

NAS First Peoples Scholarship 2026 Guidelines, Terms & Conditions

The NAS First Peoples Scholarship aims to provide young, aspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists the opportunity to pursue their studies under the guidance of some of Australia's most accomplished artists.

The scholarship covers the full tuition fees for a student entering the Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA) program.

Key Dates

Applications Open: **Friday 5 September 2025**

Applications Close: **Wednesday 10 December 2025**

Interview Period: **Monday 15 December & Tuesday 16 December 2025**

Scholarship Announcement: **Tuesday 23 December 2025**

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must hold a current application for a place in the Bachelor of Fine Art degree program through UAC (or have already received an offer).
- Self-identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Provide confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Confirmation Documentation

Given the historical nature of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, we understand that obtaining an official Confirmation of Aboriginality can sometimes be challenging.

NAS accepts either of the following forms of documentation as a true Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent/heritage:

1. A letter of "Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent/Heritage". This must be stamped with the organisation's common seal of certification.
2. A Statutory Declaration. This is a legal binding document demonstrating your self-identification as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. The Statutory Declaration must be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Supporting Documentation

NAS accepts any of the following forms of supporting documentation:

- Copies of a parents' 'Confirmation' document, along with a birth certificate showing the parent and applicants' relationship;

- Proof of genealogy, such as birth records or an official family tree;
- Evidence of membership to an organisation registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) as per the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006;
- Copy of your Abstudy forms;
- A letter from an Indigenous organisation or Aboriginal Liaison Officer that recognises you as an Indigenous person. This must contain the organisation's letterhead;
Copies of any awards which are specified for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders;
- A letter from an Indigenous person employed in an Indigenous identified position. This must also contain the organisation's letterhead;
- A letter from a school that recognises you as an Indigenous student;
- Letter/s of support from a prominent Indigenous person in their community.

Selection Criteria

The NAS First Peoples Scholarship will be awarded to an applicant who would significantly benefit from financial support to commence the Bachelor of Fine Art program at the National Art School. The successful applicant will be selected based on:

- Performance in the admissions interview and portfolio assessment, demonstrating their artistic and academic potential; and
- A compelling written statement that clearly communicates:
 - A strong commitment to their artistic practice, and
 - A genuine need for financial assistance to support their studies.

Applications

Applicants must:

- Complete all aspects of the online application form;
- Submit a statement of no more than 200 words outlining their aspirations and what they hope to achieve through their studies at the National Art School. As well as a brief statement on their need for scholarship support.
- Upload a maximum of five images, with one image per slide, in PPT format. Each slide should include the name of artist, title, date, medium, and dimensions

Conditions

- Applicants must submit a completed application that fulfils all eligibility requirements.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- Each submission will be considered by a selection panel comprising of representatives from the National Art School.
- The panel may request to meet with an applicant to discuss their application further.
- The scholarship is subject to satisfactory academic progression each year and maintenance of standard full-time enrolment in their degree.
- Other than a stipend allowance, scholarship holders are subject to all standard terms and conditions of enrolment in the BFA.
- The scholarship offer is contingent upon completion of enrolment in 2026, and commencement cannot be deferred.
- The successful candidate will need to complete regular progress reports and undergo an acquittals process.