

Guidelines for Ara Advantage Scholarships

What Scholarships Cover

Ara Advantage scholarships are either payment-based or fees-based. This means that the successful applicant can decide how they would like to receive this scholarship. For example, the scholarship can be paid as a regular direct credit payment ('stipend') to a bank account nominated by the learner, or the learner can choose to use the scholarship to go towards the payment of programme/course fees.

Eligibility

Ara Advantage scholarships are available to all domestic and international learners, prospective or current, except for the Māori and Pacific Scholarship which is available to learners of Māori and/or Pacific descent only.

For the purpose of scholarships, 'of Pacific descent' refers to citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand who are of indigenous Pacific descent from any of the following islands: Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Fiji, Rotuma, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Wallis and Futuna, Hawaii, French Polynesia, Nauru and Rapanui (Easter Island).

All scholarships are available for learners entering into any year of their study at Ara, full-time or part-time.

All scholarships are available to learners at any Ara campus, providing the associated programme is offered there.

Learners eligible for the Government's fees-free scheme or Trades Training and Apprenticeship Funding (TTAF) are also eligible for a scholarship during the time of their fees-free study. In these instances, the successful applicant will receive the scholarship as a regular direct credit payment ('stipend') into their nominated bank account.

Learners must be studying directly with Ara. Programmes offered through partnerships and subcontracting arrangements are not eligible. These include:

- TANZ eCampus
- SIGNAL
- Road Transport programmes
- Bachelor of Nursing (Articulated with University of Canterbury Master of Health Science)

Ara renews its portfolio of scholarship provision on an annual basis. Ara reserves the right to withdraw scholarship provision (in year).

A maximum of one Ara scholarship per applicant can be awarded in any 12-month period. However, Ara does not place a limit on the value of additional external scholarships available to applicants in any given year, unless otherwise stated in eligibility criteria.

Decisions made by the Scholarships Evaluation Panel are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Scholarships Offered

All Ara Advantage scholarships are worth \$4000 per equivalent full-time student enrolment with a maximum per semester of \$2000. There are three opportunities per year to apply:

- July/August: for study in the following calendar year
- December/January: for study in the year of receiving the scholarship
- April/May: for study commencing in July of that year

Learners can apply during any of the application periods provided they are studying in at least one of the two semesters covered by the scholarship period.

Māori and Pacific Scholarship:

The purpose of this scholarship is to support Māori and Pacific learners to access and succeed in tertiary study at Ara. This scholarship is available to learners of Māori or Pacific descent only.

Equity Scholarship:

The purpose of this scholarship is to support the equitable inclusion of diverse learner groups to access and succeed in tertiary study at Ara. This includes learners facing disadvantage (e.g., financial, disability or other challenges) and/or inequitable access to tertiary education which would otherwise represent a barrier to access tertiary study at Ara.

Leadership Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to support learners who exhibit leadership potential to access and succeed in tertiary study at Ara. This includes learners involved in activities at school, at a tertiary education institution, in the community, and/or in sport and cultural pursuits in which leadership has been demonstrated.

Excellence Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to support high-achieving learners who exhibit all-round ability and academic excellence to access and succeed in tertiary study at Ara. This includes those learners best placed to make a positive impact on society in their future career.

Tips for Applicants

Writing Your Personal Statement

Think of your personal statement like a job application; you need to put your best foot forward and convince us that you are the best candidate for this scholarship.

- Start by introducing yourself; tell us about your background, where you've studied and/or worked and what your interests are.
- Tell us why you want to study this programme.
- Describe any experience you have in this area (paid or volunteer work, study etc).

- Explain what your intentions and career aspirations are once you complete your studies.
- Tell us why you believe you are a good candidate for this scholarship (be sure to read the entry criteria thoroughly and give examples of how you meet the criteria).
- Describe how this scholarship will help you to achieve your goals.

Selecting Your Referees

As part of your application, you will be required to provide the names and contact details of two people to be your referees. Your referees will also need to fill out a referee report.

The best referees are:

- teachers, tutors, trainers, or lecturers
- employers or work experience supervisors
- sports coaches
- volunteer work organisers
- community leaders or religious leaders
- people you've worked closely with from other agencies

Referees must not be immediate family, friends, or flatmates.

Ensure your referees are aware of the scholarship you are applying for so they can include comments on how you meet the criteria for that scholarship.

Responsibilities of Successful Applicants

You may be asked to allow your name and photo to be used in the promotion of scholarships.

If you choose to change from full-time to part-time study (or vice versa) during the year, Ara reserves the right to adjust the scholarship arrangement as appropriate. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

If you withdraw from your programme of study, Ara reserves the right to end the scholarship arrangement.

If you switch to a different Ara campus after your programme of study has commenced, the scholarship will remain with you.

You may be required to pass the courses you undertake to continue to receive scholarship funding.