

IT & Cyber Security Scholarships



The Autism Academy for Software Quality Assurance (AASQA) at Curtin University is an Australian social innovation initiative with the vision of harnessing the special talents of people on the Autism Spectrum.

The mission of the Academy is to enable individuals on the Autism Spectrum to leverage their innate natural talents and skillsets. Their natural ability for extreme attention to detail, appreciation of predictability and capacity to focus, will augment their training in addressing business needs of the ICT industry. In particular, ICT is facing challenges in attracting and retaining talent in areas such as software development and testing and cybersecurity.

Through outreaching, training, educating and graduate programs, pathways from schools to valued long-term employment can be created. This is in line with the Academy's vision for the collective benefit of these individuals on the Autism Spectrum, as well as industry and the wider community.

AASQA, the Autism Association of Western Australia and the Department of Training and Workforce Development will offer five scholarships for 2026 funded by the Department to a value of \$2,500 each. This scholarship is for students on the Autism Spectrum to undertake an appropriate VET course aimed at gaining employment in Information Technology (IT). The scholarship, provided in cash, empowers successful applicants to utilise the funds towards covering the expenses of their study.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for the Scholarship, the applicant must:

- Be able to enrol as a student at a TAFE in 2026 in a full time nationally accredited Certificate IV in Information Technology or Programming or Cybersecurity or a Diploma course in Information Technology or Software Development. (courses must have a programming/cyber security focus);
- Have an Autism Spectrum diagnosis;
- Have a good academic record; and
- Successful applicants may be asked to attend a scholarship information session at a date to be determined.

What are the nomination requirements?

The nomination requirements include:

- A completed application form (see next page), including all requested documentation, to be submitted by the due date;
- Resume or CV (please attach your most recent senior high school subject transcript if you have one or other academic qualifications);
- Referee name and full contact details, or referee written reference with their contact details;
- Formal proof of Autism Spectrum diagnosis or related conditions;
- Proof of enrolment or of application to study full-time in 2026 in a relevant Information Technology Certificate IV or Diploma.

If successful, you must agree to be contacted every six (6) months to report on your progress and agree that your academic results for the course can be made available to the scholarship administrator (These will remain confidential and you will not be identified by name in reports)

Please send your completed application to Prof Tele Tan at t.tan@curtin.edu.au. For information regarding Information Technology courses contact your nearest Jobs and Skills Centre on 13 64 64.

Applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application by email.

Applications close on 31 January 2026



Government of Western Australia
Department of Training
and Workforce Development



Curtin University

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (VET) SCHOLARSHIP 2026

APPLICATION FORM

Fillable PDF form - complete/print/sign/scan/send

| APPLICANT INFORMATION | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Family name : | | First name : |
| Other name : | | Preferred name : |
| Mailing street address : | | |
| Suburb : | State : | Postcode : |
| Email address : | | |
| Telephone : | | Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY) : |
| CURRENT STUDY STATUS | | |
| Name of TAFE : | | Proposed VET course to study in 2026: |
| List previous academic achievements, awards or scholarships | | |
| SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES | | |
| Attach following information - Please select the relevant check box | | |
| Resume or CV (please attach your most recent senior high school subject transcript if you have one or other academic qualifications) | Attached Yes No | |
| Referee(s) (name and full contact details or written reference with contact details) | Attached Yes No | |
| We request applicants to include at least one of these documents as proof of formal autism spectrum diagnosis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the original diagnosis report; or letter of confirmation from the doctor; or letter of confirmation from local area coordinator. | Diagnosis report; letter from doctor; or letter from local area coordinator. Attached Yes No | |
| Proof of enrolment or of application to study a relevant information technology Certificate IV or Diploma full time in 2026 | Attached Yes No | |
| DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURE | | |

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature :

Date :