

Australian Physiotherapy Association – 2026 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Physiotherapy Scholarship Terms and Conditions

Overview

- The APA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Physiotherapy Scholarship (the Scholarship) aims to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander physiotherapists in Australia by supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students to complete a physiotherapy degree.
- Up to four (4) Scholarships are currently awarded each year.

Scholarship Value

- The value of the Scholarship is a once-off payment of \$5,000 (provided in one lump sum).
- It is the responsibility of applicants to seek advice from Centrelink on how the Scholarship payment may affect ABSTUDY or any other government payments.

Eligibility

- To be eligible for the Scholarship, applicants must be:
 - of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. For the purposes of this Scholarship, an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person is; someone of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; who identifies as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives or has lived.
 - enrolled at an Australian university in a physiotherapy course.

Applications

- Applicants must complete the application form and submit it, along with the required supporting documentation, to the APA by the nominated closing date.
- **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**

Selection

- The Scholarship will be awarded to successful recipients on the recommendation of an APA selection panel.
- Selection of the Scholarship recipient will be based on:
 - A statement provided by the applicant describing their driving influence/motivation to become a physiotherapist.
 - A statement provided by the applicant describing how they will contribute to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health as a qualified physiotherapist; and
 - Reports from referees familiar with the applicant's work and suitability for a career in physiotherapy.
- In awarding the Scholarship, preference will be given to applicants who do not already hold any other scholarship or bursary. **Applicants must declare on the application form whether they hold a current scholarship or bursary.**

Deferrals

- Recipients must notify the APA, in writing, of any intention to defer study. The APA may consider granting a deferral of study for a maximum of 12 months, whilst allowing the recipient to retain the Scholarship. This is subject to approval by the APA.

Termination

- The Scholarship may be suspended, terminated, or withheld if any false or misleading information is provided on the application, or relevant information is omitted from the application.

Publicity and Reporting

- Recipients may be contacted by the APA to participate in publicity of the Scholarship from time to time. This may include, but is not limited to, an interview or a photograph.
- The APA may also request written responses from recipients which can include a basic profile, descriptions of university experiences and information about how the Scholarship has supported recipients in undertaking their studies.

Performance and Expectations

- Scholarship recipients are expected to complete all assessments and exams as required by their university.
- Scholarship recipients are required to be/become APA members and commit to maintaining membership for five (5) years after completion of their studies.