



# Regional Journalism Scholarships Program – Applications are now open

As part of the landmark reforms being made to Australia’s media laws, the Turnbull Government is providing much needed support to regional and small publishers through the \$60 million Regional and Small Publishers Jobs and Innovation Package. The Package includes:

- \$48 million Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund
- Regional and Small Publishers Cadetships Program, supporting 200 cadetships
- Regional Journalism Scholarships Program, supporting 60 journalism scholarships.

## What is the Regional Journalism Scholarships Program?

The Government will support 60 journalism scholarships for higher education providers to award to students from regional or remote areas. The scholarships will help students acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to operate effectively as journalists in the contemporary news media industry, and be job-ready at the completion of their studies.

Eligible higher education providers can apply for a grant of up to \$40,000 (GST exclusive) per scholarship.

## How can I apply for scholarships?

Applications will need to be made through the online application form which can be found on GrantConnect at [www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au). Read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines before completing the application form. Applications must be submitted by 5:00pm AEST on 27 July 2018.

## How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be considered through a two-stage, open competitive grant process. Applications will first be assessed to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria. Only applications that meet all of the eligibility criteria will progress to the competitive assessment stage.

If eligibility criteria are met, the merits of the application will be assessed in relation to the grant guidelines.

As part of the competitive assessment stage, an assessment committee will consider whether proposed scholarship(s) represent efficient, effective, economic and ethical use of funds.



Following the assessment of all applications, the assessment committee will provide recommendations to the Minister, who is ultimately responsible for awarding the grants.

## Am I eligible to apply for scholarships?

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- be a higher education provider and
- offer an eligible course of study.

Higher education providers are those providers registered by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency to offer an accredited higher education course. Eligible courses of study are those courses which:

- are classified as, or equivalent to, the Australian Standard Classification of Education field of study “Creative Arts — Communication and Media Studies — Journalism”;
- are classified at the Australian Qualification Framework Level 5 (Diploma) to Level 9 (Master Degree) Level; and
- have a maximum course duration equivalent to four years full -time study.

## How many scholarships can I apply for?

The Government has provided funding for 30 scholarships this funding round. Subject to this limit, there is no limit on how many scholarships an applicant can apply for. Applicants only need to submit one application, even if they intend on applying for multiple scholarships. On the application form applicants can nominate how many scholarships they are applying for.

## What can I use the grant funding for?

The grant funding is to be used to help recipients with:

- tuition costs, which are those costs directly related to the eligible course of study undertaken by a scholarship recipient; and
- study-related expenses.

## When will I find out the outcome of my application?

The Department of Communications and the Arts expects to notify successful applicants before September 2018. Unsuccessful applicants may not be notified until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

## Where can I go for further information?

Consult the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information about the program. If you have further questions contact the Department of Communications and the Arts at [RegionalInnovation@communications.gov.au](mailto:RegionalInnovation@communications.gov.au) or on (02) 6271 1400.

