



Lift Off Education Scholarship Guidelines

PLEASE READ this document carefully before completing the on-line application form

Introduction:

Lift Off Education Scholarships are available for young people, from the designated Goulburn Valley area, who are planning to undertake post-secondary education. *Lift Off* aims to help overcome financial and other barriers to higher education and increase the numbers of young people achieving their potential.

Lift Off is a program of Greater Shepparton Foundation in collaboration with the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project. Students who have attended secondary schooling in the following communities are eligible to apply: Kyabram, Nathalia, Numurkah, Cobram, Mooroopna, Shepparton, Euroa and Rushworth.

Overview:

Lift Off Education Scholarships are open to Goulburn Valley students primarily aged 17 to 24 years (there are exceptions; refer to specific scholarship guidelines) who attended schooling in the above-mentioned areas and who plan to attend university, TAFE (or in some cases an established Registered Training Organisation) A rigorous application and selection process will be conducted.

You may apply for a Lift Off Education Scholarship as a –

- School leaver completing secondary school in 2024
- Gap year applicant having deferred study in 2024 (*Note, you must upload proof below of course acceptance/deferral)
- Pathway applicant having completed a pathway certificate or pathway course in 2024 (*Note, you must upload proof below of certificate/course completed)
- Applicant applying to complete a pathway certificate or pathway course in 2025
- Post graduate applicant having completed graduate studies in 2024

Terms and Conditions:

- Students who are offered a scholarship will be required to sign a Scholarship Agreement indicating their acceptance of the offer and the terms and conditions
- Awardees will NOT be able to defer commencement of their course (However, those that have deferred a course in 2024 may be eligible to apply)
- Awardees must demonstrate progressing satisfactorily through their chosen course
- Awardees must remain a full-time (or part-time if applicable) enrolled student at the University or TAFE (or in some cases an established Registered Training Organisation) at which the scholarship was granted.
- The Scholarship funds are to be spent on fees, accommodation, books and/or equipment relevant to their studies.
- You are required to declare if you have received a scholarship/s from another scholarship program, have applied for another scholarship/s or plan on applying to another scholarship program/s.
- Payment of the scholarship funds may be made in a lump sum (for 1-year scholarships) or in annual instalments over the term of the scholarship - other options may be mutually agreed to.

Scholarships Available for study in 2024:

A variety of education scholarships will be on offer in 2025 ranging from one year \$2,000 scholarships to three year \$10,000 scholarships. All applications will be considered for any scholarships for which the applicant meets the criteria.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants are Australian citizens or have Australian residency status
- Have submitted a scholarship application before the closing date
- Have had their applications endorsed by uploading a letter of support from their responsible person with their application.

(A “responsible person” here refers to: A School Principal, House Leader, Year Level Coordinator, or a person who knows of your difficult circumstances. **It MUST NOT be a family member.**)

APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THIS LETTER OF SUPPORT

NOTE: You may use the letter submitted with your VTAC application

- Will be under the age of 25 as of January 1, 2025 (with exception for specific no age restriction scholarships) in the year they commence their study.
- Are a resident of the defined Goulburn Valley communities as listed in the above introduction
- If successful, will accept a post-secondary place to study for a VET Qualification, Diploma or above

Selection Criteria:

- Scholarship selection is based on equity issues such as:
 - Financial need, evidence of disadvantage or hardship and other barriers to study
 - Personal attributes and attitude of applicant
 - Capacity and willingness of applicant to act as an ambassador for the scholarship program
 - Evidence of prior community service
- Applications will be individually assessed and may be shortlisted for interview. Interviews form part of the application process. All applications and interviews will be treated in the strictest confidence.
- Selection of scholarship recipients will be managed by the *Lift Off* Scholarship Selection Panel and approved by Greater Shepparton Foundation Board
- The Scholarship Selection Panel will consider the following in selecting scholarship recipients:
 - Demonstrated leadership in their local community, for example, participation in community organisations, events, sporting clubs etc., volunteering and/or mentoring experience, sharing family roles and responsibilities, extra-curricular roles at school
 - Managing and/or overcoming personal difficulties i.e. financial or personal disadvantage, cultural issues, non-English speaking background, remoteness, disability, loss of one or more parent, etc.
 - The level of likely impact on their life and rural/ regional Victoria if awarded a scholarship

Key Dates and Procedures:

- Applications open: **October 2024 (date to be confirmed)**
- Applications close: **December 2024 (date to be confirmed)**
- All applicants will be notified via an automated email response that their application has been received
- Each application will be individually assessed and shortlisted applicants will be notified via the mobile number or email address they have provided – **PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMPLETE THESE ACCURATELY IN YOUR APPLICATION SO YOU CAN BE CONTACTED IN EARLY JANUARY 2025**
- Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by a scholarship selection panel in the week commencing mid-January, 2025
- All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their applications via email by the end of January 2025
- Scholarships will be awarded in February 2025 and funds forwarded upon confirmation of enrolment

How to Apply:

1. Please carefully read the Terms and Conditions before submitting your application
2. Ensure that a responsible person is willing to endorse your application by submitting a Letter of Support. This letter of endorsement **MUST** be uploaded with your application.
The supporting documents used for your VTAC SEAS application may be used:
Category 2: Disadvantaged financial background
Category 3: Disability or medical condition
Category 4: Difficult circumstances

REMINDER: Applications will NOT be considered if a Letter of Support is not received.

3. Apply online from **October 2024 (date to be confirmed)** at www.greatershepparton.foundation
4. Closing date for applications is **December 2024 (date to be confirmed)**

If, after reading the information above, you have further queries, please email _ or phone 0447 400 443

