

Graduate Women Victoria

Formerly AFUW Victoria

Information for Scholarship Applicants

Applications

Application forms for each scholarship are available on our website www.afuwvic.org.au

The requirements are slightly different for each one and applicants are advised to follow the instructions carefully, taking particular note of the supporting documentation required.

Please note:

- Closing date for applications is **31 March**.
- Information provided by applicants will be kept confidential to the Graduate Women Victoria Scholarship Subcommittee & Examiners.
- All documents submitted become the property of Graduate Women Victoria.
- Applications are shredded at the end of the process.
- Graduate Women Victoria regrets that incomplete or late applications cannot be considered.
- Decisions of the adjudicating panels are final and no correspondence or discussion regarding their decisions will be entered into.

Completed applications should be sent to:

Graduate Women Victoria
C/- Irene Axup
PO Box 558
Bentleigh
Victoria 3204

See also *Frequently Asked Questions* and the *Privacy Policy* on our website www.afuwvic.org.au

Supporting documentation

Supporting documentation includes a certified transcript of all academic results to date. Transcripts may be obtained from your university administration. Do not send the original but take a photocopy to a university administration office or a police station or other qualified person or organisation. Each certified copy must bear the signature, stamp of the organisation and a statement saying that the copy is a true and correct copy of the original(s).

Referee Reports

Download the Referee Guidelines relevant to your scholarship and give them to your referees. For most scholarships, two academic references are required.

If you are applying for the Diploma of Education or Postgraduate Coursework scholarships and have recently returned to study after an interval, one employment reference and one academic reference will be acceptable.

Applicants for the scholarship for Indigenous students are asked to provide one reference from a member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and one academic reference.

Demonstrating Disadvantage

Applicants must demonstrate to the satisfaction of Graduate Women Victoria that they are or have been disadvantaged in the pursuit of their studies. Disadvantage may include:

- Financial difficulty or low income
- English as a second language
- Migrant or refugee status
- Disability or medical condition
- Identification as Aboriginal or Torres Islander
- Delay or interruption to career or studies because of family responsibilities or illness
- Geographical isolation

Applicants are asked to provide two kinds of documentary evidence to demonstrate their disadvantage:

- A personal impact statement explaining how your circumstances have affected their studies in the past, are affecting you now and may affect you in the future and
- Supporting documentation as evidence for each of your disadvantages.

Examples of personal impact statements and documentation are given below.

Jane

“During my secondary schooling, I acquired a chronic medical condition which requires that I spend a day in hospital once a month having a blood transfusion. I also experience fatigue and other symptoms, especially in the week before the transfusion. I have to miss classes for the transfusion and at other times if I am unwell. I find it difficult to submit assignments on time. My condition is stable, but is unlikely to improve much in the future. I am only able to work part time in the vacation and rely on my Centrelink benefit for support. I live at home with my mother and I pay board from my Centrelink benefit.

Jane attaches a copy of her Centrelink card and a letter from the Disability Liaison Officer at her university to her application.

Mary

“I am a single parent with two children, aged 4 and 2. I have to pay for child care when I attend university as I do not have any family close by. I rely mainly on my Centrelink benefit

for financial support, as the father of my children is reluctant to pay child support. The children require constant care and supervision, so I can only study at night when they are in bed.”

Mary attaches a copy of her Centrelink card and the invoice from the Child Care Centre to her application.

Lee

“I am supported by my husband who has a PhD scholarship after completing his undergraduate studies part-time. We migrated from another country 10 years ago and have achieved Australian citizenship. My first language was not English and I learned English only when I arrived in Australia. I still struggle with writing academic English for my assignments. I work part time as a casual cleaner, but it is difficult to find enough money to pay for the materials for my art course after we have paid for rent and bills etc.”

Lee attaches copies of her own and her husband’s income tax return and of her certificate of Australian citizenship.

Anne

“I live two hours’ drive from the university where I am enrolled, so it is time-consuming and expensive for me to travel to meet with my supervisor and undertake research in the library for my thesis. I live with my mother, who is suffering from a chronic medical condition and I am responsible for her care at night. It is therefore difficult for me to carry out my research program and I may have to revert to part time enrolment, which would lengthen the time taken to complete my thesis.”

Anne attaches a letter from her mother’s doctor indicating her responsibilities for her care. Her address on the application form and university documents give evidence of geographical isolation.

Any questions?

It is essential that you read carefully all the information on the website, including the application form, guidelines for referees and the Frequently Asked Questions.

Documents required for each scholarship vary slightly, so you should follow the directions on the application form carefully.

If you still need assistance, you may email the Scholarship Secretary ireneaxup@hotmail.com

For *urgent* enquiries ONLY you may telephone Irene Axup on 0417 587 839

Please note that the Graduate Women Victoria Scholarship Program is run by volunteers. We will answer your question as soon as possible.