

Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students (BSIS) 2024

BSIS provides financial support to the value of **\$6,939** in 2024 for eligible students boarding away from home or residential fees to access education.

General conditions of eligibility

The student must:

1. Live in a rural area in NSW
2. Be enrolled in a NSW government school Years 7 to 12
3. Have a primary carer who is a permanent resident of NSW.

In addition, applicants must meet **one** of the following educational enrolment conditions:

1. Must have been accepted for enrolment or be eligible for enrolment to attend and board at a NSW government agricultural high school.
2. Must have been accepted for enrolment or be eligible for enrolment in a specialist NSW government secondary school that conducts selection procedures. The student would need to board away from home to do so.
3. Has the need to board at a school term hostel to access a NSW government secondary school.

Students are ineligible if they receive Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC), ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance from Centrelink. The scholarships committee will consider the amount of other educational assistance received by families when considering applications.

Completed applications should be forwarded to:

Rural and Distance Education
PO Box 717
BATHURST NSW 2795
Email: rde@det.nsw.edu.au

Closing dates

Early round applications will close on Wednesday 15 November 2023.
Final round applications will close on Friday 15 March 2024.

Application form

Please ensure that all relevant sections of the application are completed fully to avoid delays in processing payment. These sections include:

- Section 1 — Student Information
- Section 2 — Parent(s) or carer(s) information
- Section 3 — Category of scholarship application
- Section 4 — Essential criteria eligibility
 - a) Part A — Family income criteria calculations and declarations
 - b) Part B — Geographic isolation criteria
 - c) Part C — Other circumstances criteria
- Section 5 — Payment instructions
- Section 6 — Parents declaration
- Section 7 — School principal certification
- Section 8 — Additional information

Please Note: for assistance completing this process or for additional information please contact the Rural and Distance Education Office on 02 6334 8070 or email RDE@det.nsw.edu.au

Points calculation (Office use only)	Points
Points confirmed for A: Family income	
Points confirmed for B: Geographic isolation	
Points allocated by selection Committee for C: Other circumstances	
Total points for this applicant	

Section 1 - Student information

All applicants to complete these details.

Surname _____	Given names _____
Date of birth _____	School attended in 2023 _____
School the student will be attending in 2024:	
School name _____	
Address _____	
State _____	Postcode _____
Student's boarding address for 2024 if different from above:	
Address _____	
State _____	Postcode _____
Please indicate the school year the student is in for 2024: _____	
Has the student been accepted for enrolment at the nominated school (above)? _____	
If "No", what advice has been given to you by the nominated school that the student will be accepted for enrolment? _____	
Name and address of the nearest government secondary school to the student's home address:	
Name of government school _____	
School address _____	
State _____	Postcode _____

Section 2 - Parent(s) or carer(s) Information

All applicants to complete these details.

Surname (parent 1) _____	
Given name (s) _____	Title: _____
Surname (parent 2/partner) _____	
Given name (s) _____	Title: _____
Residential address	

_____	State _____ Postcode _____
Postal address (if different from above) _____	
_____	State _____ Postcode _____
Home telephone number _____	Work telephone number _____
Email address _____	

Other dependent children – Please insert details of dependent children

Surname	Given name	Date of birth	School attending in 2024 (if applicable)	Receiving BSIS in 2024

Section 3 - Category of scholarship application

Please select the desired application category below:

Tick one only	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board at an agricultural high school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board away from home to attend a specialist government secondary school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board at a school term hostel to attend a government secondary school.

Section 4 - Essential criteria eligibility

To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant must be eligible for points under one of the income criteria AND one of the isolation criteria.

Part A — Family income criteria calculations and declarations

To qualify in 2024, the family's adjusted income for the 2022/2023 financial year must not exceed \$104,526.

Adjusted family income is the combined taxable income from all sources in the 2022/2023 tax year, of each person who will contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the student in 2024, less \$2,066 for a dependent spouse and \$1,523 for each dependent child (where applicable).

Averaging of income, as allowed by the Australian Taxation Office is **NOT** acceptable for the calculation of adjusted family income.

Your **taxable income** is the figure advised in the Notice of Assessment issued by the Australian Taxation Office. **Applications must have attached a copy of the 2022/2023 assessment notice from the Australian Tax Office.**

Separated, divorced or single parents must disclose any maintenance or child support payments received from a spouse, former spouse or other parent of the student as well as any defacto/partnership incomes. These amounts must be included in the family income before any deductions are made.

Commonwealth Allowances Declaration

Applications from families or students in receipt of Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC), ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance, paid by Centrelink, will not be considered for the Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students. The Scholarship Committee will consider the amount of other educational assistance received by families when ranking applications.

Please indicate and initial if either of the following apply to you	Yes/No	Initials
I have applied or intend to apply for Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC), Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY on behalf of the student		
Will the student receive any other financial assistance (from any source) to cover educational costs during 2024? If yes, please give details, including the amount of any assistance.		

Family income calculation worksheet

Please complete the table below to calculate your Adjusted Family Income.

Item	Example	Your calculation
Taxable income from all sources		
Person 1	\$49,981	\$
Person 2	\$22,018	\$
Other income including any additional payments, e.g. child support	\$457	\$
Total family taxable income	\$72,456	\$
Subtract deductions as applicable		
Dependent spouse (\$2,066)	N/A	\$
Dependent child/ren. Number of children x \$1,523	(4 children) \$6,092	\$
Total deductions	\$6,092	\$
Adjusted family income	\$66,364	\$

Complete the table below for your adjusted family income points assessment.

Adjusted family income for 2022/2023 is: (Claim points for one of the following)	Points available	Points claimed	Relevant documents* attached (tick)
A1: between \$92,266 and \$104,526	5		
A2: between \$80,426 and \$92,265	10		
A3: between \$69,438 and \$80,425	20		
A4: between \$56,338 and \$69,437	30		
A5: between \$44,293 and \$56,337	40		
A6: \$44,292 or less	50		
Total points claimed at A. Family income			

Relevant documentation

Documentation for circumstances A1-A6 must be included to support your case. This includes:

- 2022/2023 Notice/s of assessment from the Australian Taxation Office
- Relevant documentary evidence that shows income from other sources

Part B - Geographic isolation criteria

The geographical isolation of your residential address is measured by using the Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA).

Complete the remoteness classification points allocation for your home address as indexed by the [ARIA Remoteness Site](#). Select **one** of the isolation criteria in the table below (B1 to B4).

Classification (Claim points for 1 of the following from B1 to B4)	Points available	Points claimed
B1: I have consulted ARIA. The student's home address is classified by ARIA as Very Remote Australia (ARIA greater than 10.53)	40	
B2: I have consulted ARIA. The student's home address is classified by ARIA as Remote Australia (ARIA 5.92 to 10.53)	20	
B3: I have consulted ARIA. The student's home address is classified by ARIA as Outer Regional Australia (ARIA 2.40 to 5.92)	10	
B4: I would like the committee to consider my extraordinary circumstances of isolation as detailed below	5	
Total points claimed for B. Geographic isolation		

OR

Request for ARIA points allocation

	Tick
I would like the department to consult ARIA on my behalf and allocate the appropriate points.	

Please indicate the distance from your home address to the nearest town:

Please indicate your Rural Addressing Number, if known:

Rural Addressing identifies the location of rural properties. Your local council may provide further information.

Please indicate your extraordinary circumstance of isolation from the table (B4) below:

Part C - Other circumstances criteria

To qualify for additional points in this section provide a brief summary (maximum 250 words) outlining any specific circumstances that, when combined with the effects of your rural isolation, seriously impact on the student's ability to access local secondary education.

Your summary must include:

1. Special circumstances that make it necessary for this student to board away from home to attend a government secondary school
2. The distance, time and travel mode required from the student's home to the nearest government secondary school

Please complete a summary statement in the space below and attach relevant documents attesting to the outlined circumstances to the scholarship application.

Section 5 - Payment details

Agricultural high schools

Scholarships to support boarding at a government agricultural high school will be directly credited to the student's boarding account at the school and cannot be used for any other purpose. Rural and Distance Education will administer the arrangements of this process with the school.

All other high schools

If this application is for a scholarship to support a student boarding at a school term hostel or boarding to attend a government specialist secondary school, please give full details of the person who is to receive the payment.

Bank account details (for direct deposit of payments)

BSB Number: _____

Account Number: _____

Bank: _____

Account Name: _____

Contact telephone number: _____

Section 6 - Parent declaration

To be completed by the person(s) making this application on behalf of the student.

1. I/We am/are responsible for the student's education fees and boarding fees
2. I/We am/are responsible for the full support of the student
3. I/We will inform the Rural and Distance Education office (RDE@det.nsw.edu.au) or mail to (PO Box 717, Bathurst 2795) within 14 days of changes to any of the information given on this application during the period for which the scholarship is approved.
4. I agree to notify the Rural and Distance Education office immediately if the student becomes eligible for any Commonwealth assistance.
5. The information on this application is true and accurate in all respects.

Parent/Carer (1)

Surname _____ Given name _____

Signature _____

Parent/Carer (2)

Surname _____ Given name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Privacy Statement

The personal information provided on this form entitled Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students (BSIS) 2024, is being collected for the purpose of prioritising applications for BSIS scholarships to support students required to board in order to attend a NSW government school in 2024. It will be used by the Department of Education for matters relating to the processing of scholarship applications. The information provided on this form may be disclosed to other schools. While the provision of this information is voluntary, if you do not provide all or any of this information it may limit the department's ability to give appropriate priority to your child's application. This information will be stored securely. You may access or correct any personal information provided by contacting the Rural and Distance Education office.

Section 7 - School principal certification

To be completed by the principal of the school of intending enrolment.

Principal's certification

I certify the student named below has enrolled and is attending this school in 2024 for a course of study leading to the Higher School Certificate.

Student's surname _____ Given name _____

in Year (for 2024) _____ SRN _____

Principal's name _____

Principal's signature _____

School name _____

Date _____

Section 8 - Additional Information

Specialist NSW Government Secondary Schools

For the purposes of this scholarship scheme, a specialist NSW government secondary school is a government secondary school that conducts separate selection procedures, such as selective high schools, performing arts high schools and sports high schools. If you are seeking enrolment for the first time at a specialist NSW government secondary school, we suggest you contact the school to obtain details of their placement criteria and any special entry requirements.

Boarding

For the purposes of this scholarship scheme, 'boarding' or 'board' refers to a residential arrangement specifically entered to allow a student to attend the nominated school on a full-time basis during the normal school year.

Renewal of existing applications

Where there is no change to any of the circumstances given in the original application, there is no need for the family to renew the application, unless specifically requested to do so by the Department of Education. Family income will be reviewed when the student enters Year 9 and again in Year 11.

The Rural and Distance Education office in Bathurst must be notified within 14 days of any changes in family circumstances from those given in this application. Failure to do this may cause the cancellation of the allowance. Notification should be in writing. If a scholarship is withdrawn because of a change in family circumstances, a pro rata arrangement will be used to determine the value of the scholarship paid.

Other schemes providing financial assistance for boarding students

There are two government schemes that provide financial assistance to students living away from home to attend secondary school.

Secondary Students Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA)

In 2024 the allowance is \$2,444 per annum with an additional \$562 for Year 11-12 students if they are geographically isolated.

This allowance is subject to an income test. The Adjusted Family Taxable Income for the year ending 30 June 2023 must not exceed \$79,996 to be eligible. Students who qualify for the Boarding Scholarship for Isolated Students may also be eligible for the Living Away from Home Allowance if their Adjusted Family Income is below the cut-off point and they meet distance or other conditions.

Enquiries may be directed to:

Rural and Distance Education
PO Box 717
BATHURST NSW 2795
Ph: 02 6334 8070
Email: rde@det.nsw.edu.au

Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme (AIC)

AIC is a Commonwealth government scheme administered by Centrelink that targets students who are geographically isolated and who do not have reasonable daily access to an appropriate government school.

Information regarding this scheme may be obtained by calling Centrelink on 13 2318.

In addition, students may be able to obtain assistance from Youth Allowance call 13 2490 or ABSTUDY call 13 2317, both of which are administered by the Commonwealth.

Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students can be granted alongside the Living Away from Home Allowance. However students eligible for the Commonwealth assistance scheme (AIC) cannot receive BSIS but may still qualify to receive LAFHA.