



Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship

PRINCIPAL'S REFERENCE FORM

For Year 8 students applying for a Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship

Please provide your reference on your school letterhead, answer the following questions, and sign the document.

PRINCIPAL ASSESSMENT

1. Academic Excellence

How would you rate this student's academic achievement?

- ☐ Exceptional (Top 1 - 2%)
- ☐ Outstanding (Top 5%)
- ☐ Very High (Top 10%)
- ☐ High (Top 20%)

Please comment on:

- academic performance across subjects
- strengths in English, Mathematics and Science
- learning potential
- work ethic and attitude to learning
- how she compares with students of a similar age
- aspirations for university or further education
- how this scholarship would help her achieve her goals

Response (approximately 250 - 500 words):

2. Financial Barriers

To your knowledge, how significant are this student's financial barriers?

Please describe the financial barriers or other circumstances that affect this student

Give the life-changing gift of education. 100% of donations go to supporting the scholars.

Where relevant, you may comment on matters such as:

- financial hardship
- refugee or asylum seeker background
- migrant background (English as a second language)
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background
- disability (student or immediate family)
- caring responsibilities
- family illness
- domestic violence
- out-of-home care/kinship care
- geographic isolation
- other significant disadvantage (e.g. single parent household)

Please also explain how these circumstances impact the student's education and why this scholarship would make a meaningful difference.

Response (approximately 250 - 500 words):

3. Motivation, Participation and Leadership

How would you rate this student's engagement and motivation with school?

- ☐ Exceptional
- ☐ Strong
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Satisfactory

Please comment on the student's:

- attendance and commitment
- resilience
- motivation to succeed
- participation in school life
- leadership
- extracurricular involvement
- contribution to the school community
- willingness to seek opportunities and overcome challenges

Please include any examples that demonstrate these qualities.

Give the life-changing gift of education. 100% of donations go to supporting the scholars.

Response (approximately 250 - 500 words):

4. Overall Recommendation

Please include any other information you feel may support this student's application.

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 to applicants.

Applications close on Monday 24 August 2026 (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 directly to me.

Give the life-changing gift of education. 100% of donations go to supporting the scholars.

APPENDIX

Context –

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 more than \$20,000 over four 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 provide personal development and learning opportunities

To be eligible, a student must be in Year 8 in 2026 and entering Year 9 in 2027 and enrolled in an Australian government/public school.

There are three 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 to accessing education. Our aim is to support girls whose families' financial circumstances make 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

Give the life-changing gift of education. 100% of donations go to supporting the scholars.



- self-starting and motivated
- desire to succeed in future life
- a positive attitude to education
- a real desire to succeed in the future

As part of the scholarship application, we are asking you to provide supporting information to allow the judges and moderation committee to identify 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 are less helpful and may disadvantage the applicant.

Give the life-changing gift of education. 100% of donations go to supporting the scholars.