

POLICY TITLE: First Peoples Equity Scholarship

Purpose

To define the rules for the allocation of the First Peoples Equity Scholarship by Photography Studies College (Melbourne) (“College”) for applicants that are enrolled into the Bachelor of Photography and Digital Imaging, one of our Higher Education courses.

Policy

The Board of the College approved this Scholarship to provide a consistent and responsive student experience in all college interactions. The values of the College emphasize diversity through which it encourages and celebrates the diverse backgrounds and interests of students and staff. The College recognizes the unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians. The College acknowledges the complexity and diversity of First Peoples extensive knowledge and culture over 60,000 years and commits to acknowledging the work of First Peoples photographers through the curriculum. The College supports First Peoples student success by promoting well-being, participation, engagement and achievement. The ability to help fund First Peoples students forms part of promoting the College as the market leader in photographic education.

The College may award scholarships for up to two applicants identifying as of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent and applying to study the Bachelor of Photography and Digital Imaging. In some instances, initial application for the Undergraduate Certificate of Photography may be considered. The value of the Scholarship is \$7,500 per year (representing 29% of the yearly fees).

To be eligible for this Scholarship, the student must meet all the following criteria:

- Applicants must identify as of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent and provide supporting documentation;
- Be eligible for and in receipt of ABSTUDY; and
- Meet the entrance requirements for the Bachelor of Photography and Digital Imaging.

Procedure

The College recognizes that additional assistance may be required by some First Peoples students in providing supporting documentation due to the complexity of issues and the lengthy process involved. Assistance will be provided by Admissions staff and may include help with such processes as applying for a Birth Certificate, Tax File Number (TFN), Proof of Identity while awaiting Confirmation of Aboriginality, Proof of Address, and assistance with Commonwealth Government forms.

Application for Scholarship

Applications for this scholarship are to be made through the online application found at: <https://psc.edu.au/first-peoples-scholarship-application>

The Librarian will receive and manage the Scholarship application process. Any queries are to be directed to the Librarian.

The applicant will be required to submit a statement (approximately 200 words) about their previous achievements and their reasons for wanting to study at the College. After receipt of an application, the Librarian will request the following:

- (a) A resume (if applicable) and documentation of any qualifications such as an Undergraduate Certificate or TAFE Qualifications;
- (b) A letter of 'Proof' or 'Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Heritage'.
- (c) The student will provide information on where they intend to reside for the duration of the study period, and whether they intend to relocate if currently living in a regional area.

Upon approval:

- If the student is approved for the Scholarship, they will be asked to complete the Bank Detail Form.
- An amount of \$7,500 per year is to be paid in three tranches. \$2,500 to be paid on commencement of the course; \$2,500 to be paid after 8 weeks active participation in Tier 1 and, upon successful completion of Tier 1, \$2,500 to be paid after 8 weeks active participation in Tier 2.
- If the student's course load reduces from a full-time study load, the scholarship amount will reduce accordingly.
- Student Services will advise the Finance Department if the student is still enrolled and attending classes past the Census Date in each semester.
- A student must satisfactorily complete each year as determined by the Higher Education Course Director. The Scholarship cannot be deferred.

Responsibility

Librarian
Finance Department
Head of Business Development and Student Experience
Senior Prospective Student Manager
Student Services Administration Coordinator
Higher Education Course Director
Wellbeing Coordinator

Definitions

Active participation – means remaining enrolled in the course past the Census date **and** attending in person at least 80% of lectures during the relevant semester as required under the College’s Student Progress and Exclusion Policy.

Person of Authority – A person within a community in which the student lives, or formerly lived, such as an Elder, teacher or doctor etc.

Proof of Aboriginality – being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; identifying as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island person, or being accepted as such by the community in which you live, or formerly lived.

Scholarship – Financial assistance for First Peoples students who would otherwise be unable to experience a Photography Studies College (Melbourne) education.

Related Documentation

Policies

Access Equity and Anti-Discrimination
Disability Access
Student Code of Conduct
Support for Students
Student Progress and Exclusion
Grievance Handling Policy and procedure

Procedures Forms & Documents

Student Handbook
First Peoples Equity Scholarship Application
First Peoples Agreement (includes Terms and Conditions)
Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
OECD Supporting Success for Indigenous Students 2017

Publishing Details

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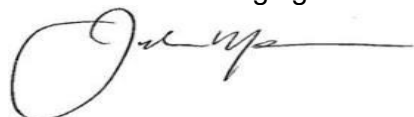
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Julie Moss – Managing Director



First Peoples Equity Scholarship – Supporting Procedures

Application

On application, a student who identifies as of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent will be directed to PSC's First Peoples Equity Scholarship Application.

The College also participates in VTAC's Special Entry Assistant Scheme (SEAS). Category 1 'Personal Information' is designed for applicants who wish to be considered for circumstances relating to age, recognition as a First Peoples Australian, living or school location, attending an under-represented school, applying for courses which have historically been under-represented by a specific gender, coming from a non-English speaking background or being the first in family to attend a tertiary institution.

Confirmation of Aboriginality

Supporting documentation sometimes takes time to put together, and it is recommended that applicants start this process when applying for enrolment.

- The College will accept a Confirmation of Aboriginality from the appropriate Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation; OR
- Should the applicant be in the process of obtaining a confirmation document, the College will accept a Statutory Declaration which declares that the applicant lives and identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which they live or have lived.

- As a Confirmation of Aboriginality is not required to identify as an Indigenous person, the College will accept a letter from a person of authority within a community in which the applicant lives, or formerly lived, such as Elder, teacher, doctor or lawyer etc. confirming Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage.

FEE-HELP Loan

Once an offer in a Course has been accepted, the College will forward a link to enable application for a FEE-HELP loan by completion of a 'Request for a FEE-HELP Loan' form as an eCAF. This must be submitted to the College prior to the Census Date, together with a Tax File Number (TFN), and Unique Student Identifier (USI).

If necessary, application for a TFN can be completed through: www.ato.gov.au/TFN. An Indigenous Helpline is provided on 13 10 30. If it is considered that the TFN will not be available by the Census Date, a 'Certificate of Application for a TFN' is available from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).