



'The Accelerate program is about motivating you to take your dreams, and despite your circumstances, make them a reality.'

Sophia, Accelerate Scholar

# ABCN *Accelerate* Scholarships

## 2024 Application Guidelines

The ABCN Accelerate Scholarship is a three-year program that supports high-potential students facing significant barriers 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 spread across Years 11, 12 and their first year of tertiary education or training.

Applications are now open for students commencing Accelerate scholarships in Year 11 in 2025. Student Nomination forms must be completed by **Friday July 26th 2024** and full Student Applications including completed **Principal/School Representative Assessments** must be submitted by **Friday 30th August 2024**. Scholarship Award winners will be informed personally in November 2024.

**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.

The Accelerate scholarship aims to empower students to realise their potential and attain the necessary entrance results, skills and mindset for tertiary education, quality employment or training. They are directed at students with professional aspirations 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 and key to the successful completion of the program. Each scholarship winner will be provided with their own dedicated corporate mentor from an ABCN member company for three years.

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.

## 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, and who face barriers in their personal lives that may prevent them from achieving their full potential.

It is important that students demonstrate a powerful desire to take full advantage of the mentoring relationship and exhibit a willingness to engage with their mentors, participate in all surveys, events, group and 1-1 meetings.

We are looking for students with professional aspirations and the potential to grow with the program's financial and mentoring support, and to become leaders who can contribute to society in their desired fields.

The application process gives students the opportunity to share their ambitions and their motivations for applying for the scholarship, and how they believe it will assist them in setting and achieving their goals.

We are looking for students who have demonstrated significant effort and application in their academic and/or extra-curricular activities. Consideration will be given to the students' efforts and contributions in several areas, particularly:

- **Academic** — demonstrating commitment and high engagement in learning.
- **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.

As the ABCN Accelerate scholarship is a career mentoring program, we are seeking students who have the necessary support in their school and personal lives to help them navigate personal challenges and setbacks as they arise.



'The ABCN Accelerate Scholarship is the most useful, highly regarded and well organised scholarship program I've ever been a part of.

I've been teaching my friends some of the skills I've learned in the program in hopes they can see the same value in the skills as I do.'

Accelerate Scholar Kyle (left)

## HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARD

The 'Highly Commended Awards' are for students who ranked extremely highly in the evaluation process but narrowly missed the final scholarship selection. Recipients of a Highly Commended Award will be given a \$500 debit card to support their educational expenses upon completing a dedicated online Financial Firsts training module. All applications will be automatically assessed for this Award Category.

## HOW DOES A STUDENT APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

To apply for the Accelerate Scholarship, the student must be nominated by the school principal or a school representative who has authority to act on behalf of the principal.

Nominated students will be invited to complete an online Student Application form to demonstrate their goals and aspirations and how the scholarship will contribute to achieving them. The student's reflections are critical to the successful outcome of their application.

At the same time, the principal or school representative will be asked to complete an online Principal/School Representative Assessment form. The perspective of the school is integral to the assessment of the student's suitability for the Accelerate program and their successful outcome.

Student applications without a completed Principal/School Representative Assessment will be ineligible.



Final applications must be submitted via the online application form to ABCN by **5pm, Friday 30th August 2024**

Please Note: no extensions will be given.

### Prior to commencing the application process, the principal/school representative must:

- Review all guidelines thoroughly
- Identify up to three students to nominate
- Speak with the identified students to ensure their willingness, capacity and commitment to apply and participate in the scholarship if successful

### In completing the application process the principal/school representative must:

- Nominate a point of contact in the school for the students, mentors and ABCN staff
- Review the attached online questions to gather the necessary information required to complete the application
- Verify the accuracy of information where required
- Complete the Nomination form by 5pm July 26th local time
- Support the student in completing their application if required
- Include the student's latest school report\* within the application
- Complete the online Student and Principal/School Representative Assessment applications and submit by 5pm AEST Friday 30th August 2024.

\* 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.

## WHAT ARE WE ASKING FROM THE STUDENTS?

Students must respond to questions designed to assess both their suitability for the program and to ascertain the potential impact that the Accelerate Scholarship might have on their lives.

The questions seek their reflections on their personal and professional aspirations and require the students to demonstrate their willingness to fully commit and engage in the program and mentoring activities. Through these questions we are also seeking to understand how the student thinks the Accelerate Scholarship will assist them to achieve their goals.

## WHAT ARE WE SEEKING FROM THE SCHOOLS?

Schools are asked to provide data and information to confirm the student's eligibility to apply for the scholarship.

We are also asking schools to provide insights into the student's merit and need for the scholarship, along with confirmation of the student's commitment and that they have the necessary support to make their participation successful and impactful.

## HOW WILL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BE SELECTED?

The applications will be considered by the Scholarship Selection Panel, which is made up of representatives from ABCN, member companies, funders, and educators. Selections will be made based on the student's reflections, merit and need and the principal's recommendations.



## WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP?

To get the most out of the program, we expect scholars to display commitment by responding promptly to mentor contact, attending and participating fully in all meetings and sessions, and completing all post session progress surveys and bi-annual evaluations.

The initial introductory scholar/mentor meeting is held at the scholar's school. All subsequent scholar/mentor meetings will be held in the mentor's workplace, at the scholar's school or online (when required) during school/work hours. Scholars are expected to be proactive in maximising this relationship throughout the term of the scholarship.

### Financial Award

As a condition of receiving the financial award scholars are required to develop budgets at the beginning of each year. Scholars must only spend their financial award on education related expenses and seek permission from ABCN for expenses they are unsure of.

### Program Structure

In the first year of the program, scholars will spend at least 23 hours with their mentors in structured sessions and informal meetings. All Year One scholars are required to attend the 2-day Leadership Summit in May 2025 as a year group. It may involve interstate travel and accommodation (the cost of which is covered by ABCN).

Years two and three of the scholarship program also consist of structured sessions and informal meetings with additional flexibility for Year 3 scholars around study/employment commitments. The structured sessions are a combination workshops/activities specific to the year stage of the scholarship and involving all the program participants across the three years.

## SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS CONT'D.

### Change of School

If the scholar changes schools, the scholar must inform ABCN and provide forwarding contact information. In this instance, the continuation of the scholarship will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Annual Review of Progress

At the end of the first and second years of the scholarship, ABCN will review and assess the scholar's participation and engagement in the program. Progression to the next year and/or further financial award payments will be dependent upon session attendance, consistency of 1:1 monthly mentor meetings, demonstration of engaging with and utilizing program content and appropriate expenditure of award monies.

At the end of the second year, ABCN, along with the scholar and mentor, will assess the mentoring relationship's progress and impact to help determine if any additional career specific support (where possible) would increase the likelihood of successful and impactful outcomes for the scholar in their final year.



'Don't let your past hold you back. Prior to the Accelerate program, I believed that as I came from a less affluent family, that I couldn't get anywhere in life.

This is far from the truth, and thanks to the program, I've been able to access the educational tools necessary to build myself and my education to a much greater point than I ever imagined.'

Accelerate Alumni Amber (right) with mentor Michelle.



If you have any questions regarding the Scholarship Application Guidelines or to request a link to the Nomination Form please contact Kirsty Edwards, Program Coordinator via email: [\*\*kirsty.edwards@abcn.com.au\*\*](mailto:kirsty.edwards@abcn.com.au)

# SAMPLE APPLICATION FORM

## COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE

As there is no way to save your application and return to it at a later date we recommend that students take the time to read through the guidelines and prepare answers for the sample questions below in advance so that they are able to complete the application in one session.

### Section 2: Student reflections

5. Do you currently intend to complete year 12?

Add some help text



6. Which of the following sectors best aligns (or matches) with your current career goal?\*

Add some help text

Multiple Choice ▾

7. Why are you interested in a career in your selected sector(s)?\*

Add some help text

Text ▾

8. What is motivating you to apply for the Accelerate Scholarship?\*

Add some help text

Text ▾

9. How will this scholarship impact on your life?\*

Add some help text

Text ▾

10. Career mentoring is a very important part of the Accelerator program. How will this guidance and support be helpful to you?\*

Add some help text

Text ▾

11. What is the impact you would like to make in your career in the future?\*

Add some help text

Text ▾

# SAMPLE APPLICATION FORM

12. What is the impact you would like to make on your community in the future?\*

Add some help text

13. What contribution do you currently make to your community, school and/or homelife? (Please give some examples e.g. SRC, caring responsibilities)\*

Add some help text

14. Please give an example of someone who you currently consider to be a mentor and/or someone who has had a positive impact on your goals and aspirations\*

Add some help text

15. How do they support you? Please provide an example\*

Add some help text

16. As it is a condition and major benefit of this scholarship, are you confident that you can participate in the ABCN facilitated workshops, monthly mentor meetings and complete all surveys?\*

Add some help text

17. Please share why you are not fully confident in your ability to participate throughout the program?\*

Add some help text

