

ABCN Accelerate Scholarship Program

Application Guide

“ABCN provides the light at the end of the tunnel, giving hope to parents that if their children work hard at their education, they can be recognised like any other student in the country.... Often the language and behaviours of the low-socioeconomic communities is misunderstood or are ameliorated when placed amongst those of communities unlike theirs. These scholarships let parents know their children are successful and that they can achieve their dreams and goals.”

Ken Massari, Principal



The ABCN *Accelerate* Scholarship program is a three-year program that targets exceptional students who are facing economic, family or social challenges that impact on their study or capacity to achieve their desired tertiary pathways. ABCN is seeking students who demonstrate significant promise to succeed in their aspirations and to become a leader in their respective field. Scholars receive support from a dedicated corporate mentor and \$7000 in financial assistance amortised across Years 11, 12 and their first year of tertiary education or training.

Scholarships awarded in 2021 are for years 2022-2024. Applications will open on **Tuesday 15 June 2021** and **must be submitted by Friday 20 August 2021**. Award winners will be informed personally in October 2021.

ABCN
Foundation

Mentoring and Financial Support
for Exceptional Students

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE SCHOLARSHIPS?

For many students from high-needs schools, financial and mentoring support is critical. Often it can make all the difference when it comes to achieving their goals.

ABCN scholarships aim to help students from these schools realise their potential and attain the necessary entrance results for tertiary education or training. They are directed at students who would benefit from financial assistance and mentoring support to successfully complete Years 11 and 12 and their first year of study or training after school.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS?

The scholarship is made up of two components of equal value and importance – financial support and mentoring support.

The financial component equates to \$7000 over three years – \$2000 each year in Years 11 and 12 and \$3000 in the first year of tertiary study as well as travel expenses to attend ABCN functions and program events.

The mentoring component is paramount. Each scholarship winner will be provided with their own dedicated corporate mentor from an ABCN member company to provide assistance and support through their studies.

Scholars and mentors meet in four structured group sessions per year, alongside monthly one-on-one meetings. During this time, they will explore their goals, aspirations, challenges, achievements and areas for development. In years two and three, communication typically includes two facilitated group sessions, regular one-on-one meetings and other specialised content, between monthly check-ins.

WHAT CAN THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BE USED FOR?

The scholarship funds can be used to cover any fees or costs associated with education. All Accelerate participants receive a debit card at the beginning of the program, onto which ABCN will load the relevant funds for each year. Some examples of items or services which can be purchased may include:

- > home or laptop computer, software and printer
- > books, study aids and stationery
- > tuition, specialist equipment and course costs
- > other support for education costs such as uniforms and transport.

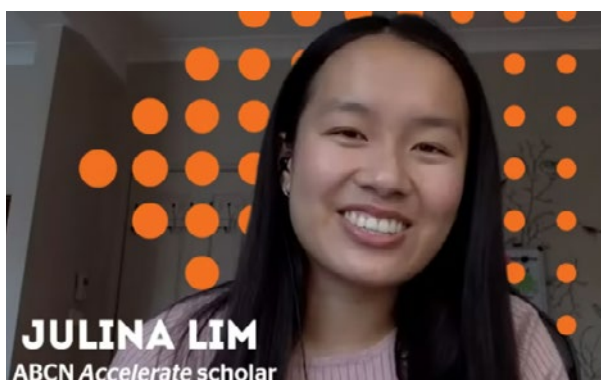
WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

All Year 10 students who are Australian citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply. This includes students from schools outside the ABCN network and students who have never participated in an ABCN program.

Each year ABCN offers a range of targeted scholarships for students with particular backgrounds or circumstances. Categories include First Nations students, female, LGBTQI, NESB (non-English speaking background), Victoria based, NSW based, or WA based. Recipients of these awards will not be identified publicly unless authorised by the student.

WHAT ATTRIBUTES IS ABCN LOOKING FOR IN ACCELERATE FOUNDATION SCHOLARS?

ABCN is seeking students who demonstrate significant promise and personal motivation to succeed in their aspirations. We will be looking for students with potential to grow with the program's financial and mentoring support, and to become leaders who can contribute to society in their respective fields.



'The experiences you gain are valuable and once in a lifetime. The exposure to other people and places will challenge you and help you grow.'

Julina, Accelerate scholar, graduated with the top HSC state rank in economics and an ATAR of 99.95

The application process gives students the opportunity to share their experiences about where they have come from and the challenges they have faced. Important factors for consideration include:

- 1 socio-economic disadvantage and/or significant challenges (social, cultural or economic)
- 2 engagement, effort and drive.

We are looking for students who have demonstrated significant effort and application in their academic or extra-curricular activities. At least two out of the following three categories must be met:

- > academic – demonstrating commitment and high engagement in academic school work
- > leadership – demonstrating responsibility and organisation at school and/or extra-curricular activities
- > community service and sports – reflecting commitment and dedication to others in need, to their extended family unit and/or a team

HOW DOES A STUDENT APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

All applications must be completed online by the school principal on behalf of the student after assessing the applicant's needs, school and academic records.

In order to submit an application, the principal must:

- > read through all the following guidelines before beginning the online application
- > refer to the online questions attached to these guidelines to ensure they have all the information required to complete the application
- > consult with the student to ensure the information is correct
- > ensure the student's essay and most recent school report* is included within the application. These cannot be submitted separately.

- > ensure a response to question 43 provides maximum detail as to the nature of the student's disadvantage and/or characteristics – **the information ABCN receives on the application form and the principal's endorsement is critical to the successful outcome for the student**
- > complete the online application (see link on page 4).

HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARD

We are delighted to announce the formal introduction of a new category of awards, the 'Highly Commended Awards'. These are for students who scored extremely high but were just outside the final scholarship selection. Students awarded a Highly Commended Award will be given a \$500 debit card to support their educational expenses and access to a dedicated facilitated mentoring session. All applications will be automatically assessed for this Award Category.

Final applications must be submitted online to ABCN by 5pm, Friday 20 August 2021.

*Once the form is complete, click on submit.
If successfully completed, a confirmation
will be sent to the principal's email address.
If no confirmation email is received,
please contact rachel.walker@abcn.com.au*

* Please do not include copies of certificates and other achievements. If a school report is unavailable, a principal's verification of academic standard will suffice.



'It is very rewarding to use my skills and life experience to help a young person.'

Lucy, Mentor.

WHAT IS THE ESSAY ABOUT?

Students are required to submit an essay of up to 750 words addressing the following topic:

- > the difference this ABCN scholarship will make to my life and the community around me.

Students must include the following points:

- > the benefits of having a mentor
- > what they would use the scholarship funds for
- > the impact they would like to make in the community.

HOW WILL THE SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BE MADE?

The applications will be considered by the Scholarship Selection Panel, which is made up of representatives from the ABCN Foundation, contributors and educators. Selections will be made on the basis of the application, the principal's recommendation and on student merit and need.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP?

Through the Accelerate Scholarship, scholars not only gain confidence and emotional support, but also practical skills in goal setting, planning, communicating, relationship-building and networking, time and financial management and career pathway advice. Scholars establish both a peer and professional network which often provides them with their first real work opportunity.

To get the most out of the program, we expect scholars to display commitment by responding promptly to mentor contact and attending all meetings and sessions.

The initial introductory scholar/mentor meeting is held at the scholar's school. For all subsequent meetings scholars are required to travel into their mentor's place of work, typically in the CBD, during school/work hours.

Scholars are expected to be proactive in maximising this relationship throughout the term of the scholarship.

In the first year of the program, scholars will spend a minimum of 14 hours with their mentors in structured sessions and informal meetings. All year one scholars are expected to attend the annual Leadership Summit as a year-group. It may involve interstate travel and accommodation for some (the cost of this is covered by ABCN).

Years two and three are based around study commitments, however scholars and mentors will maintain regular contact via phone, email, video conference or face-to-face time. They will also attend other ABCN facilitated sessions and events. Scholars, principals and mentors are required to complete an evaluation at the end of each calendar year. Scholars must only spend their financial award on education related expenses.

If the scholar changes schools, the scholar must inform ABCN and provide forwarding contact information. The continuance of each scholarship will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

ABCN reserves the right to publish or use the student essay to promote the ABCN Foundation. Student identities will not be disclosed without consent.

CLICK HERE TO APPLY

Or copy this link into your web browser:

<https://abcnaccelerateapplication2021.paperform.co>



'This program will help me to become a better version of myself, one who will walk away with life skills to succeed, and with many plans and more goals for the future.'

Rebecca, 2020 scholar and aspiring CEO

The questions that will appear in the online application form are listed below. We recommend using these to prepare your responses to each question before beginning the online form.

ABCN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM 2021

Section 1: Contact Details

1. Student's First Name*

Student's Last Name*

2. Contact Email (Student)*

3. Contact Phone Number (Student)*

4. Principal's Name*

First name, last name

5. High School*

6. School Address*

Street*

City/Suburb

State*

Zip/Post Code*

Country*

7. Contact Email (Principal)*

8. Contact Email (School Main Contact)*

Please confirm the contact email address for the main school contact for all communications (if not the Principal).

9. Contact Phone (Principal) *

ONLINE SAMPLE

Section 2. Student Details

10. Is the student currently in Year 10?*

YES	NO
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11. What is the student's gender?*

Male	<input type="radio"/>
Female	<input type="radio"/>
Transgender/Intersex	<input type="radio"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="radio"/>

12. Is the student a citizen or permanent resident of Australia?*

Note: A condition of application is for the student to be a citizen or a permanent resident of Australia.

YES	NO
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13. Which option would represent more accurately the student's background?*

English-speaking	<input type="radio"/>
Non English-speaking	<input type="radio"/>

14. Does the student live in a rural, regional or remote part of Australia?*

YES	NO
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15. Is the student of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent?*

No	<input type="radio"/>
Yes, Aboriginal descent	<input type="radio"/>
Yes, Torres Strait Islander descent	<input type="radio"/>
Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent	<input type="radio"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="radio"/>

ONLINE SAMPLE

16. Would the student like to be considered for one or more of the following targeted scholarships? (tick all that apply)*

Note - successful targeted scholarships winners will not be publically acknowledged without the student's consent.

Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
First Nations Peoples	<input type="checkbox"/>
NESB (non-English speaking background), refugee or new arrival to Australia	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western Australia	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victoria	<input type="checkbox"/>
NSW	<input type="checkbox"/>
LGBTQI	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. Does the student live in out-of-home or foster care accommodation?*

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the student lives in out-of-home or foster care accommodation, the application will continue at question 29.

18. Is the student from a low socio-economic status background?*

Yes / No ▼

Add some help text

19. Is anyone in the student's household the holder of a Commonwealth Concession or Health Care Card?*

Multiple Choice ▼

Add some help text

20. What is the highest level of education among the adult members of the student's household?*

Multiple Choice ▼

Add some help text

21. What is the number of members in the student's household?*

Text ▼

Enter the number of people living within the student's household (including the student).

22. Number of parents or primary carers living in the household *

Multiple Choice ▼

Add some help text

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Please describe the employment status of the student's parents or primary carers:

Definition of each job type:

Machinery operator, driver or labourer: Operate machines, plants, vehicles and other equipment to perform a range of agricultural, manufacturing and construction functions, move materials, and transport passengers and freight.

Community worker: Provide services in the areas of aged care and childcare, education support, hospitality, defence, policing and emergency services, security, travel and tourism, fitness, sports and personal services and assist health professionals in the provision of patient care, provide information and support on a range of social welfare matters.

Clerical worker: Perform general administrative, data entry and word processing tasks.
Sales workers: Sell goods, services and property, and provide sales support in areas such as operating cash registers and displaying and demonstrating goods.

Technicians or trade workers: Perform a variety of skilled tasks, applying broad or in-depth technical, trade or industry specific knowledge, often in support of scientific, engineering, building and manufacturing activities.

Managers or professionals: Plan, organize, direct, control, coordinate and review the operations of government, commercial, agricultural, industrial, non-profit and other organisations and departments.

23. Parent or primary carer 1 employment status:*

Add some help text

Multiple Choice ▾

24. Parent or primary carer 1 employment type: *

Add some help text

Multiple Choice ▾

25. Parent or primary carer 2 employment status:*

Add some help text

Multiple Choice ▾

26. Parent or primary carer 2 employment type:*

Add some help text

Multiple Choice ▾

27. How many bedrooms are in the student's household?*

Add some help text

Text ▾

28. Does the student live in public housing or other supported accommodation? *

Add some help text

Multiple Choice ▾

29. Is the student a refugee?*

YES

NO

30. If the student is not a refugee, have they suffered any traumatic experience?*

Add some help text

Yes / No ▾

ONLINE SAMPLE

31. Does the student have a disability?*

YES

NO

Section 3. Student's essay.

32. Students are required to submit an essay of up to 750 words addressing the following topic:

'the difference this ABCN scholarship will make to my life and the community around me.*

Essay is to copied into this answer box and not submitted seperately.

A higher scored response includes: a high level of understanding regarding the benefits of a mentor, a clear need for the financial assistance offered, a strong vision of the impact they could make on the community and a demonstration of their strong contribution to community, school and/or home life.

Section 4. Principal Assessment.

This section should be completed by the Principal.

33. Please indicate a percentage ranking of the student within their school year*

Top 5%

☐

Top 5% - 10%

☐

Top 10% - 20%

☐

Top 20% - 40%

☐

Mid 40% - 60%

☐

Lower 70% - 100%

☐

ONLINE SAMPLE

34. What do you consider the student's academic potential, if they are granted the scholarship and mentoring?*

Top 5%



Top 5% - 10%



Top 10% - 20%



Top 20% - 40%



Mid 40% - 60%



Lower 70% - 100%



35. How many days was the student absent from school during the last Semester?*

Less than 5



Between 5 and 10



Between 10 and 15



More than 15



36. If the absenteeism was more than 10 days last semester, is there any reasonable reason that could justify it?*

Text ▾

Add some help text

37. Please attach the student's most recent school report.*

Please do not include copies of certificates or other achievements. If a school report is unavailable then a Principal's verification of academic standard will suffice.

CHOOSE A FILE

38. Please give examples that demonstrate the student's leadership skills and / or extra-curricular achievements and community work.*

Principals are encouraged to provide as much information as possible for this question to help us understand the student's contribution to their community or school and their leadership potential.

39. Does the student hold any other major scholarships currently? (>\$2,000)*

YES

NO

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40. Which other scholarships does the student hold?*

Text ▾

Please list all scholarships and the estimated value.

41. Is the student applying / intending to apply for any other major scholarships ? If so, please list applications and also potential value of the scholarships *

42. Is the student able to commit to at least 4-6 face-to-face or online meetings and other ongoing contact points with their mentor each year? *

We are looking for students that will commit to the full program and make the most of the opportunities given.

YES

NO

43. Are there any other comments you wish to make about this student? For example, their attributes and / or the nature of their disadvantage. *

Principals are encouraged to provide as much information as possible for this question to help us understand the student's background and challenges, why they are a exceptional student and why they would excel in this scholarship.

44. If awarded this scholarship I believe this student is someone I feel would positively represent our school. *

Yes

☐

No

☐

Unsure

☐

Privacy*

By submitting this form, you acknowledge that you're aware the personal data will be used in line with our Privacy Policy <https://www.abcn.com.au/about-us/privacy-policy>.

You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time by contacting rachel.walker@abcn.com.au

Yes

☐

Submit

Thank you for your application. We look forward to reviewing. Successful candidates will be notified in late October.

If you have any questions about the application, please contact Rachel Walker rachel.walker@abcn.com.au

ONLINE SAMPLE