

PRINCIPAL'S REFERENCE GUIDELINES

(Please give a copy of these guidelines to your Principal)

A student at your school is currently applying for a Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship. This scholarship provides a range of tools and practical support to lift the educational and career aspirations of Australian girls who have demonstrated academic excellence while facing financial barriers.

Each scholarship is valued at \$20,000 over 4 years and includes:

- A high-quality laptop and internet access
- IT support throughout the scholarship period
- Personal 1:1 tutoring
- Prepaid cards to assist with school essentials
- Access to online homework help
- A dedicated personal coach/mentor
- Invitations to special future success enrichment activities that provides development and learning opportunities

To be eligible, a student must be in year 8 in 2025 - entering year 9 in 2026 and enrolled in an Australian government/ public school.

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

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PO Box 1026, Rozelle NSW 2039 | 145 Darling Street, Balmain NSW 2041 | P: 1300 103 896 | E: info@hardingmilller.org.au
ABN: 51 607 194 641 | ACN: 607 194 641

As part of the scholarship application, we are asking you to provide supporting information to allow the judges and moderation committee to choose the students that best meet the scholarship criteria.

Your statement is an **essential source of information** for the judges as it provides local, expert and independent verification of the claims that the student has made in her application, and it is given **considerable weight** in the judging, moderation and selection processes. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated and will help us make the best decisions about the allocation of this valuable scholarship. Please tailor your statement to the applicant's circumstances as generic supporting statements will likely disadvantage the applicant.

Within your reference, please ensure you answer the following questions on a school letterhead and then sign it.

1. Does this student demonstrate high academic excellence?

Please explain how the applicant has demonstrated outstanding or high academic excellence, i.e. consistently achieving high or outstanding academic results across Maths, Science and English, along with NAPLAN results in the Exceeding or Strong bands. They may also have the ability to study high level English, Maths and Science in senior years. Include details on how she displays a commitment to her secondary education and whether she aspires to attend university. How does she perform/stand out relative to her peers? Please also explain how you think the scholarship will assist her to meet her ambitions and goals.

2. Is the student currently experiencing financial barriers? Provide details of the financial barriers they are facing and the impact it has on accessing education and the challenges they have to pursue their academic ambition.

Please explain whether this student is experiencing other hardship and how that might prevent her from successfully completing high school or continuing onto university.

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

- Living with very low income or experiencing financial hardship
- 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
- Living in a geographically isolated area
- Suffering misfortune or destitution
- Living with family violence or dysfunction

3. Does the student actively participate in school life?

Please explain how this student displays a commitment and enthusiasm to her school life outside minimum classroom expectations. Please also provide any additional information regarding this student that you would like to provide for consideration.

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4. Do you support this student's scholarship application?

In forming your recommendation, please consider whether she meets all three selection criteria and comment on the following:

- a. Do you believe that she will make the most of the scholarship resources and participate in scholarship program activities?
- b. Does she have ambitions to attend university?

You may provide additional information and answer in any format that suits you, but please ensure you have covered the above four questions within your response.

Please return your statement as a PDF file to the student who will then upload it to her online application.

OR

If you would prefer to send the reference directly and confidentially to the Harding Miller Education Foundation, please send it to info@hardingmiller.org.au with the scholar's name clearly identified in the file name. Some Principals prefer to do this, especially when they are providing references for multiple girls within the same year group. Please advise the student that you will be doing this so they can indicate this in their application – otherwise they will be unable to submit their application.

Thanks again for your time. The judges and moderation committee carefully consider Principal references. In such a competitive process, they make a significant difference for the applicants.

Applications close on Monday, 1 September 2025 (at 11.59PM Australian Eastern Standard Time)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns or would like to submit your reference to me personally.

Kind regards,

Natalie

Natalie Hall

Program Manager – Scholar Selection and Resources

[Harding Miller Education Foundation](http://HardingMillerEducationFoundation)

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