

2026 ABCN Accelerate Scholarship Application Guidelines

About the Scholarship

The ABCN Accelerate Scholarship is a three-year program spanning Years 11 and 12 and the first year of tertiary education or training. It is designed to support high-potential students who face significant barriers to achieving their goals.

The Scholarship provides both **financial assistance** and **mentoring support**, delivered through a structured development program.

Successful applicants will receive:

- **Up to \$7,000 in financial assistance** for direct education-related expenses over three years, comprising:
 - Up to \$2,000 across Years 11 and 12; and
 - Up to \$3,000 in Year 13; for the first year of tertiary study at a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), college, or university.
- **Corporate mentor support** throughout the program.
- **Access to a structured skills development program**, including facilitated workshops, mentor meetings, and workplace visits.

Who Should Apply?

ABCN is seeking motivated students with strong aspirations and the potential to become future leaders who will make a positive impact in their chosen fields.

Applicants should demonstrate a willingness to:

- Actively engage with a corporate mentor;
- Participate fully in all program activities, including workshops, events, and evaluations; and

- Use the Scholarship to support their pathway to tertiary education and career success.

As the Accelerate Scholarship is a **career mentoring program**, applicants should have access to appropriate pastoral or wellbeing support outside of the program. Where students are experiencing significant psychological or emotional support needs beyond the scope of a mentoring program, we strongly encourage consideration of alternative supports or programs better suited to meeting those needs.

Students must:

- Be nominated by their school Principal (or authorised representative); and
- Read the Scholarship Terms and Conditions prior to applying.

Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be enrolled in an Australian school and studying in Year 10 at the time of application;
- Be commencing Year 11 in the first year of the Scholarship;
- Demonstrate an intention to undertake full-time or part-time study at a university, college, or registered training organisation (RTO) in the first year following completion of high school;
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria. Applicants should:

- Demonstrate strong personal motivation and clear potential to achieve their academic and career goals, including an aspiration to pursue tertiary education;

- Show consistent effort, commitment, and perseverance in academic and/or extracurricular activities;
- Exhibit a genuine interest in engaging with and learning from corporate mentors;
- Demonstrate the capacity and willingness to actively participate in all aspects of the program;
- Have limited access to opportunities or resources (e.g. academic support, career guidance, technology, or financial stability).

Application Process

To apply for the Accelerate Scholarship:

1. Nomination

Students must first be nominated by their Principal or an authorised school representative.

2. Student Application

Nominated students will be invited to complete an online application, which includes:

- Personal and family/guardian details;
- Career aspirations and goals;
- How the Scholarship will support their pathway; and
- Their commitment and capacity to participate fully in the program.

These responses form a critical part of the assessment process.

3. School Assessment

The nominating Principal or school representative must complete an online assessment form, including latest report and school attendance details to support the student's application.

Note: Applications will not be considered without a completed school assessment.

Key Dates

Applications are open for Year 10 students to commence the Accelerate Scholarship in **2027** (with awards being announced in November 2026).

- **Student Nominations Open:** Monday 15th June 2026
- **Student Nominations Close:** 11:59pm (AEST), Sunday 28 June 2026
- **Student Applications Close:** 11:59pm (AEST), Sunday 2 August 2026
- **Principal Assessments Close:** 11:59pm (AEST), Sunday 2 August 2026

Selection Process

- Applications will be reviewed by selection panels comprising representatives from ABCN, member companies, funding partners, and the education sector.
- Applications will be assessed against the published selection criteria, with panel recommendations provided to the ABCN Foundation Council for final approval.
- Successful applicants will be notified by their Principal. All other applicants will be notified of the outcome via email.
- Scholarship recipients will be formally announced in **November 2026**.

Further Information

For further information, please contact:

Accelerate Program Coordinator

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