THE GIVING ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Centre for Social Impact
2027 Scholarships

CENTRE for SOCIAL IMPACT | UNSW SYDNEY | THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA | Flinders University | SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

About The Centre for Social Impact

The Centre for Social Impact is a collaboration between the Business Schools of four leading Australian universities: University of New South Wales, The University of Western Australia, Swinburne University of Technology and Flinders University.

Stronger as one, we are united in our purpose to ignite positive, lasting social change for people and communities through education, research and engagement with not-for-profits, businesses, philanthropy and government.

Developed by the Centre for Social Impact, The Giving Academy is a flagship education program offering practical short courses to ignite more effective giving across Australia and beyond.

Scholarship Opportunity

The Giving Academy scholarships support eligible people working across the philanthropic, not-for-profit and social impact sectors to participate in The Giving Academy courses where cost may otherwise be a barrier.

Following a successful first year in 2026, up to **35 scholarships** are available in 2027 through the generous support of Minderoo Foundation, Paul Ramsay Foundation and Equity Trustees. The scholarships are designed to expand access to professional learning across the philanthropy and social impact sectors.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE

- A fully funded place in one of The Giving Academy courses.
- Expert-led learning with experienced facilitators and sector practitioners.
- Practical tools, resources and frameworks that can be applied immediately in your work.
- A supportive learning environment that encourages reflection, discussion and the exchange of ideas.
- Self-paced learning to build knowledge and prepare for live sessions, including curated readings, case studies and guided reflection.
- Access to a diverse national network of peers from across philanthropy and social impact.

CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply, applicants must meet **at least one of the following criteria:**

- identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
- identify as gender diverse
- perform work that is substantially connected to climate-related issues
- work for a small to medium-sized grantmaking organisation, including but not limited to those advancing social and public welfare, education or health (annual distribution under $5million)
- work for a small to medium-sized not-for-profit, grantseeking organisation that is advancing social and public welfare, education or health (annual revenue under $3million)

The organisation you work for must be based in Australia. While the organisation may fund, support or deliver projects overseas, its primary place of operation and governance must be in Australia.

Applicants whose work does not sit within a single organisation may also apply. This includes people working independently or through an advisory, consulting, research or other professional practice connected to philanthropy, giving or social impact, provided they meet at least one of the eligibility criteria above.

A **grantseeker** is a person or not-for-profit organisation that applies for or receives grants or other funding to deliver programs, services or initiatives. In this scholarship program, this includes people who work for or represent a grantseeking organisation.

A **grantmaker** is a person or organisation that provides grants or other funding to support individuals, organisations, communities or initiatives. In this context, it does not include charities which primarily receive donations through fundraising activities.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Below we have provided some supporting information relating to the three key questions in the application form. We encourage you to refer to this table to guide you in completing your application.

Question	Things to consider in your response
Motivation and readiness: **Why is now the right time for you to take this course?** What challenge or opportunity are you currently facing in your philanthropic work? How do you think the course could help you? *Approximately 200 words; 1500 character limit*	Describe a current, specific challenge or opportunity. Explain why the timing matters and connect the course to what you need to do next.
Learning goals: **What change would you like to see in philanthropy, and what do you hope to learn from this course to help you contribute to that change?** Please provide a specific example. *Approximately 200 words; 1500 character limit*	Name the change you want to contribute to, give a concrete example and explain the knowledge, skills or perspectives you hope to develop through the course to support you in contributing to the change you are seeking.
Influence and impact: Who else could benefit from what you learn? How might you share or use the learning with your organisation, community, networks or others? *Approximately 200 words; 1500 character limit*	Identify the people or groups who may benefit and explain the practical ways you will apply or share the learning.

Before you begin your application, please make sure you have the following information:

- Details about your primary organisation, current role or work context.
- Your organisation's website and ABN, if applicable.
- Your preferred course and available dates.
- Examples of your relevant experience in philanthropy, grantseeking, the not-for-profit sector or social impact.
- A clear explanation of how you intend to apply and share your learning.

The online application will take approximately **20 to 30 minutes** to complete.

COURSE SELECTION

The Giving Academy offers two short courses, with scholarships available to complete either course at no cost.

Course one: Effective Giving This course is designed for anyone in the philanthropic ecosystem, including funders, advisors, grantseekers and not-for-profit professionals. It provides a strong foundation for understanding how philanthropy works in Australia and making more informed giving or funding decisions.

Course two: Giving in Complexity This course is designed for funders wanting to contribute to systems level change, who have the seniority or influence to shape giving decisions. The Giving in Complexity course is not open to grantseekers. In person courses available only.

When applying for a scholarship, you'll be asked to select your preferred course and indicate which course dates you can attend. Please select all dates that suit you or indicate if you're flexible and can attend any available course. Your availability will not affect the outcome of your scholarship application.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

1	Applications open	10 November 2026
2	Applications close	30 November 2026
3	Assessment and selection	December 2026 – January 2027
4	Notification of application outcome	By early February 2027
5	Course allocation and enrolment	February 2027

IF YOU ARE SELECTED AS A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Successful scholarship recipients must:

- Accept their scholarship by the stated deadline in the offer letter. Scholarships not accepted by this date may be offered to another applicant.
- Attend all live scheduled sessions for their allocated course and actively engage in the program.
- Complete all required course work, self-paced learning and course activities.
- Participate in evaluation and reporting activities, including completing a post-course survey.

Successful applicants will be allocated to a course based on their stated preferences, availability, course eligibility and overall cohort capacity. While every effort will be made to allocate your preferred course, this cannot be guaranteed.

Cancellation and transfer policy

If you are no longer able to attend your course, please notify the program team as soon as possible.

Requests to transfer to a different course or intake may be considered where possible but cannot be guaranteed and will be subject to availability. Scholarships cannot be transferred to another person and are only valid for courses taking place in 2027.

If we cannot accommodate a transfer to a different date we may allocate your scholarship to another applicant.

Late cancellations, non-attendance or failure to participate fully without prior notice may be taken into consideration for future scholarship opportunities.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Scholarship applications must be submitted through the online application form between 10 November and 30 November 2026.

Before applying, please:

- Review The Giving Academy courses and upcoming delivery dates and confirm which dates you are available to attend.
- Confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria.
- Prepare the information and written responses outlined in the application information section.

Applications must be submitted via the online application form before the closing date. Late applications or those submitted by email will not be accepted.

APPLY NOW

If you require reasonable adjustments or accessibility support, or have questions about eligibility, application requirements, supporting documents or submitting your application, contact csinational@unsw.edu.au.

To ensure fairness, the program team cannot review draft responses, provide feedback on application answers or advise on the likelihood of receiving a scholarship.