic enrichment opportunities, mentorship programs, and support services tailored to their educational needs. Students offered a Full Scholarship will receive a **FULL 100% discount on Tuition**. A levy contribution covering excursions, resources and technology will be applicable.
- Scholarship Responsibilities: Recipients of academic scholarships are expected to maintain high academic standards and actively contribute to the intellectual and social life of the school community. Responsibilities include:
 - Continued demonstration of academic excellence and engagement in learning.
 - Participation in school events, extracurricular activities, and community service initiatives.
 - Upholding the values of Hunter Christian School in all aspects of school life.
- Scholarship Renewal and Review: Academic scholarships are generally awarded for duration of a student's Secondary education, renewable based on continued academic achievement and adherence to scholarship responsibilities. The scholarship committee conducts periodic reviews to assess recipients' progress and may adjust or renew scholarships accordingly.
- Confidentiality and Transparency: Hunter Christian School maintains strict confidentiality regarding scholarship applications and decisions. However, the school is committed to transparency in the scholarship process, providing clear information to applicants and their families about eligibility criteria, selection procedures, and scholarship benefits.
- Compliance and Amendments: This policy statement for Academic scholarships at Hunter Christian School is subject to periodic review and may be amended as necessary to align with evolving educational priorities and regulatory requirements. Any amendments will be communicated to the school community in a timely and transparent manner.

Application Process for Scholarships at Hunter Christian School

To apply for a scholarship at Hunter Christian School, please follow the steps outlined below:

1. **Review Scholarship Criteria:** Familiarise yourself with the specific criteria for each scholarship opportunity offered at Hunter Christian School. Each scholarship may have unique requirements related to academic achievement, leadership, community involvement, and personal qualities.
2. **Prepare Application Materials:** Prepare a portfolio of evidence that supports your application, including:
 - Documentation of extracurricular activities, leadership roles, community service, and any other relevant accomplishments.
 - A personal statement or essay addressing how you meet the expectations outlined in the scholarship criteria, including humility, collaboration, resilience, and a willingness to take risks in pursuit of excellence.
3. **Submit Application:** Complete the Hunter Christian School online scholarship application form available on the Hunter Christian School website. Ensure that all required documents are uploaded and submitted along with your application.
4. **Attend Interview:** If selected as a potential scholarship recipient, you will be invited to attend an interview with the scholarship committee. Exemplary conduct during the interview is essential, as it provides an opportunity for the committee to assess your suitability for the scholarship and your alignment with the values of Hunter Christian School.
5. **Demonstrate Core Values:** Throughout the application process, emphasize your commitment to humility, collaboration, resilience, and a willingness to take risks in pursuit of excellence. Provide examples from your academic, extracurricular, and personal experiences that illustrate these qualities.
6. **Await Scholarship Decision:** After the completion of the application and interview process, scholarship recipients will be notified of the committee's decision. Successful applicants will receive information regarding the scholarship award, including any associated benefits and responsibilities.

We encourage all applicants to approach the scholarship application process with sincerity, integrity, and a genuine commitment to personal and academic growth. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact the Hunter Christian School Director of Education Strategy.

Eligibility

Semester 1 intake is open to internal and external students.

Semester 2 intake is only available to external applications.

For an application to be reviewed by the Academic Council all requirements set out in this document must be submitted.

Every student applying for a scholarship must sit the Academic Assessment Services (AAS) Academic Scholarship Assessment.

Application Fee

An application fee of \$105 is required to be paid online directly to Academic Assessment Services who conducts the scholarship examinations. The enrolment application fee for Hunter Christian School will be waived for General Academic Excellence and STEM Scholarships by using the code 'Scholarship'.

Selection

The scholarship candidates will be selected based on the assessment of the following criteria:

- AAS Academic Assessment
- Hunter Christian School Application Form
- Accompanying Portfolio
- Interview

Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of Hunter Christian School and the School's decision is final.

Closing Date

All applicants must have registered for the AAS Academic Scholarship Examination and completed all aspects of the application process prior to the COB on Tuesday 2 April, 2024.

Scholarship Category	Entry Year Level	Scholarship Discount	Scholarship Criteria
General Excellence	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Full 100% Tuition Discount (Levy is payable for resources, IT, excursions)	Consistently exhibit exemplary academic performance and positive behaviour across all academic subjects, as evidenced by student achievement reports, a comprehensive portfolio of work, and references.

			<p>Show a significant level of participation in co-curricular activities, particularly in leadership roles and community service initiatives.</p> <p>Demonstrate alignment with the general expectations set forth for Hunter Christian School scholarships through the successful completion of the interview process.</p>
STEM	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Full 100% Tuition Discount (Levy is payable for resources, IT, excursions)	<p>STEM scholarships are open to ambitious individuals aspiring to excel in mathematics and science fields, demonstrating outstanding achievement in these domains. This encompasses a proven track record of excellence in applied sciences like computing, coding, design technology, and engineering. Candidates should exhibit a capacity for both deep disciplinary understanding and interdisciplinary thinking within STEM disciplines, as demonstrated through their portfolio, interview performance, and references. A genuine passion for STEM subjects is essential.</p> <p>Additionally, candidates should display the potential and willingness to assume leadership roles within STEM initiatives at HCS.</p> <p>For the Year 11 STEM scholarship, applicants are</p>

			required to study at least 2 units of science, and 2-unit mathematics, as well as expressing an interest in pursuing a science-related degree.
First Nations Community	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Full 100% Tuition Discount (Levy is payable for resources, IT, excursions)	First Nations Community scholarships are accessible to students residing in the local area who have displayed a deep connection to and dedication towards their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. Applicants must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent and hold official recognition of their heritage from their respective Aboriginal Community.

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Reference documents / legislation	