



Department of
**Energy and Economic
Diversification**

Western Australian Premier's WA Certificate of Education (WACE) Scholarship 2026-27

- Guidelines
- FAQ
- Terms and Conditions

24 April 2026

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1. Introduction and Background

In January 2026, the Western Australian (WA) Government launched the Western Australian Premier's WA Certificate of Education (WACE) Scholarship (the Scholarship), which replaces the former WACE Bursary. The WACE Bursary was delivered from 2022 until its conclusion in 2026.

The Scholarship is administered by the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (the Department). The Scholarship is provided to support international student WACE graduates commence undergraduate studies in-person at one of Western Australia's (WA) five universities:

- Curtin University;
- Edith Cowan University;
- Murdoch University;
- the University of Notre Dame (Fremantle Campus); and
- the University of Western Australia.

Students undertaking a tertiary pathway course at a WA tertiary pathway provider may also be supported.

The number and value of scholarships available to international WACE graduates in 2026-27 is outlined below:

- The WACE Scholarship of Excellence: up to **2 scholarships*** valued at **\$50,000 each year**
- The WACE Scholarship: up to **30 scholarships*** valued at **\$30,000 each year**

**the Department reserves the right to adjust the number of scholarships awarded in the year.*

WACE graduates must have completed their studies at one of WA's School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) international partner schools.

The Scholarship funding is to be used by successful applicants to:

- support expenses related to travelling to WA to undertake further education; and/or
- contributing towards living and study related expenses during their time studying in WA.

2. Key Dates and Terms

Applications for the Scholarship are open on a rolling basis, with Scholarships awarded twice a year. The planned selection dates for reviewing applications are outlined below. These dates are indicative and may be subject to change. The Department may choose to schedule additional selection dates, which will be published on the website when available.

Selection dates:

- 8 July 2026
- 27 January 2027

Key Terms:

ATAR: Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

Census: The last day a student can withdraw from a course at their university or tertiary pathway provider without financial penalty.

Confirmation of Enrolment: a document issued by an education provider to verify the applicant's enrolment in a specified course. **Letter of Offer:** a formal written communication sent by an education provider to a prospective student who has applied for admission to a course, confirming the student's acceptance into the education provider.

Packaged Letters of Offer: a combination of two or more Letter of Offers received by a prospective student, confirming the student's acceptance to start a university enabling course and commence a bachelor degree.

TAFE: Technical and Further Education

Tertiary Pathway: Tertiary Pathway courses (also known as an academic enabling course) will help students prepare for entry into a university degree program, should they not meet admission criteria for direct entry.

Tertiary Pathway Providers: educational institutions that offer qualifications above the secondary school level. This includes vocational education institutes, TAFE colleges, private colleges and universities. Tertiary pathway courses include diploma, advanced diploma and associate degree courses

VET: Vocational education and training

WASN: Western Australian Student Number

3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Scholarship, an international student must:

1. Not be an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident;
2. Meet the requirements of an Australian Student visa (subclass 500);
3. Meet one of the following:
 - (a) Have completed their WACE within 12 months of submitting an application for the Scholarship or
 - (b) Be a Year 12 WACE student who is on track to complete their WACE within the next 12 months from the date of submitting an application for the Scholarship;
4. Intend to enrol or be enrolled at a WA university or tertiary pathway provider in WA full-time as an international student with studies commencing in the 2026 or 2027 academic year.
5. Be studying a course of at least one-year (two consecutive semesters or three consecutive trimesters) in length
 - (a) Applicants enrolled in a tertiary pathway course must transition into and maintain enrolment in an eligible WA university program of at least one academic year to maintain their eligibility.

Two streams are available for applicants to qualify for the Scholarship:

Stream	Description
Stream 1 (University)	For students who intend to directly enrol or have enrolled in one of the five WA universities and meet the minimum academic requirement of their chosen course.
Stream 2 (Tertiary pathway program)	For students who intend to enrol or have enrolled in a packaged tertiary pathway program to complete a course at a WA tertiary pathway provider to meet the academic entry requirements of their WA university bachelor's degree.

Note: Applicants applying under Stream 1 (University) will be assessed for either the \$30,000 Scholarship or the \$50,000 Scholarship of Excellence, depending on academic merit. **Applicants applying under Stream 2 (Tertiary Pathway Program) will be assessed for the \$30,000 Scholarship only.**

Successful applicants of the Scholarship will be required to provide a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from their selected WA university and, if applicable, their tertiary pathway course provider. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate attendance past the census date of their chosen education provider/s, and pass verification checks conducted by the Department and the education provider prior to any payment being made.

4. Selection Criteria

As part of the Scholarship application submission all applicants, regardless of stream applied for, will need to:

1. Demonstrate academic achievement. This will be determined based on an applicant's individual ATAR (actual or predicted, as appropriate).
2. Provide a personal statement outlining their motivations, aspirations, and reasons for applying for the Scholarship.

5. How to complete an application

Follow the steps below:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Step 1 | Go to https://nft.smartygrants.com.au/wace_scholarship |
| Step 2 | Click on the 'Start a submission' link. |
| Step 3 | Complete the application registration process. You will receive an email confirming your reference number (WACE2026-27###). |
| Step 4 | Complete the online application form, ensuring all questions are responded to. You can save and return to the application form at any time before you submit the form (before the selection date). |
| Step 5 | Once your application is complete, click 'Submit'. |
| Step 6 | You will receive an automated email acknowledging that your application has been received. <u>Without this email acknowledgement, your application has not been submitted.</u> |

Key Documents and Information

As part of the application process, all applicants will be required to provide the following documents and information noting that not all documents may be available at the time of submission:

- Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) - [Click here for example](#)
- Universities Admission Advice Letter (UAAL) – [Click here for example](#)
- Letter of Offer from a WA university or tertiary pathway provider
- Western Australian Student Number (WASN)
- Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) – this is only issued by an education provider once a Letter of Offer has been accepted by the student.

6. Assessment and Notification Process

The Department will assess each application based on the eligibility and selection criteria specified in this document. Following the Department's evaluation of all eligible applications, provisionally approved applicants will be required to:

- Provide a copy of their CoE from their selected WA university (Stream 1), or tertiary pathway provider (Stream 2) as part of their pathway package.
- Have attendance in their enrolled course confirmed past the relevant census date.
- Provide evidence of their Australian bank account.

Any further verification checks determined as being required by the Department and relevant authorities will be undertaken prior to any payment to an eligible student being made. The Department reserves the right to convene a panel to assess each application if required.

Please note, complete applications with all required documentation will be prioritised for assessment. Incorrect or missing documentation or information provided to the Department may render your application ineligible.

Applicants will receive a notification via email that their application has been shortlisted for further assessment or unsuccessful.

Successful applicants will receive a congratulatory letter from the Premier of Western Australia. Once the successful applicants have arrived in WA and have their enrolment confirmed past census date, the Department will progress contractual agreements (Financial Assistance Agreements [FAAs]) with each of the successful applicants.

The FAAs will include a requirement that the successful applicant has continued attendance in their course at a WA university for at least 12 months.

WACE Scholarship of Excellence

Each year, the Department will select up to 2 students with the highest academic achievement (by ATAR) for the \$50,000 WACE Scholarship of Excellence. Applicants cannot apply separately for the \$50,000 Scholarship.

7. Payments

Subsequent to the execution of an FAA, successful applicants will receive a total amount of either \$30,000 or \$50,000 (for Stream 1 applicants) and \$30,000 (for Stream 2 applicants) paid to their financial institution (bank), at the payment schedule determined by their stream.

Stream 1 (University) schedule:**WACE Scholarship**

- \$30,000 payment upon confirmation of university commencement and enrolment after census date.
- Total Scholarship amount: \$30,000.

WACE Scholarship of Excellence

- \$30,000 payment upon confirmation of university commencement and enrolment after census date.
- \$20,000 payment upon commencement and enrolment after the census date for the following teaching period.
- Total Scholarship amount: \$50,000.

Stream 2 (Tertiary Pathway Program) schedule:**WACE Scholarship**

- \$5,000 payment upon confirmation of enrolment and attendance at a tertiary pathway provider after census date.
- \$25,000 payment upon confirmation of university enrolment and attendance past census date.
- Total Scholarship amount: \$30,000.

Successful applicants will receive their payment direct to their nominated Australian bank account (exclusive of GST) after confirmation of attendance has been provided by their provider following the relevant census date.

8. Terms & Conditions

Before submitting your application, please ensure that you have read and understood the General Terms and Conditions as set out in these Guidelines.

By submitting your application, you acknowledge and agree to be bound by these Guidelines, including the General Terms and Conditions as set out in these Guidelines.

If you are a successful Scholarship recipient, in order to receive Scholarship funding, you will need to enter into a legally binding funding agreement (FAA) with the State of Western Australia, acting by and through the Department. Requirements set out in these Guidelines and the General Terms and Conditions will be reflected in the FAA. The terms and conditions of the FAA will not be negotiable at the time a Scholarship offer is made.

The State will not accept liability for any damages, losses, liabilities, costs and expenses claimed or incurred by the successful applicant in connection with this Scholarship.

9. Contact

All enquiries and communication regarding the Scholarship can be directed to scholarships@deed.wa.gov.au.

10. General income tax information

Subject to an applicant's specific circumstances, the receipt of funding from this Scholarship may be treated as assessable income. Nothing contained in these Guidelines constitutes financial or legal advice. As such, we strongly recommend that potential applicants seek independent advice about the possible income tax implications from a qualified tax agent/advisor, or the Australian Taxation Office, prior to submitting an application.

11. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

I don't hold a Student visa (subclass 500), but I am enrolled to commence my course at a Western Australian tertiary pathway provider. Will I qualify for this payment?

Yes, you can apply for the Scholarship at any stage, even before you have your student visa. However, your Scholarship payment will not be processed until you have commenced your studies, confirmed your full-time enrolment as an international student at an eligible provider in Western Australia, and past census date.

My enrolled course is shorter than one year (less than two semesters or less than three consecutive trimesters). Can I still apply?

No, current eligibility criteria for this payment requires students to be studying in Western Australian university for a minimum of one year (two semesters or three consecutive trimesters) or more.

What is the documentation I need to attach to avoid delays in the assessment of my application?

When submitting your application through SmartyGrants, you will be asked to attach key documents to verify your information. Details of these can be found in the Scholarship Guidelines (this document). It is important you attach the correct documents in order to avoid delays in assessing your application as incorrect or missing documentation and/or information provided to the Department may render your application ineligible.

How many scholarships are available each year?

- Up to 2 x \$50,000 WACE Scholarship of Excellence
- Up to 30 x \$30,000 WACE Scholarships

The Department at its absolute discretion may alter the number of scholarships awarded in the year.

I am enrolling in a packaged pathway course am I eligible?

Yes, offshore WACE graduates who have enrolled or have a packaged Letter of Offer from a tertiary education provider leading to enrolment in a university are eligible for this Scholarship.

I am currently enrolled in a Western Australian university, am I still eligible for this Scholarship?

Yes, if you have completed your WACE at an approved school outside of Australia within 12 months of submitting an application, you may be eligible for this Scholarship.

Am I eligible for the \$50,000 WACE Scholarship of Excellence if I am applying through a tertiary pathway program (Stream 2)?

No, the \$50,000 WACE Scholarship of Excellence is only available to applicants in Stream 1, who are enrolling directly into a Western Australian university. Stream 2 applicants, who are going through a tertiary pathway program, are eligible for the \$30,000 WACE Scholarship only.

Do I need to submit a separate application to be considered for the \$50,000 WACE Scholarship of Excellence?

No, all applicants will apply using the same form on SmartyGrants. If you are applying under Stream 1 and meet the eligibility criteria, you will automatically be considered for the \$50,000 WACE Scholarship of Excellence.

What determines whether I receive the \$30,000 or \$50,000 Scholarship?

Each year, the \$50,000 Scholarship will be awarded to two students with the highest academic achievement (based on ATAR). All other eligible applicants will be considered for the \$30,000 Scholarship.

I completed my WACE offshore in the last 12 months but have not yet enrolled to study in Western Australia, am I still eligible for this Scholarship?

Yes, if you are actively applying to Western Australian universities or tertiary pathway providers you may be eligible for this Scholarship.

I have an ATAR score below the university academic entrance requirement for my course. Can I apply for this Scholarship?

Yes, this is applicable for Stream 2 applicants with ATAR scores that do not meet university entrance requirements and can choose to enrol in a tertiary packaged pathway course at a tertiary pathway provider.

I am a Year 12 student completing my WACE in an offshore school. Can I apply for this Scholarship?

Yes, applicants who are currently in Year 12 studying at an offshore SCSA approved school can apply. Successful Year 12 students will be provisionally eligible and Scholarship amounts will be disbursed once confirmation of enrolment to a Western Australian education provider has been received and you have past census.

Can I concurrently hold multiple scholarships, bursaries or grants offered by a Government department?

Applicants who accept this Scholarship may be required to forfeit any Government-funded scholarships or bursaries they are found eligible for if this is a requirement of the scholarship offered by the other department.

Can I concurrently hold the WACE Scholarship and a scholarship offered by a university?

As each university applies its own scholarship terms and conditions, applicants are required to check the terms and conditions of the scholarship offered by their university to confirm any restrictions on holding multiple scholarships.

I am currently undertaking an English language (ELICOS) pathway into university, can I apply for this Scholarship?

No. The Scholarship is open to students entering a WA university directly or through an eligible tertiary pathway program that leads into a WA university course.

How will I be contacted once I submit my application?

Upon submitting your application, you will receive an automatically generated confirmation email sent to the nominated email address provided in your application. If your application requires additional information to progress, The Department may contact you via the email you registered with from the scholarships@deed.wa.gov.au inbox.

Who do I contact with any queries or if I need help with completing my application?

All enquiries regarding the Scholarship can be directed to scholarships@deed.wa.gov.au.

12. General Terms and Conditions

12.1 Cancellation and Variation

The Department reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, at any time and from time to time, to (in whole or in part) cancel, vary, supplement, supersede or replace this Western Australian Premier's WACE Scholarship (Scholarship).

If the Department cancels, varies, supplements, supersedes or replaces this Scholarship, then:

- (a) The Department will advise each Applicant that the Scholarship has been cancelled, varied, supplemented, superseded or replaced; and
- (b) The Applicant shall not have any recourse against the Department whatsoever including claims for any costs or expenses incurred by the Applicant in connection to their application for funding through this Scholarship.

12.2 The Department's Rights and Applicant Obligations

12.2.1 The Department's Rights

The Department is under no obligation to accept any application and may reject any application at its absolute discretion, including, but not limited to:

- (a) an application fails to comply with the requirements of this Scholarship;
- (b) an application is incomplete or contains information or representations that are false or misleading;
- (c) The Department, in its absolute discretion, decides to cancel the Scholarship, or exercise any other right referred to in clause 12.2 of these Guidelines.

12.2.2 Information

During the assessment of an application, and before any payment is made to the Applicant, The Department may from time to time request information and/or documents in connection with the Scholarship, the Applicant's eligibility and/or this Agreement, relevant FAAs, including without limitation any information relating to this Program, including any information which The Department reasonably requires to assess the Applicant's eligibility for funding under this Scholarship. The Department must request such information in writing, and the Applicant must promptly comply with this request within the reasonable time period prescribed by the Department in its written request.

12.2.3 Audits

After a funding payment is made to an Applicant, the Department may, at its absolute discretion:

- (a) Conduct random or specific audits of any or all of the information provided by the Applicant;
- (b) Request additional information from the Applicant if the Department reasonably believes that any of the information provided by the Applicant may be incomplete, false or misleading; and
- (c) If the Department decides that an Applicant no longer satisfies, or never did satisfy, the eligibility criteria for the funding Scholarship, the Department may seek recovery of some, or all of the funding paid to the Applicant. The obligation for an Applicant to repay the Department any funding represents a debt due and payable by the Applicant to the Department.

12.2.4 Applicant warranties

Each Applicant, in submitting an application, warrants and represents that all information and representations (in whatever form) given to the Department under, as part of or in connection with the Scholarship or the application, is true and correct, complete, and up-to-date, and in no way misleading or deceptive.

12.2.5 General

Despite anything expressed or implied to the contrary in these General Terms and Conditions, the Guidelines, or any other documentation associated with the Scholarship, no Applicant shall have or assert any legal (including equitable) rights under, in connection with, on account of, or associated with any of the aforesaid documents or the Scholarship.

12.3 Application Process

The Applicant must submit the application electronically through the website link <https://nft.smartygrants.com.au/WACEScholarship2026-27>, noting the following conditions:

- (a) Receipt of the application will be determined by the date and time shown on the 'in-box' that the application was received;
- (b) Lodgement of electronic files may take time and the Applicant must make their own assessment of the time required for full transmission of their application;
- (c) The Department will not be responsible or liable (in negligence or howsoever) in any way for any loss, damage or corruption of the electronic copy of the application;
- (d) If the electronic copy of the application becomes corrupted, illegible or incomplete as a result of transmission, storage, encryption or decryption, then the Department may request the Applicant to provide another copy of the application either electronically or in hard copy or both;
- (e) If the Department requests the provision of further information, then the Applicant must provide the copy of the documents or information requested within the period specified by the Department.

12.4 Assessment Process

An assessment of each application will be undertaken against the criteria identified above including and not limited to confirmation that the information submitted is complete, correct and accurate, prior to any offer of funding.

12.5 Withdrawal of Application

The Applicant may withdraw their application at any time prior to acceptance of its application, by notifying the Department by email at scholarships@deed.wa.gov.au.

12.6 Use of Application Materials

All materials provided are accepted on the understanding that the Department will only use or disclose such material:

- (a) In the process of determining the scholarship recipients
- (b) For the purposes of informing the public about the award outcomes
- (c) In any publicity concerning the Scholarship
- (d) In any publicity concerning the promotion of international education in Western Australia
- (e) In other instances where information collected may be disclosed without consent, where authorised or required by law.

All award-related information, material provided and material created by the Department through the Scholarship, such as media statements, interviews, videos and photographs remain the property of the Department.

12.7 Disclosure of Offer Information

To the fullest extent of the Law the Applicant releases the State of Western Australia and the Department including their respective officers, employees, contractors and agents or otherwise from all liability (in negligence or howsoever arising) for any loss, injury, damage, liability, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by the Applicant resulting from the disclosure of the application in part or whole.

Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)

- (a) The Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the application, this Agreement, any FAAs, and information relating to the application, Agreement, any FAAs, and/or the funding payment may be subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)* [FOI Act]. As such, the Department may be required to publicly disclose such information as required by the FOI Act. The Department may also be required to disclose information to the State of Western Australia under court order or upon request by Parliament, any Committee of Parliament or as otherwise required by law.

Auditor General's Act 2006 (WA) and Financial Management Act 2006 (WA)

- (a) Nothing in the Guidelines or the General Terms and Conditions shall be interpreted to affect or diminish the powers and responsibilities of the Auditor General for the State of Western Australia under the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the *Auditor General's Act 2006* in any way.
- (b) Subject to this clause 12.7, the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the *Auditor General's Act 2006*, the Department will not make public any part of the application or any application information that the Applicant expressly and reasonably nominates in their application as confidential. However, the Department may require the Applicant to withdraw any claim to confidentiality in

respect of any part of the application information as a condition of acceptance of the application.

Privacy

- (a) By submitting their application for the Scholarship, the Applicant consents to the information provided by the Applicant or collected by the Department relating to the Applicant or their Application being used by the Department in the assessment of their application, administration of the Scholarship, this Agreement, and any relevant FAAs.
- (b) The Department will store personal information collected in this process, supporting documentation and any Scholarship administration, monitoring and evaluation activities in compliance with its obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth), the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act* (WA) and the Australian Privacy Principles.

12.8 Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent of the law, the State of Western Australia and the Department, including their respective officer, employees, contractors and representative, shall have no liability whatsoever (arising in negligence or howsoever) for any loss, injury, damage, liability, costs or expenses (including legal costs) suffered or incurred by the Applicant in connection with their application and the Department's lawful disclosure of the Applicant's information and/or application as required for the purposes of administering the Scholarship, this Agreement and any relevant FAAs.

12.9 Disclaimer

The provision of financial assistance by the State Government is at its absolute discretion. Nothing in the application process or the selection process shall give rise to any legal relationship or any other obligations between the applicant and the State.

12.10 Laws

This Agreement, including the General Terms and Conditions, and any relevant FAAs are governed by the law of the State of Western Australia. In the event of a dispute, the courts of Western Australia have jurisdiction.

12.11 Definitions

In these General Terms and Conditions:

Agreement means these Guidelines and the General Terms and Conditions contained within.

Scholarship means the Western Australian Premier's WACE Scholarship, and associated processes, and requirements and benefits described in both the Scholarship Guidelines and these General Terms and Conditions.

FAA means Financial Assistance Agreement, a legally binding agreement that must be executed before a successful applicant receives funding under the Scholarship.

Guidelines means the document titled "Western Australian Premier's WACE Scholarship Guidelines".