

ASSISTANCE WITH TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHEME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

ASSISTANCE WITH TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHEME (ATES)

ATES is a competitive scholarship program established by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) to assist Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait Region (including the mainland communities of Bamaga and Seisia) to participate in undergraduate Tertiary Education. Applications are called for at the end of each year for ATES scholarships through advertisements in the Torres News and the TSRA Facebook Page. The Scholarship is for one year and students must reapply for each subsequent year of study.

PURPOSE

The ATES Scholarship is targeted at supporting Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal people from the Torres Strait Region (of any age) to undertake study for their first undergraduate qualification at a tertiary institution, by providing financial assistance towards living and study-related expenses.

NUMBER OF ATES SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY TSRA

The number of ATES Scholarships offered by the TSRA may vary from year to year and applications are ranked against the eligibility criteria and the written statement provided by applicants. The written statement should outline the applicant's motivation for undertaking their chosen course of study and their future aspirations as they relate to the development of the Torres Strait region.

Applications are ranked by the assessment panel and scholarships will be offered by order of their ranking against other applicants.

While continuing students will receive preference, their ranking will depend upon the number of units completed in prior years, with preference given to those with the highest marks for the previous year.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students can apply for an ATES scholarship at any time during the completion of their first undergraduate qualification.

Applicants must be either commencing, or be partway through, their first undergraduate degree. People who have previously commenced study for a different undergraduate qualification are not eligible to apply.

Scholarships are awarded competitively and applications are ranked against the eligibility criteria.

All scholarships are awarded on the basis that applicants continue as full time students, studying on campus. A scholarship may be terminated if the applicant's enrolment status falls below a full time threshold

The eligibility requirement for the ATES Scholarship is outlined below:

a. Indigenous person living within the Torres Strait region

Applicants must provide evidence of their Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal or Heritage. Examples of acceptable forms of evidence include:

- A letter signed and executed by the Chairperson of an incorporated Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisation, confirming that you are recognised as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or;
- A confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent form, executed by a delegated officer from a Local Government Authority, or a registered Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate.

Applicants must be residents of the Torres Strait Region, which includes the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area.

Continuing students must have been residents of the Torres Strait Region prior to commencement of study. Evidence of residence in the Torres Strait region (including the communities of Bamaga and Seisia) prior to undertaking study will be required.

b. Must be studying their first undergraduate degree

Applicants must

- be studying for their undergraduate degree at a recognised tertiary institution;
- not have previously undertaken study for a different degree.

c. Planning to study full-time on campus

Scholarships will be allocated only to applicants enrolled as a full-time student and studying on campus. Applicants must remain enrolled in units that will give a minimum of 18 credit points per semester (equivalent to 0.375 Equivalent full time student load (EFTSL). Applicants enrolled in less than 18 credit points a semester will be considered as part-time students, except in special circumstances (as determined by the TSRA delegate),

d. Motivated to undertake and be committed to the program of studies

This is assessed through the claims made in the applicant's written statement outlining their motivation for their chosen course, their career aspirations, their personal achievements and development. Applicants may be asked to comment on their written statement by the selection panel at an interview as part of the selection process.

Many universities recognise that the skills, maturity and commitment required for successful tertiary study can be developed through a wide range of life experiences and may offer alternative entry requirements to some courses.

e. Returning to work in Torres Strait

Applicants must outline their commitment to returning to work in the Torres Strait in the future. This criteria is assessed against the statements made by the applicant in their application.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

1. Complete the Scholarship application form;
2. Your resume. This should include details of your secondary education, other qualifications or achievements and any work history (including volunteer work). The resume should also include contact details for two referees (teacher, employer, coach etc)
3. Evidence of your Torres Strait Islander heritage or Aboriginality * (see below).
4. A written statement from one referee (i.e. Teacher, employer or community organisation etc.) – this could be one of the referees listed in your resume, but does not have to be.
5. Your written statement of up to 500 words outlining your motivation and aspirations for undertaking this course (see details at page 2 of this form).
6. Proof of enrolment and if you have already commenced your undergraduate studies, transcript of academic records.
7. Financial support documents: e.g. details of any other scholarships (letters of offer)..
8. Return the application form and the documents to the TSRA at the address below within the application submission date.

Applications must be received by:

Close of business, 1 February each year

Applications must be sent to:

The Torres Strait Regional Authority Scholarships”
Torres Strait Regional Authority
PO Box 261
THURSDAY ISLAND Qld 4875
Or by email on info@tsra.gov.au

Applications which do not contain all the required information, will not be considered.

Late applications will not be accepted unless exceptional circumstances exist. A request to late a late application may be considered by the TSRA delegate if it is made prior to the due date.

Accepting a TSRA scholarship

All students offered scholarships will receive a scholarship offer pack containing a letter of offer and the terms and conditions of the scholarship. Applicants will be advised how to accept or decline scholarships in the letter of offer. If applicants do not complete the acceptance as instructed, the scholarship may be withdrawn.

Scholarship Value and Payments

The value of each scholarship is \$6,000 per year for full-time students. A lump sum of \$3,000 is paid to successful applicants at the commencement of semester 1 to assist with living and study related expenses. The remainder of the scholarship is paid in semester 2 following receipt of satisfactory semester 1 results. Payments are deposited directly into the nominated bank account.

Privacy

TSRA is bounded by the Privacy Act 1988. All information and documentation received by applicant is on a confidential basis. It will not be disclosed to any person outside those people who are involved in the scholarship selection process, which may include authorised officers at the relevant tertiary institution.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applicants must read these terms and conditions carefully before the scholarship offer is accepted.

Continued payments of scholarship monies are conditional upon satisfactory progress in the course of study. Semester 1 results must be forwarded to the TSRA as soon as they are available. Provided satisfactory progress is being made, the semester 2 payment can be released.

The TSRA reserves the right to withhold or cancel the second semester payment if the first semester results are unsatisfactory. Where there are exceptional circumstances, the TSRA may consider payment depending on the specific circumstance.

Continuing students will remain eligible to apply for an ATEs scholarship for the normal duration their first undergraduate degree undertaken on a full time basis. Applications for an ATEs scholarship beyond the period allocated for full-time completion of a course may be considered by the TSRA delegate where exceptional circumstances apply.

Students experiencing difficulties with studies or contemplating withdrawing or deferring must consult with the TSRA in a timely manner and in advance of making a final decision regarding withdrawal or deferral.

Students will be provided with sufficient warning that scholarship payments may be discontinued if academic progress is found to be unsatisfactory.

Deferment of a scholarship for a period of one year will only be considered by the TSRA delegate where for reasons of personal or family illness or bereavement, or other exceptional circumstances.

The TSRA will consult with the university prior to making a decision to discontinue or defer an individual's scholarship payments.

Successful scholarship recipients should note that their name, photo and case study may be used by the TSRA for promotional purposes.