

# Mayoral Academic Scholarship Program

## TERMS & CONDITIONS 2026

### 1. ESTABLISHMENT

- 1.1 Port Stephens Council has established the Scholarships program in partnership with local businesses with the purpose of encouraging and assisting students from the Port Stephens Local Government Area to pursue their academic goals.
- 1.2 The 2026 Mayoral Academic Scholarships program will be open for applications from 9am 22 July 2025 and close at 5pm 3 December 2025. No late applications will be accepted.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 In these conditions,

"Scholarship" means financial support for a student to attend an approved tertiary institution, such as University or TAFE;

"Scholar" means a recipient of a scholarship;

"Program" means the program of study in which the scholar is enrolled;

"Immediate family" means any of the following: spouse, ex-spouse, defacto spouse, child or step child (whether natural or by adoption), parent, step parent, grandparent, step grandparent, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, brother (including half-brother or step brother), sister (including half-sister or step sister), or first cousin.

"Gap year" means a period, typically an academic year, taken by a student as a break between school (year 12) and University or TAFE education

### 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 The Scholarship is available to candidates who:
  - 3.1.1 Will be undertaking their first full year of study towards a Diploma or higher level qualification at an accredited tertiary educational institution (eg TAFE, university) in 2026;
  - 3.1.2 Currently live in the Port Stephens Local Government Area;
  - 3.1.3 Are an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia; and
  - 3.1.4 Whose tertiary studies are not financially supported by their employer or have not been awarded a scholarship.
  - 3.1.5 Must be attending an accredited institute in Australia
  - 3.1.6 Applications are open to candidates who are completing year 12 in 2025 or completed year 12 in 2024 (i.e. taken a gap year)
- 3.2 Port Stephens Council Councillors, Contractors and employees and their immediate families are ineligible to apply for this program.

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### 4. SELECTION

- 4.1** Applicants must complete and submit the application, including attachments, as outlined by Port Stephens Council.
- 4.2** Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to attend an interview where the applicant's ATAR score and acceptance letter from an accredited institute must be supplied prior to the interview.
- 4.3** A selection panel will endorse the awarding of all Scholarships.
- 4.4** The selection panel shall comprise of Port Stephens Council representatives.
- 4.5** Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of suitability across the following areas:
  - academic merit;
  - quality of resume;
  - character references;
  - community interaction and involvement;
  - performance at interview; and
  - other circumstances, such as hardship, social disadvantage or disability.
- 4.6** Successful candidates will make themselves available to attend the Presentation Evening at a venue in Port Stephens in mid-February 2026.

### 5. CONDITIONS OF AWARD

- 5.1** Each Scholarship is for one year and must be taken up in the year it is awarded.
- 5.2** Each Scholar must continue to be enrolled in a tertiary training institution in the year the Scholarship is awarded.
- 5.3** Successful applicants must attend and participate in the Presentation Ceremony.

### 6. BENEFIT

- 6.1** The Scholarship provides a total of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to be paid in full shortly following the Presentation Ceremony.

### 7. TERMINATION

- 7.1** A Scholarship shall terminate before the conclusion date and must be repaid to Council if the Scholar:
  - 7.1.1** fails to fulfil any of the conditions of the Scholarship;
  - 7.1.2** fails to meet any of the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 3;
  - 7.1.3** relinquishes the Scholarship;
  - 7.1.4** ceases to be a student at their nominated tertiary institution during the period of the Scholarship without approval by Council.
- 7.2** In the event of termination, the scholarship monies will be a debt recoverable by Council on a pro-rata basis based on when the termination occurs during the academic year.