

# The ABCN 'Accelerate' Scholarships 2022

## Application Guide

"No matter where you start,  
having a vision and working  
hard toward your goals will  
always lead you to success."

Danya, Accelerate Scholar



The ABCN *Accelerate* Scholarship Program is a three-year program that supports high-potential students who are experiencing socio-economic challenges to achieve their potential. ABCN is seeking students who demonstrate significant promise to succeed in their aspirations and to become a leader in their desired 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.

The 2022 scholarships are for years 2023-2025. Applications will open on **Tuesday 14 June 2022** and **must be submitted by Friday 19 August 2022**. Award winners will be informed personally in October 2022.

**ABCN**   
**Foundation**

Mentoring and Financial Support  
for Exceptional Students

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE SCHOLARSHIPS?

For many students from low socio-economic areas, financial and mentoring support is invaluable. Often it can make all the difference when it comes to achieving their goals.

ABCN scholarships aim to empower students to 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 scholars 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. 2022 categories include First Nations students, female, NESB (Non-English Speaking Background), Regional Australians, Victorian, Western Australian and students interested in pursuing a career in fashion, retail or marketing. Recipients of these awards will not be identified publicly unless authorised by the student.

### WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR IN A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION?

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 desired fields.



**‘This program is very supportive and it lowers the pressure and stress on students during their senior years.’**

Evana, Year 2 Scholar and aspiring doctor

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 low socio-economic and/or other 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

The 'Highly Commended Awards' are for students who scored extremely highly 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 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 19 August 2022.**

*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](mailto: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.



**'Our ABCN scholars are more engaged and focused on what they wish to achieve. They have managed to overcome obstacles that may have derailed their ability to complete high school. The program has challenged students to seek opportunities that match their ability rather than opportunities that are lower than their ability.'**

Tim Lloyd, Principal



### 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://abcnaccelerateapplication2022.paperform.co>**



'This extraordinary young man has challenged the stereotypes that surround First Nations learners and has fought so hard even to be in the position to apply for this program. Billy's academic reports reflect his leadership potential and his exemplary conduct as a student. He is gentle and kind to others, never boastful about his achievements. I doubt very much that Billy realises just how extraordinary he is.'

Billy's Principal, Michael Hornby, in Billy's Accelerate Application.

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 2022

### Section 1: Contact Details

1. Student's First Name\*

Student's Last Name\*

2. Contact Email (Student)\*

3. Contact Phone Number (Student)\*

Mobile phone number is preferred

4. High School\*

5. School Address\*

Street\*

City/Suburb

State\*

Zip/Post Code\*

Country\*

Australia

6. Principal's Name\*

First name, last name

6a. Contact Phone Number (Principal) \*

+61x xx xxx xxx

7. Contact Email (Principal)\*

8. Is the Principal the main school Contact for ABCN communications?\* \*

YES

NO

9. School Contact's Name (if not the Principal)\*

First name, last name

9a. Contact Phone Number (School Contact) \*

+61x xx xxx xxx

9b. Contact Email (School Contact)\*

ONLINE SAMPLE

## Section 2. Student Details

10. Is the student currently in Year 10?\*

Note: students need to be entering Year 11 in 2023 to be eligible.

YES

NO

11. What is the student's gender?\*

Male

☐

Female

☐

Transgender/Intersex

☐

Prefer not to say

☐

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

Note: Students need to be a citizen or a permanent resident of Australia to be eligible.

YES

NO

13. Which represents more accurately the student's background?\*

English-speaking

☐

Non English-speaking

☐

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

YES

NO

15. Is the student of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent?\*

No

☐

Yes, Aboriginal descent

☐

Yes, Torres Strait Islander descent

☐

Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent

☐

Prefer not to say

☐

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



First Nations peoples



NESB (Non-English Speaking Background), refugee or new arrival to Australia



Western Australia



Victoria



Regional Australia



Interested in pursuing a career in fashion, retail or marketing



None of the above



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

YES

NO

**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

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

Yes



No



Unsure



ONLINE SAMPLE

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

Bachelor degree or above



Cert III - Advanced Diploma



Year 12



Below Year 12



21. How many people live in the student's household?\*

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

22. What is the number of parents or primary carers living in the student's household? \*

1



2 or more



**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:\*

Employed (full time)



Employed (casual or part time)



Unemployed



ONLINE SAMPLE



24. Parent or primary carer 1 employment type: \*

Machinery operator, driver or labourer

☐

Community, clerical or sales worker

☐

Technician or trade worker

☐

Manager or professional

☐

25. Parent or primary carer 2 employment status:\*

Employed (full time)

☐

Employed (casual or part time)

☐

Unemployed

☐

26. Parent or primary carer 2 employment type:\*

Machinery operator, driver or labourer

☐

Community, clerical or sales worker

☐

Technician or trade worker

☐

Manager or professional

☐

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

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

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't Know

☐

29. Is the student a refugee?\*

YES

NO

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

YES

NO

31. Does the student have a disability?\*

YES

NO

ONLINE SAMPLE

## 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 separately.

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%



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%



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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?\*

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

40. Which other scholarships does the student hold?\*

Please list all scholarships and the estimated value.

ONLINE SAMPLE

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 an 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](mailto: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 this application, please contact Rachel Walker, Foundation Manager at [rachel.walker@abcn.com.au](mailto:rachel.walker@abcn.com.au)

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ONLINE SAMPLE