

Inclusion Scholarships for Social Work Placements

Frequently Asked Questions

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What are the Inclusion Scholarships for Social Work Placements (Placement Scholarships)?

The Victorian Government is supporting future social workers by making it easier to complete mandatory practical placements. Placement Scholarships will help reduce the financial burden of placements for students who need this support most, supporting them to finish their degrees and start their careers.

What is the Scholarship value?

Placement Scholarships are \$7,500.

The scholarships will be paid to successful applicants in two instalments. The first payment of \$4,000 will be made following your university Census date, and the second of \$3,500 at a mid-placement milestone.

Successful applicants can use scholarship payments to help meet day to day living expenses while undertaking placements.

When are scholarships being offered?

Scholarships will be available for placements being undertaken during the 2024 and 2025 academic years.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for a Placement Scholarship, you must be:

- a domestic student. This means that you are either an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen (or dual citizenship holders of either Australia or New Zealand), an Australian permanent resident or an Australian permanent visa holder.
- completing a social work placement in 2024 or 2025 as part of an accredited Bachelor or Master of Social Work with one of the following Victorian public universities:
 - Deakin University
 - Federation University
 - La Trobe University
 - Monash University
 - RMIT University
 - University of Melbourne
 - Victoria University
- live in Victoria or a defined border community
- meet one or more of the socio-economic and demographic criteria listed below.

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Families,
Fairness
and Housing

The socio-economic criteria are:

- people from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. For example you may receive ABSTUDY, a government pension or other government payment or allowance
- people with experience of engaging with social or community services (see question below).

The demographic criteria are:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- people from refugee, asylum seeker or multicultural backgrounds
- LGBTIQ+ people
- people with disability
- people with caring responsibilities, including single parents, and people caring for a person with disability, chronic health conditions, mental illness, or who is frail or aged (as defined by the *Cth Carer Recognition Act*)
- people who live in regional or rural Victoria or defined border communities.

What does ‘experience of engaging with social or community services’ mean?

This can include students or their families who have lived in social or public housing, or have accessed or been involved with homelessness services, family violence or sexual assault services, child and family supports including Child Protection or out-of-home care, or youth justice. It also includes those who’ve sought treatment and support for an ongoing mental health condition or for alcohol or drug addiction.

Will I receive a scholarship if I meet the eligibility criteria?

Placement Scholarships are limited and eligible applicants are not guaranteed a scholarship. An assessment process will prioritise applications according to the above criteria.

I currently receive another scholarship. Am I still eligible?

If you are currently receiving the following scholarships you are ineligible to apply for a Placement Scholarship:

- Students who are studying the Master of Social Work (Child and Family Practice) as part of the Switch to Social Work program
- Social work students receiving scholarships through the Victorian Government Mental Health and Wellbeing Workforce Scholarships Program
- Students receiving an academic scholarship through another organisation, including a university, that is valued at over \$7,500 per year.

What are the application dates?

First round applications will open on 13 November 2023 and close on 10 December 2023. Further application rounds will be open in 2024 and 2025.

When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application by 22 January 2024.

How do I apply?

You can apply online from 13 November 2023 at [Inclusion Scholarships for Social Work Placements](http://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/inclusion-scholarships-social-work-placements) <www.dffh.vic.gov.au/inclusion-scholarships-social-work-placements>.

Can I apply now for a scholarship if I am undertaking a placement in 2025?

No. Your placements must be taken in the semesters that coincide with or immediately follow each scholarship round. For example, if you are undertaking a placement in the second or third semesters of 2024 you should apply for a scholarship in the mid 2024 round.

What information do I need to apply?

You will need one of the following proof of identity documents:

- Australian passport or New Zealand passport
- Medicare card
- Victorian drivers licence or learner permit
- Foreign passport (for those issued with an Australian permanent resident or humanitarian visa)

You will also need to provide evidence that supports your application including:

- name of your educational institution and program of study
- student ID number from your educational institution
- Unique Student Identifier number
- your current Victorian or eligible border community residential address (i.e., where you are living while you study)
- your home address if it differs from your current residential address
- any government payments or benefits you receive.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed using the information and evidence you provide and evaluated according to the eligibility criteria.

If I am awarded a scholarship but my placement does not proceed, can I still receive the scholarship payments?

If you withdraw from your program of study following the university census date or take a leave of absence in accordance with your university's policy, you may not be able to claim both scholarship payments and may be required to return payments.

In special circumstances, consideration may be given to holding the scholarship place for recipients who need to take a leave of absence from their placement or their studies for reasons beyond their control. You will be responsible for providing sufficient reasons or evidence to be considered as a special case. The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing may also seek information from your university to confirm an approved leave of absence.

If you are successful in obtaining a scholarship but choose to defer your studies, your scholarship offer may be rescinded.

What happens if I defer or withdraw from my studies?

You may be required to repay some or all of your scholarship payment in the event of a course deferral or withdrawal. Decisions regarding repayment are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

How will my information be used?

Your information will be used to assess your scholarship application. By accepting a Placement Scholarship you also consent to your information being used for the monitoring and evaluation of the program. All information will be deidentified and treated in accordance with the privacy statement set out in the program guidelines.

Will you share information about me with my university?

The specific socio-economic and demographic information that you provide will not be shared with your university. Your university will be asked to verify that you are enrolled in and have commenced your placement, and that you have met mid-placement milestones.

Universities will not be asked to provide information about your university results or progress, or to provide any advice on your suitability for a scholarship.

Who do I contact for further information?

For further information, please visit [Inclusion Scholarships for Social Work Placements](http://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/inclusion-scholarships-social-work-placements) <www.dffh.vic.gov.au/inclusion-scholarships-social-work-placements>. If you have any further questions, you can email placement.scholarships@grants.vic.gov.au.

To receive this document in another format, [email Placement Scholarships](mailto:placement.scholarships@grants.vic.gov.au)
<placement.scholarships@grants.vic.gov.au>.

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Available at [Inclusion Scholarships for Social Work Students webpage](http://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/inclusion-scholarships-social-work-placements) <www.dffh.vic.gov.au/inclusion-scholarships-social-work-placements>