

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the scholarship?

The Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship Program is for **year 8 girls** attending **Australian Public Schools** who demonstrate **Academic Excellence**, **face financial barriers**, and are **highly motivated to succeed** at school and pursue tertiary education.

Are these scholarships national?

Yes. The scholarships are available to Australian students from all states and territories, whether you live in a city, regional town, or a rural community. To date we have awarded nearly 1500 scholarships to girls throughout Australia.

What are the criteria? Do I have to be in Year 8 to apply?

Yes, you need to be in Year 8 at the time of your application and meet the basic eligibility and selection criteria:

BASIC ELIGIBILITY

- Female student entering Year 9 in 2026
 - Enrolled and attending an Australian government/public school
-

SELECTION CRITERIA

There are 3 selection criteria:

- 1. Demonstrated Academic Excellence:** Consistently achieving **outstanding** or **high** academic results across Maths, Science and English, along with **NAPLAN** results in the **Exceeding** or **Strong** bands. Scholars also do well in all other subjects.
- 2. Financial Barriers:** This scholarship is specifically designed to support girls from low-income households or those experiencing significant financial barriers for accessing education. Our aim is to support girls who, owing to their family's economic circumstances, find it challenging to pursue their academic ambitions.
- 3. Highly motivated to succeed at school and pursue tertiary education:** This means, but is not limited to:
 - the intention to go to university or other tertiary education
 - excellent attendance at school
 - contribution to the school community
 - active in school and / or community life
 - leadership in school or extracurricular activities
 - self-starting and motivated
 - desire to succeed in future life
 - a positive attitude to education
 - a real desire to learn

I want to apply for a Harding Miller scholarship. How do I do this?

It is easy to apply. Go to hardingmillereducationfoundation.org.au during the application period and click on the **APPLY NOW** link.

You can start your application, save it and come back to it later. All applications must be submitted by 11.59pm AEST on 1 September 2025.

Can I apply more than once?

No. You can only apply once, and you must be in Year 8 when you submit your application.

Do I have to get over a certain grade to qualify?

You need to have demonstrated Academic Excellence – consistently achieving high or outstanding academic results across Maths, Science and English, along with NAPLAN results in the Exceeding or Strong bands. You should also do well in all other subjects. Your attitude and commitment to studying and doing well at school also need to be evident in your application.

I have won another scholarship already. Can I still apply for this?

Yes. You can still apply if you meet our criteria. We are happy for you to have more than one scholarship, as long as you remain in a government school.

I am not an Australian citizen. Can I still apply?

Yes, you can still apply. Evidence of your visa status is required to be included in our application and your visa must be for the length of the scholarship.

How many applications do you receive every year?

We receive hundreds of applications every year – and this is increasing as more people hear about the scholarship and are inspired by the success stories of our Harding Miller scholars.

How many scholarships do you award every year?

The number of scholarships is dependent on funding. We currently support 778 scholars in Years 9 to 12 and have awarded ~230 scholarships in each of the past two years.

How do you define financial barriers?

You are from a low-income household or experiencing significant financial barriers to accessing education. Our aim is to support girls who, owing to their family's economic circumstances, find it challenging to pursue their academic ambitions.

In addition to a low-income household, what are other factors should I include in my application?

In our experience, we generally see students who experience a combination of the following factors:

- Having an immigrant, asylum or refugee background (personally or parents)
- Identifying as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Living with low parental or carer academic achievement
- Living with a disability (personally or family members)
- Living in out-of-home care (not with either parent)
- Living in a geographically isolated area
- Suffering misfortune or destitution
- Living with family violence or dysfunction

Do all the scholarships offer the same in all states and territories?

Yes, every scholarship is the same, for all girls in government schools, across all regions of Australia.

Are the Quinn scholarships different to Harding Miller scholarships?

The Quinn scholarships are the same as the Harding Miller scholarships. They are financed and supported by the Quinn Femelle Foundation, which is why they are called the Quinn scholarships for Queenslanders.

Can I still apply if I do not have a teacher to support me?

No. As part of the application, you need your principal to provide a reference. The reference can be written by an assistant principal or your year coordinator but it must be signed by the principal, and it needs to be on school letterhead.

Are the scholarships only for girls? Can boys apply?

Only girls are eligible to apply for the Harding Miller scholarship program. Our founders believe that educating girls has the potential to create societal change by breaking the cycle of poverty and stimulating economic growth.

Do I have to give the laptop back at the end of the scholarship?

If you complete Year 12 and provide us with your ATAR result, the laptop is yours to keep.

How much is a scholarship worth and what does it include?

Scholarships are valued at approximately \$20,000 over the course of four years. Successful applicants for 2026 will receive the following support:

- High-quality laptop and help desk support
- 4G mobile broadband including 20GB internet per month
- Personal one-to-one (face-to-face or online) tutoring
- Subscription to an online study help provider
- \$700.00 pre-paid card for school expenses per year
- Mentoring from a personal volunteer coach
- Access to a range of other study skills and career enrichment resources and experiences

Scholars also receive access to Enhanced Learning study skills program and many other career and educational enrichment opportunities.

What is the selection process?

Your application will be reviewed by a judging panel, which includes representatives from the Harding Miller Education Foundation, Departments of Education, and other independent judges.

Members of the judging panels assess each application against the selection criteria and provide their recommendations to the Harding Miller selection committee for consideration and approval, subject to available funding.

When will I find out if I've been successful?

We will send you an email to notify you of the outcome of your application by mid December. Your principal and parents and/or guardians will also be notified.

Is there someone I can call if I get stuck with my application?

Please call the Harding Miller Education Foundation on 1300 103 896 or email info@hardingmiller.org.au.