

Macquarie Grammar School Year 7 to 11 Scholarship

1. Definition

A Scholarship is offered to a scholar (student) who is of a high academic standard and is exceptionally gifted. It is offered to assist a scholar to reach her or his academic potential by granting them part or full payment of tuition fees and other expenses through sponsorship. This is made to support a student's education, awarded on the basis of academic or other achievement.

Scholarship tests are designed to identify and distinguish between students of high academic ability. They are more difficult than the regular achievement tests students sit for in schools. They are tests that **assess** how a student demonstrates higher-order critical thinking skills.

2. Considerations

Before applying for a Macquarie Grammar School (MGS) Scholarship, the student's parents should consider their family's financial situation and ensure that undertaking an MGS Scholarship is within their financial capacity. Especially as international students are required to cover the expense of Guardianship and Homestay arrangements. Exchange rates also fluctuate and can affect affordability. The MGS Scholarship should be used as intended.

3. Scholarship A

The MGS 100% Tuition Fees Scholarship with Sponsored Guardianship and Homestay for two (2) students (Top Scholars) only includes:

- tuition fees to cover the cost of study for up to one academic year where school age students are studying as fee-paying international students, up to a maximum of \$32,000 AUD per annum, which equates to 100% scholarship on tuition fees only.
- this Scholarship will offer the top two (2) scholars an extended scholarship that includes Guardianship and Homestay fees sponsored up to 100% and 30% respectively.
- this Scholarship will offer the top two (2) scholars a total of \$5,000 AUD cash in two payments. 1st payment will be rewarded in last week of term 2 and 2nd payment will be rewarded in last week of term 4.
- a dedicated Student Services Officer for the duration of their Scholarship who provides services including pre-departure briefings, advice on health and travel insurance, advice and assistance relating to accommodation, and payment of allowances

Scholarship B

The MGS 20 - 60% Tuition Fees Scholarship for ten (10) students only includes:

- tuition fees to cover the cost of study for up to one academic year where school age students are studying as fee-paying international students, up to a maximum of \$32,000 AUD per annum, which will vary upon the scholarship offered. Balance of fees are payable directly to Macquarie Grammar School (MGS). This Scholarship will only provide discounts for international tuition fees for ten (10) scholars.

- High School Preparation (HSP) tuition fees, where incurred, up to \$3800 AUD / term will vary, subject to the scholarship attained. These fees are only for English Language Study and are payable directly to MGS.
- a dedicated Student Services Officer for the duration of their Scholarship who provides services including pre-departure briefings, advice on health and travel insurance, advice and assistance relating to accommodation, and payment of allowances.

The MGS Scholarship does not include:

- a travel allowance, passport or visa expenses to travel or from Vietnam to Sydney, Australia.
- A settling in fee.
- a monthly stipend from parents to contribute to the student's living costs while in Sydney.
- health and travel insurance for the duration of their overseas study.
- An MGS Scholarship may be sponsored by Private Sector Organisations for the duration of the Student's Scholarship Program. This may include benefits provided for the students but paid directly to MGS, such as Tuition, Guardianship and Homestay.

4. Eligibility

4.1 Applicants

Applicants for an MGS Scholarship must:

- be nominated by their Agent after being screened on his/her academic record and for financial viability to cover the stipend required for living expenses while studying at MGS.
- be a Vietnamese citizen seeking to study at MGS. Applicants cannot undertake an MGS Scholarship if they hold dual citizenship or permanent residency in Australia; or in which they have previously been a citizen or permanent resident of Australia.
- be enrolled in Years 7 to 11 at MGS and complete the HSC in Year 12.
- be between 12 and 18 years of age (inclusive) on 1 January 2020.
- have an intention to undertake the Higher School Certificate in Year 12, as a continuum of their studies.

4.2 Host Location

The MGS Scholarship will be conducted in Hanoi and Ho Chi Min, Vietnam.

Scholars must not travel to a Host Location or region within a Host Location for which the Australian Government's Smartraveller travel advice recommends 'Do not travel' (see www.smartraveller.gov.au). Host Locations for which the Smartraveller travel advice recommends 'Reconsider your need to travel' are eligible, but applicants should inform

themselves carefully of the risks and think seriously about the need to travel to that country or region before applying. Applicants must acknowledge in their Scholarship agreement that they have considered the risks carefully and investigated safety precautions before deciding to travel.

Scholars who are awarded a scholarship must study at Macquarie Grammar School at 225 Clarence Street Sydney, only.

5. *Selection Criteria*

5.1 *Selection Criteria*

Applicants will be assessed on the following selection criteria, in their written applications and their performance at interview:

1. **Academic excellence at the tertiary level (60 per cent weighting)**

Assessment of this criterion will relate to

- a) the applicant's academic grades at school over the last three (3) years, and
- b) to ungraded academic achievements, such as academic awards and commendations, or other examples of academic excellence at school level. The applicant's communication skills, higher-order cognitive and critical thinking skills, and engagement in learning will also be assessed.

2. **Leadership in the community (10 per cent weighting)**

Assessment of this criterion will relate to the applicant's demonstrated leadership in the community, including volunteer and not-for-profit roles and/or activities they have undertaken in their local community, or at school.

3. **Adaptability and Resilience (20 per cent weighting)**

Assessment of this criterion will relate to the applicant's ability to adapt to a different environment, cope with being away from family and friends and demonstrate resilience in the face of challenges that s/he may face.

4. **Sport, Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities (10 per cent weighting)**

Assessment of this criterion will relate to the applicant's involvement in a broad range of activities outside of the classroom, such as: sport, debating, chess, music, public speaking, camping or orienteering, etc.

5.2 *Selection Process*

The table below summarises key dates and steps in the selection process:



Timeline	Activity
17 th December 2018 to 15 th February 2019	Scholarship Programme guidelines published and advertised. Submission of Applications Opens \$50 AUD per application for Pre-Assessment.
7 th February 2019	Submission of Applications close 11.59pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) on the 7 th February 2019. Nominations must be made through an agent.
8 th February 2019 to 10 th February 2019	Pre-Assessment of Student Registrations online
11 th February 2019	Applications are shortlisted and notified.
21 st & 22 nd February 2019	Student Interviews conducted in Hanoi.
25 th & 26 th February 2019	Student Interviews conducted in Ho Chi Minh.
23 rd February 2019	Scholarship test conducted in Hanoi.
24 th February 2019	Scholarship test conducted in Ho Chi Min.
31 st March 2019	Selections are finalised. All successful and unsuccessful applicants are notified of the outcome of their application.
April 2017	Scholars are announced and their details are published on the MGS website.

Timeline	Activity
28 th January – 9 th December 2020	Scholars commence their Scholarship Programs.

5.3 Nominations

Students must be nominated by their Agent in order to apply.

Each Agent is asked to conduct an internal process to nominate up to 20 unranked students.

Agents will consider the eligibility and selection criteria when conducting the nomination process.

Nominations must be submitted through MGS website or directly with the school. The MGS Administration Manager for Scholarships will provide advice on how to submit nominations.

The following details about applicants will be requested in the nomination form:

- name
- gender
- date of birth
- email address
- mobile phone
- School year in which the nominee is enrolled
- Academic Transcripts (official)
- Other information indicating involvement in co-curricular or extra-curricular activities

5.4 Written Applications

MGS will contact nominees through their Agent and provide instructions on how to submit the application. Applications must be submitted through the MGS website or directly with the school.

The main component of the written application involves answering questions related to the four selection criteria (*refer to Section 5.1*).

Applications may be disregarded, offers revoked or the Scholarship Programme terminated if it is the belief of MGS, in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, that false or misleading information has formed a component of an application.

Referee Reports

Applicants must supply two referee reports when submitting their application. A referee must be able to comment substantively on the applicant's abilities and experience with respect to the selection criteria, and must hold a position that gives their comments credibility (e.g. a position in the applicant's school or community). At least one report must be prepared by an academic referee.

Applicants should consider carefully their referees, as their reports may add considerable value to an application through the assessment process.

Supporting Documents

Applicants must submit the following documentation in addition to a completed application form:

- evidence of Vietnamese citizenship (copy of birth certificate, current passport or citizenship certificate)
- a letter of current enrolment from their school.
- a current, complete-to-date official Academic Transcript from their school.

5.5 Selection Process

Scholars are selected through a competitive, merit-based selection process against selection criteria and other considerations set out at Sections 4.1. Scholarships are awarded to eligible applicants to support their student while at MGS.

All applications submitted by the closing date will be subject to eligibility checks.

Eligible applications will then be shortlisted by MGS against the selection criteria. All staff involved in selection processes have commensurate skills and experience to assess applications and are required to complete a Conflict of Interest declaration.

Shortlisted applicants will be advised in February between the 12th and 17th and an interview will be scheduled during February 22nd to 26th. The interview panels may comprise Senior MGS Staff, members of the business community, academics, or other appropriate individuals.

The PEO/Headmaster will approve final Scholarship outcomes based on the advice of the interview panels.

5.6 Acceptance Process

All successful and unsuccessful applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by the end of April 2019.

5.7 *Offer of Scholarships*

Applicants who are offered a Scholarship must accept and sign a Scholarship Agreement and be able to satisfy the visa requirements of Australia.

5.8 *Police Checks*

All successful applicants will be required to undergo a police check. It is an important consideration of MGS that a Scholar will enhance the reputation of the school. A criminal record will not automatically disqualify an applicant from receiving a Scholarship. However, if a successful applicant is found to have a criminal record or conviction then MGS, may revoke or refuse to grant a Scholarship.

5.9 *Support Services Organisation*

Successful applicants will be allocated a Case Manager from a contracted Support Services Organisation to assist with Scholarship logistics such as health and travel insurance, accommodation, and payment of allowances.

6. *Scholarship Agreement*

Macquarie Grammar School (MGS) will enter into a Scholarship Agreement with the Scholar (student). If the Scholar commences the Scholarship Program before the Scholarship Agreement is signed and executed, MGS will not be liable for any expenditure incurred before the date of execution.

The Scholarship Agreement will detail the successful applicant's responsibilities in relation to the Scholarship Program and outcomes that must be achieved. It will also set out the conditions and offer of the Scholarship Program as well as arrangements relating to (but not limited to):

- payment of entitlements
- leave of absence entitlements
- pre-departure advice and assistance
- assistance regarding return arrangements to Australia
- travel and health insurance
- minimum attendance requirements for attending school

Revision history

Version	Date	Description of modifications
1.0	11 December 2018	Written and prepared by PEO/Headmaster, MGS