



RFDS 2019 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Scholarships

Guidelines for Application

1. Introduction of Scholarships

The **RFDS 2019 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Scholarships** are supported and funded by The Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS).

As a commitment under the RFDS National Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021, and in an effort to grow an appropriate and skilled rural health workforce, the RFDS will provide financial support through scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health students to undertake a clinical placement in a remote and rural Australia.

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) will organise and implement the scholarship process for Indigenous allied health students that are current IAHA Full Members (students) and will provide support and mentoring for the rural/remote clinical placements scholarship recipients.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for an RFDS 2019 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Scholarships, applicants must:

- a. address all application requirements as set out in the Application Process below.
- b. be a current IAHA full member (student) endorsed by the Board of Directors prior to 1 January 2019.
- c. be in their final two years of their tertiary allied health course.
- d. Intend to undertake a rural and remote clinical placement in an ASGC RA classified area 3- 5 or Modified Monash Model classified area 3-7 of at least 4 weeks or more in duration.
- e. be 18 years of age or over at time of applying for the scholarship.

Recipients of any previous IAHA Professional Development Scholarship that have failed to acquit their scholarship are ineligible for a RFDS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Scholarships,

If there are more applicants than there are available scholarships, not all applicants who meet the eligibility and selection criteria will be offered a scholarship from this round.

3. Application Process

Applicants must

- a. apply in writing to IAHA completing the online application form at <http://iaha.com.au/2019-rfds-scholarship-application-form/>
- b. Identify as an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander student currently undertaking a relevant tertiary degree in an allied health discipline and current IAHA Full Member (Student).
- c. Provide evidence of current enrolment.
- d. Provide a written statement that addresses the following:
 - i. How the scholarship will benefit the applicant professionally, personally and culturally;
 - ii. Why the applicant is seeking to undertake a rural or remote clinical placement;
 - iii. The applicant's rural/remote clinical/personal experience to date;
 - iv. A projected budget of costs for the placement and any other additional financial support that is being provided.
- e. Identify appropriate clinical placement:
 - i. In an ASGC RA classified area 3- 5 or Modified Monash Model classified area 3-7;
 - ii. For a period of no less than 4 weeks;

4. Selection

Applications will be assessed according to the eligibility of the applicant as stated above. Further ranking may occur using the following criteria:

- Quality of the rationale in written statement in comprehensively addressing the criteria as outlined above
- Classification of remoteness.
- Evidence of research and/or confirmation of a placement location, demonstrating initiative and commitment to the placement.
- Completion of ALL required information in the application form,
- Have, where relevant, met all the terms and conditions of previous IAHA scholarships.
- Have agreed to the terms and conditions.

5. Terms and Conditions

The Scholarship recipient agrees:

- a) To read and abide by the [IAHA Code of Conduct](#) at all times and relevant policies and procedures in relation to travel and finance.
- b) To confirm the location, duration, estimated travel and accommodation costs and required supports for a clinical placement in an ASGC-RA classified area 3-5, or Modified Monash Model classified area 3-7 for a placement of no less than 4 weeks.
- c) To return their travel documents by the required date. Failure to return the travel documents by this date will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.
- d) To be responsible for their own transfers to and from their place of residence and their nominated airport.
- e) To pay any changes to travel and accommodation bookings once they have been made as stipulated on the travel forms and approved by the CEO
- f) To refund the scholarship in full if they fail to undertake a clinical placement in a remote and rural Australia during the 2019/20 financial year. Exceptional circumstances with prior notice can be considered at the discretion of the CEO.
- g) To submit a written reflection report on their attendance and learnings no later than 4 weeks following completion of the placement.
- h) To be available to the RFDS and IAHA to undertake reasonable activities to further promote the scholarship program.
- i) To attend and actively engage in the placement. Failure to attend will result in ineligibility for future scholarships and/or recovery of funds.

Scholarship applicants are encouraged to seek advice from the Australian Taxation Office, Accountant and /or Centrelink about any impact the granting of a scholarship may have on their financial situation.

6. Schedule

There will be 2 rounds of scholarships offered in 2019.

- a. Round 1 – Scholarship to be used in 1st or 2nd semester 2019.
- b. Round 2 – Scholarship to be used in 2nd semester 2019 or 1st semester 2020.

An IAHA Scholarship Committee will be appointed to administer this scholarship process. The members of this group will be drawn from the Secretariat and key stakeholders.

The IAHA Scholarship Committee will be responsible for assessing scholarship applications against the eligibility and selection criteria and making recommendations to the IAHA delegate on applicants that may be granted. The IAHA Scholarship Committee recommendations will be final.

IAHA delegate will be responsible for the final decision of scholarship recipients (and deciding on the number of scholarships to be given and the amount of the scholarship pending remoteness and location of applicant). IAHA's decision will be final.

IAHA will notify successful applicants in writing. Recipients must advise their acceptance of the scholarship and agree to all the terms and conditions in writing within the timeframe provided.

IAHA will notify unsuccessful applicants in writing.

If an applicant forfeits or declines a scholarship offer, that place will be offered to another applicant.

Applications received after the closing date for each round will not be eligible or considered.

7. Further scholarship requirements

- a. Scholarship recipients will be notified and travel forms will be sent at this time.
- b. Scholarship recipients will be required to attend and actively engage in the placement. Failure to attend will result in ineligibility for future scholarships and/or recovery of funds.
- c. Successful applicants will be required to return their travel documents by the required date. Failure to return the travel documents by this date will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.
- d. All travel and accommodation will be booked and paid for by IAHA using awarded scholarship funds, upon receipt of completed travel documents submitted by successful applicants. Any funds remaining after travel, accommodation costs may be provided to the recipient to cover incidental costs.
- e. Scholarship applicants are encouraged to seek advice from the Australian Taxation Office, Accountant and /or Centrelink about any impact the granting of a scholarship may have on their financial situation.

Contact Details

IAHA Secretariat on (02) 6285 1010 or Email: admin@iaha.com.au

