



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS' CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

2020 Scholarship Application Guide

About AVCAT

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is a national independent charity. AVCAT manages tertiary scholarships and bursaries for children and grandchildren of ex-service men and women on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs, sponsors and donors.

About the Scholarships and Bursaries

AVCAT managed scholarships and bursaries are awarded based on financial need, academic potential and deservedness.

The scholarships support students who study full-time at a University, a TAFE College and a Registered Training Organisation within Australia.

Scholarships provide financial assistance throughout the duration of the degree, generally 3 years.

Long Tan Bursaries



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

The Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs funds the Long Tan Bursary for children and grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans. Eligible children of Vietnam Veterans will be given priority.

Sponsored Scholarships



Various ex-service organisations and private donors provide sponsored scholarships.

Eligibility Test

1. Are you a child or grandchild of an ex-serving Australian veteran?

YES Go to Question 2  **NO** You are NOT eligible

2. Are you an Australian permanent resident?

YES Go to Question 3  **NO** You are NOT eligible

3. Are you enrolled or planning to enrol in tertiary studies for a minimum of one year?

YES Go to Question 4  **NO** You are NOT eligible

4. Will you be studying full-time next year?

YES Go to Question 5  **NO** You are NOT eligible

5. Are you or will you be eligible for a Centrelink payment or equivalent e.g. Youth Allowance or Veterans' Children Education Scheme payment (VCES)?

YES Complete Application **NO** You are NOT eligible

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please read the information below before completing the Application Form

- Scholarships and bursaries managed by AVCAT are based on financial need, academic potential and deservedness. It is a requirement of the application process to provide documents like academic results, a referee report, detailed financial information and evidence as well as other supporting documents.
- Applicants need only complete one application form to be considered for all AVCAT managed scholarships and bursaries.
- Applicants who do not have a tertiary education qualification are prioritised over applicants who have a tertiary education qualification. However, applicants enrolled or planning to enrol in a second degree, Masters degree or Doctorate will be considered but will be treated as a lower priority.
- All scholarships and bursaries share several common eligibility criteria. However, specific criteria may apply to individual scholarships, such as, born in a specific state/territory/postcode; the veteran's membership of a particular association; the veteran's service in a specific conflict/battalion/particular section of the Defence like RAAF; or the course of study.

Eligibility Criteria

To apply for a scholarship the applicant must fulfil the following criteria.

- Children or grandchildren including adopted children, foster children and stepchildren of ex-service men and women. Adopted, step and foster children of a veteran are eligible to apply provided they have resided with or been financially supported by the veteran for five of the last 10 years. A grandchild of a veteran means a person who is a child of a person who is a child of the veteran.
- The veteran of the applicant must be an ex-serving Australian Veteran with operational service including eligible war service, war-like service and peacekeeping/peacemaking service, **OR** have three or more years continuous full-time service in the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force.
- The applicant must be enrolled (or planning to enrol) in a full-time undergraduate, tertiary course of one or more academic years duration at a University, a TAFE College or a Registered Training Organisation in Australia. Part-time study may be considered in exceptional circumstances, where there are accepted health issues, geographical isolation and family responsibilities. Online study is permitted.
- The applicant must be eligible for Youth Allowance or another Commonwealth Government, means tested payment/allowance, for example, Abstudy or Austudy in order to meet the financial need criteria of the scholarships.

NOTE: The selection process is very competitive. It is essential that all documents and evidence requested are provided. The final decision about who receives a scholarship will be applicants who are financially in need, show academic potential and are deserving. However, not all worthy and eligible applicants will receive a scholarship as there are not enough available scholarships to award.

It is mandatory that all information, including the required documents, are received

BY 31st OCTOBER 2019.

Failure to provide all documentation as requested will result in your application not being processed.

Filling out the application online

- We recommend that you start finding the relevant information required for the application as soon as possible and well before the due date of **31st October 2019**.
- You will need to provide various documents relating to the veteran, yourself, academic results, your finances and this may take time to collect.
- As you are filling out the application, you can save and exit the application at any point. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the 'save and exit' button. A link will appear – this is your access to where you left off in the application form – **so make sure to copy and save it somewhere safe.**

Privacy information

As part of the Application Process, AVCAT asks you for certain personal information. Such information may be used to assess your application and to report to sponsors. The personal information will be stored electronically or in paper files. Wherever possible we collect information from the person concerned, but it may be necessary to obtain information from other people including Government Departments and authorities.

AVCAT takes all reasonable steps to ensure that information held in paper or electronic form is safe and secure, protected from misuse, loss, unauthorised access, modification or disclosure. We take all reasonable steps to ensure that personal information is only used by AVCAT or disclosed to other organisations to the extent necessary for our assessment purposes. Section 10 of the Application Form deals with the release of information, declarations and signatures to be made by the applicant (or guardian if applicable).

If you experience any difficulties completing the online Application Form, please contact AVCAT directly on 02 9213 7999 or by email at info@avcat.org.au well before 31 October 2019.