



## RURAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Detailed information about the scholarship is available at the links below. Please read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) before completing your application.

If you have any questions which are not addressed in the FAQs, email your question to [scholarship@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:scholarship@edumail.vic.gov.au)

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## About the Rural Scholarship Program

### Why are scholarships available?

The Rural Scholarship Program is one of the Victorian Government's [Excellence in Teacher Education](#) reforms. The Rural Scholarships are designed to improve the quality of teaching in Victoria.

### Who is the Rural Scholarship Program for?

Scholarships are available for people who reside in rural Victoria who wish to undertake a course that leads to an initial teacher education (ITE) qualification.

### What is an alternative pathway course?

There are many courses that provide a pathway into an initial teacher education course.

Alternative pathway courses will suit you if:

- you are an adult who didn't complete high school
- you haven't studied or worked in a while
- you don't meet the requirements to enter directly into an initial teacher education course.

## Eligibility

### How do I know if I am eligible to apply for a scholarship?

You are eligible to apply for a Rural Scholarship if you:

- live in rural Victoria **and**
- are commencing an alternative pathway or postgraduate ITE course listed in the table below **and**
- can demonstrate an interest in becoming a teacher in a Victorian government school

### Is my home location classified as rural?

You are defined as living in rural Victoria if you do not live in a "Major City of Australia" according to the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area (2011). You can check your status by using the Area Locator at

[http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/ASGSRA\\_locator](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/ASGSRA_locator)

### I have been awarded a scholarship to complete the course from another organisation. Will this affect my eligibility to apply for a Rural Scholarship?

If you are in receipt of a scholarship from another organisation, your eligibility for a Rural Scholarship may be affected. However, you are still encouraged to apply for support. Your application must include details of the type of funding, the funding body and value of the funding you have received to assist the Department to make an assessment.

### Am I eligible to apply if I am already studying?

No. This scholarship program is for students commencing a course in 2018.



## Enrolling in a Course

Will you help me find a place in a course?

No. It is up to you to apply for a place, and enrol in one of the alternative pathway or postgraduate ITE courses listed in the table below.

What if I am not currently enrolled in a course but will be in the near future?

To be eligible to apply for a Rural Scholarship you must be enrolled in one of the alternative pathway or postgraduate ITE courses listed in the table below. Your application will not be processed if enrolment confirmation from the University is not provided.

Where can I study?

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, you must enrol in one of the alternative pathway or postgraduate ITE courses and campuses listed below:

### Alternative Pathway courses

<b>Australian Catholic University</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma in Educational Studies (Tertiary Preparation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ballarat campus
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate IV in Education Support (Pathway)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ballarat campus
<b>Deakin University</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Waurn Ponds campus <input type="checkbox"/> Warrnambool campus
<b>Federation University</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Education Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Helen campus <input type="checkbox"/> Churchill campus
<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Helen campus
<b>La Trobe University</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Educational Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Bendigo campus
<b>Monash University</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma of Tertiary Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Peninsula campus
<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma of Higher Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Clayton campus

### Postgraduate Initial Teacher Education courses

<b>The University of Melbourne</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Master of Teaching (Early Childhood/Primary)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parkville campus
<input type="checkbox"/> Master of Teaching (Primary)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parkville campus
<input type="checkbox"/> Master of Teaching (Secondary)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parkville campus

Do I have to study full-time?

No. Both full-time and part-time students are eligible to apply for a scholarship.



## Applying for a Scholarship

### How do I apply for a Rural Scholarship?

To apply for a Rural Scholarship, you will need to:

- complete the Application Form available at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/teachingpathways>
- provide evidence that you are enrolled in one of the courses listed above
- write a personal statement outlining why you are undertaking study and why you want to become a teacher (no more than ½ page).

To make sure your application is complete, use the Checklist on the last page of the Application Form. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

### When can I apply for the scholarship?

Applications open on 1 November 2017 and close on 31 January 2018. The Application Form will be available on the Department's website at [www.education.vic.gov.au/teachingpathways](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/teachingpathways) from 1 November 2017.

Applications for Round 2, 2018 will open on 5 February 2018 and close on 16 March 2018.

### Will you let me know if you have received my application?

Applicants will receive confirmation that their application has been received. Confirmation will be sent directly to the email address you provide on the Application Form.

### What if my application is incomplete?

If your application is incomplete, you will receive an email from the Department requesting outstanding information. If outstanding information is not supplied within the required timeframe, your application will be withdrawn.

### Will you accept late applications?

Applications will not be accepted after the application closing date.

## Assessment of Applications

### When will I know the outcome of my application?

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application approximately 6 weeks after the application closing date.

### How will successful applicants be chosen?

Only eligible applicants will be assessed. All applications will be assessed by a selection panel nominated by the Department. The Department's decision is final.



What other support is available to help me complete my course?

### **Assistance from the Victorian Government**

You may be eligible for government-subsidised training. This is only offered by training providers who have a contract with the Victorian Government to deliver government-subsidised training. If you are eligible, the government will contribute to the cost of training.

To check your eligibility and find more information see:

<http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway/Students/Pages/vtg-eligibility-indicator.aspx>

### **VET Student Loans**

VET Student Loans is an Australian Government student loan scheme for the TAFE and Training sector.

VET Student Loans cover all or part of the tuition costs of a student loan, which is payable once you reach a certain income level.

They are available at registered training organisations approved by the Australian Government. For more information, see: <http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/> or call 1800 020 108.

### **Centrelink assistance**

Centrelink has a variety of financial assistance available for people undertaking further education and training. For more information, see:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/payments-students-and-trainees>

### **ABSTUDY**

ABSTUDY is available for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people enrolled in an approved course. ABSTUDY can help with your costs for study, housing, living expenses, and travelling to your place of study each term or semester if you need to study away from home. For more information about ABSTUDY, see:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/abstudy>

### **Assistance from universities**

Most universities offer a range of scholarships, bursaries and grants to help you with the costs associated with completing your course. Visit your university website for more information.



## Scholarship Requirements

If my application is successful, what do I have to do?

If your application is successful, you will be required to:

- enter into a formal Agreement with the Department
- remain enrolled in the course until successful completion
- by 1 May each year, provide evidence that you are enrolled in the course and are maintaining satisfactory academic progress
- provide evidence of successful course completion (ie: your final academic transcript)
- inform the Department if you cease studying for any reason.

If you are completing an alternative pathway course:

- within 6 months of completing your course, provide evidence that you are enrolled in an ITE course.

Following completion of an alternative pathway course, which ITE courses can I enrol in?

You must enrol in a course that is on the list of approved ITE qualifications available on the Victorian Institute of Teaching website at <http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/registering-as-a-teacher/teaching-programs/accredited-initial-teacher-education-programs#endorsed>

Can I defer my studies?

If you defer your studies before commencing your course, the offer of support will be withdrawn and no payment will be made.

Can I take a leave of absence from my studies?

If you take a leave of absence during the course of your study, you must notify the Department in writing. The Department will consider the circumstances and advise you if this will affect the scholarship support.

What if I don't complete my course?

You must notify the Department immediately if you withdraw from your course. The Department will consider the circumstances and advise you if this will affect the scholarship support.

What happens if I fail my course?

If you fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress in your course, you must notify the Department in writing. The Department will consider the circumstances and advise you if this will affect the scholarship support.



## Scholarship Payment

### If I am successful, what will I receive?

If you are completing an alternative pathway course, your scholarship will be paid in two instalments:

- instalment 1 of \$3,000 upon signing the Scholarship Agreement
- instalment 2 of \$2,000 upon provision of evidence of enrolment in an undergraduate ITE course.

If you are completing an ITE course at The University of Melbourne, your scholarship of \$4,000 will be paid in a single lump sum.

### What can I use the scholarship funds for?

You can use your scholarship funds at your own discretion. However, you are encouraged to use scholarship funds for costs directly associated with completing the course, including tuition fees, a laptop computer, purchase of books and materials.

### Will I have to pay tax on my scholarship?

Scholarship payments are characterised as taxable income and it is likely that tax will be withheld on the scholarship payment.

### When will I receive the scholarship payment?

The scholarship payment will be paid to you after you sign the Agreement with the Department and send it back for processing.