



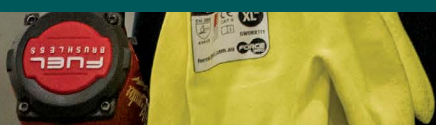
NSW Department of Education



Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships Guidelines

Supporting apprentices in New South Wales

July 2025



Bert Evans



The Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships (the scholarship) supports apprentices who have demonstrated hardship in their personal circumstances and an aptitude for vocational education and training.

The scholarships are named after the late Mr Bert Evans AO, in recognition of his support for apprentices in NSW.

Bert was a strong advocate for vocational education, skills and jobs.



Guidelines

These guidelines outline the application, assessment and payment processes for the Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships (the scholarships).

These guidelines apply to the 2025 and future rounds of the scholarships, unless otherwise stated.

Aim and objectives

Aim

The aim of the Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships is to assist NSW apprentices who have experienced hardship in their life to successfully complete their apprenticeship.

Objectives

The objectives of this scholarship are to:

- support apprentices to progress through to completion of their chosen trade calling
- encourage more apprentices to achieve their goals and make a valuable contribution to their local communities
- invest in individual development to support employment outcomes.

The scholarships

The scholarships are provided to successful applicants for up to a maximum of 3 years. The scholarship is **\$5,000 per year**, up to a maximum of **\$15,000 over 3 years**. The scholarship is only be paid while the recipient is actively participating in an approved apprenticeship in NSW.

Funding is subject to an annual review, in line with apprenticeship progression, to ensure the Scholarship holder is making good progress in their training.

Scholarships may be suspended or cancelled if:

- the recipient's apprenticeship is suspended or cancelled; or
- the recipient fails to meet their obligations under the *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act 2001*; or

- the recipient fails to meet their obligations under the terms of their Training Contract.

If a recipient loses their apprenticeship as a result of the apprenticeship being cancelled, the apprentice will be given all possible assistance to find a new employer. If necessary, the scholarship will be suspended and may be resumed if an apprenticeship is recommenced within 6 months.

A scholarship recipient who discontinues their apprenticeship for a period exceeding 6 months will lose the remainder of the scholarship.

If the scholarship is suspended or cancelled, the NSW Department of Education (the department) may nominate a replacement recipient to assume the scholarship for the balance of the term.

Applicants must be active in an approved apprenticeship at the time of being awarded the scholarship.

Scholarships are available to school-based apprentices.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants for the scholarship must meet all of the following requirements. The apprentice must:

- be an Australian citizen or hold permanent resident status
- be in an approved apprenticeship arrangement in NSW at the time of application
- be a first-year apprentice who commenced within the timeframe specified in the current year's program cycle
- be employed by an employer based in NSW
- are experiencing financial hardship and may also be experiencing personal hardship.



Funding

Funding for the scholarship will be paid to each scholarship holder by the department.

Continued funding is subject to the scholarship holder maintaining their eligibility during the life of the scholarship, as outlined in **Section 2: The Scholarships**.

Consistent with the aim of the scholarship, recipients should use the funds to assist them in successfully completing their apprenticeship.

Application process

Application for the scholarship may be made by the apprentice or another person on their behalf.

Applications must be submitted online, via the application portal, which is available on the department's website: education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/bert-evans-scholarships

If required, applicants can contact their local Training Services regional office on 13 28 11 (see **Appendix 1** for contact details) to request assistance. Please note that all applications must be completed and submitted through the online application portal.

An application must be endorsed by the apprentice, their employer, and a Registered Training Organisation.

Applicant must include all relevant factual details as specified in the form. Applicants are encouraged to provide as much supporting evidence as possible.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the submission meets all eligibility and assessment criteria and includes sufficient detail and supporting documentation for the Scholarship Assessment Panel to assess merit.

Applications must be submitted by the date specified on the department's website: education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/bert-evans-scholarships

Assessment criteria

Scholarships will be awarded based on:

- financial hardship
- capability for vocational education and training
- attitude and application in the workplace and during formal training.

Scholarship applications are welcomed from apprentices of all backgrounds, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- people with disability
- women in non-traditional trades
- mature-aged apprentices
- apprentices in regional or remote areas.



Assessment guidance

- **Financial hardship** includes financial circumstances, and may include family situation and other factors. Applicants should explain how financial hardship affects their ability to meet training requirements.
- **Capability** can be demonstrated through performance in the apprenticeship, trade competitions, references, school results in trade subjects, or other examples of work.
- **Attitude and application to tasks** in the workplace and formal training can be demonstrated by supporting statements from the employer and Registered Training Organisation.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.

Eligible applications will be assessed by the Scholarship Assessment Panel in accordance with the criteria outlined above.

Selection process

Once applications have been received, there will be a structured selection process:

- Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and to verify information provided by the applicant. This may include further contact with the employer, Registered Training Organisation, and/or the applicant.
- Any application found to contain incorrect or misleading information will be deemed ineligible and rejected without further consideration.

All eligible applications will be assessed by the Scholarship Assessment Panel against the assessment criteria. Successful applicants will be recommended to the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education (the Minister) for final endorsement.

Assessment panel

The Scholarship Assessment Panel comprises of specialised staff from the NSW vocational education and training sector.

Notification

After the Minister's final endorsement, all applicants will be notified directly by the department and/or the Minister of the outcome.

In some instances, local presentations may be arranged to formally recognise scholarship recipients.

Payments and usage of funds

Payments will be made to each scholarship recipient by annual electronic funds transfer. Scholarship recipients are encouraged to use the funds to support their successful participation in trade training.

Application support and contact

Training Services, through its statewide network of regional offices, will provide support and advice for applicants preparing their submissions.

Contact details for regional offices are provided in **Appendix 1** of these guidelines.



Appendix 1 – Contact details

For all enquiries call your local Training Services Regional Office on 13 28 11 or email your local office as listed below.

Central and Northern Sydney

TS.Chatswood@det.nsw.edu.au

Southern and South Western Sydney

TS.Bankstown@det.nsw.edu.au

Western Sydney and Blue Mountains

TS.Parramatta@det.nsw.edu.au

Hunter and Central Coast

TS.Newcastle@det.nsw.edu.au

North Coast and Mid North Coast

TS.Lismore@det.nsw.edu.au

New England

TS.Tamworth@det.nsw.edu.au

Western NSW

TS.Orange@det.nsw.edu.au

Riverina

TS.WaggaWagga@det.nsw.edu.au

Illawarra and South East NSW

TS.Wollongong@det.nsw.edu.au

Appendix 2 – Definition of Regional NSW

(for equity considerations)

Provides a list of NSW local government areas classified as regional for the purpose of assessing eligibility under the 'working in regional NSW' category.

- Central West
- Far West
- Mid North Coast
- Murray
- Murrumbidgee
- North Western
- Northern

- Richmond–Tweed
- South Eastern
- Selected areas within Hunter and Illawarra (excluding Wollongong, Shellharbour, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie)




Excluded areas:

- Inner Sydney
- Outer Sydney
- Sydney Surrounds (including Blue Mountains, Gosford, Hawkesbury, etc.)
- Lake Macquarie and Newcastle



We acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal people and pay our respect to Country.

Say hello

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[education.nsw.gov.au](https://www.education.nsw.gov.au)

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