



**2026 IAHA National Conference and Ultimate Student Leadership Challenge
Professional Development Scholarships
Guidelines for Application**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER...	
Scholarships open	23 March 2026
Scholarships close	19 June 2026
Notification of selection outcomes	14 August 2026
Written acceptance of offer, travel forms returned and Deadline for registration	24 August 2026

1. Introduction of Scholarships

- a. Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) and sponsors will provide funding for financial assistance to attend the 2026 IAHA National Conference and Ultimate Student Leadership Challenge.
- b. The 2026 IAHA National Conference and Ultimate Student Leadership Challenge Professional Development Scholarships are designed to encourage and support IAHA full and associate members to attend events that could include the Ultimate Student Leadership Challenge (27-29 November 2026), 2026 IAHA National Conference (30 November – 2 December 2026) & the IAHA Members Forum (3 December 2026) to be held in Boorloo (Perth)
- c. These scholarships aim to:
 - Increase participation from IAHA student members to attend the Ultimate Student Leadership Challenge
 - Increase participation from IAHA members to attend the 2026 IAHA National Conference.
 - Increase participation from IAHA members to attend the 2026 IAHA Members Forum.
 - Support IAHA members and their professional development needs.
 - Support and encourage national networking with allied health and other related sectors specifically focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and inter-professional working relationships.
- d. IAHA will grant a limited number of professional development scholarships to full and associate IAHA members. Scholarship recipients will receive **up to** a maximum of 4,000 for graduates or \$5,000 for USLC students for travel, accommodation, and registration assistance based on the eligibility and assessment criteria.

e. Scholarship funds will not cover the cost of pre-conference workshops/tours or the additional accommodation that may be needed to attend.

2. Eligibility

- a. IAHA full and associate members endorsed by the Board of Directors prior to **25 FEBRUARY 2026** are eligible to apply for a scholarship.
- b. Scholarships are only available for financial assistance to attend the IAHA National Conference, Ultimate Student Leadership Challenge & IAHA Members Forum in November 2025.
- c. Recipients of a 2024 IAHA Professional Development Scholarship that have failed to acquit their scholarships are ineligible for a 2025 IAHA Professional Development Scholarship.
- d. 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.
- e. IAHA members who are in receipt of another government-funded scholarship for financial assistance to attend the 2025 Events will be ineligible for these scholarships.
- f. Applicants must be 18 years of age or over to be eligible for a 2025 IAHA Professional Development Scholarship.
- g. No late applications will be accepted.

3. Selection

Applications will be assessed and ranked using the following criteria:

- Eligibility of the applicant as stated above;
- Scholarships are limited, priority will be given to full members then associate IAHA members;
- Rationale outlining how the scholarship will benefit you professionally and personally;
- Applicants must address all criteria in the application form.
- Agreement to provide the report as acquittal post the event
- If scholarship is sponsored by an external source there may be a requirement for additional reporting and/or criteria such as remote/rural locations.
- Agree to the terms and conditions.

4. Application Process

- a. Members must apply in writing to IAHA completing the application form supplied.
- b. Applicants will be required to provide a written statement addressing:
 - How the scholarship will benefit the applicant in their professional and personal development;
 - Clearly identifying your location of residence and region you work/study within;
 - How the applicant will share their learning and experiences gained at the conference with others working in allied health and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;

Scholarships to associate members will also be required to provide:

- A brief statement of the applicant's work based around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health i.e., research, initiatives, employment.

c. **The closing date for applications is 19 June 2026**

d. Applications can be [submitted here](#)

5. Schedule

- a. There will be one round of scholarships offered in 2025.
- b. An IAHA Conference Committee will be appointed to administer this scholarship process. The members of this committee will be drawn from the IAHA Board of Directors and the IAHA Secretariat.
- c. The IAHA Conference Committee will be responsible for assessing scholarship applications against the eligibility and selection criteria and making recommendations to IAHA on applicants that may be granted. The IAHA Conference Committee recommendations will be final.
- d. IAHA will be responsible for the final selection 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.
- e. 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.
- f. IAHA will notify unsuccessful applicants in writing.

- g. If an applicant forfeits or declines a scholarship offer, that place will be offered to another applicant.
- h. Applications received after the closing date will not be eligible or considered.

6. Scholarship requirements

- a. Scholarship recipients will be notified, and travel forms will be sent by 15 August 2025
- b. Scholarship recipients will be required to attend all events outlined in their scholarship acceptance letter. 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 to the IAHA office by 24 August 2026. **Failure to return the travel documents by this date will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.**
- d. Successful applicants must ensure they have leave from their employment secured before accepting the scholarship.
- e. All travel, accommodation and registration will be booked and paid for by IAHA using awarded scholarship funds, upon receipt of completed travel documents submitted by successful applicants.
- f. If found suitable for an externally sponsored scholarship, an applicant's name, city and profession may be shared with the external sponsor.
- g. 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: cailah@iaha.com.au

