

GRG Scholarships – Parent Guidelines

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Policy

The Scholarship Program Policy is to be used to guide discussions and assessment in association with any ability scholarship consideration at Georges River Grammar.

Purpose

This policy outlines the process of application for and awarding of a scholarship at Georges River Grammar. At Georges River Grammar scholarships are awarded for Academic, Sporting, Performing and Visual Arts. These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with any other relevant Georges River Grammar Policies.

Procedure

All GRG Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The Board can offer full scholarships, three quarter scholarships, half scholarships, third scholarships and quarter scholarships covering 100%, 75%, 50%, 33.3% and 25% of tuition fees respectively.

Scholarships refer to tuition fee deduction only. Recipients are liable to pay all other costs associated with their schooling.

Scholarship selection panels will be convened and assess the applications and applicants before making a recommendation for scholarship offer, with reference to the criteria outlined below.

These panels should be independent and have no conflict of interest with the applicants. Panels are convened at the discretion of the Principal.

Scholarship Application forms must be submitted with relevant supporting documentation for each application. In addition, all Scholarship applicants must to complete a School Enrolment Application, unless already a current student of the School.

General Selection Criteria

Successful scholarship recipients will exhibit the following characteristics:

- Strong academic merit – students applying will have strong reports and references from their current school. A demonstrated record of good academic progress, effort and potential will be required.
- A record of adherence to school rules and reports indicating outstanding general behaviour.
- Character and leadership attributes – students will demonstrate an ability to lead and a ready willingness to participate in a variety of educational and School related activities.
- Strength in co-curricular activities – students will demonstrate their participation and achievement in one or more of the following School activities; Performing Arts (drama, music), Visual Arts, Sport, Community Activities.

Academic Scholarship

Terms of Scholarship

Academic Scholarship testing occurs in late February each year for entry into Year 5, Year 7, Year 9, and Year 11 the following year.

Applications are available on our school website from September the year prior to the exam. Details regarding the arrangements for the examination day will be emailed to all candidates prior to the exam.

The Principal, Deputy Principal, Director of Teaching and Learning and any other relevant staff will form a selection panel. Shortlisting and interviews will be conducted in March. Successful applicants will be notified in April.

Scholarships may also be offered at the discretion of the Principal and Board of Directors to students of outstanding academic performance at any time.

Selection Criteria/Process

Stage 1- Standardised Testing: Applicants will be considered based on their performance in standardised testing, including the Allwell Scholarships Test. Applicants may also wish to provide results for other standardised tests, such as NAPLAN, OLSAT and Ravens testing, and these will also be considered in Stage 2, if submitted with their application. If a student demonstrates their academic capacity by obtaining Stanine 9 results in any of the four categories (General Reasoning, Maths Performance, Reading Comprehension and Written Expression) they may receive a scholarship. The number of Stanine 9s and other results are considered when allocating the percentage scholarship the student may receive.

Stage 2 – Student Interview: Applicants who have demonstrated academic capacity in Stage 1 should be interviewed to ascertain if there are other factors that support their application. This includes their academic motivation, as well as evidence of their ability and willingness to contribute to aspects of school life. These aspects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Exemplary results in other standardised testing;
- Dedication to and participation in co-curricular activities (Band/Choir, Dancing, Debating, Public Speaking, Representative Sport, etc.);
- Volunteer, service learning, and/or charity work that demonstrates their capacity to exhibit the School's values – Community, Compassion, Service & Sacrifice;
- Previous student leadership roles;
- Participation in a Gifted & Talented or Enrichment Program; and/or,
- Commitment to learning and/or citizenship, as revealed in awards the student has received in a previous school or educational institution.

Stage 3 – Other Students: If other students emerge in this process, and they have received very good results in the Scholarship Test (for example, Stanine 8 results), they may receive a 25%

scholarship, if they are also able to demonstrate their ability and willingness to contribute to aspects of school life in the Student Interview.

Ability Scholarships

Terms of Scholarship

Ability Scholarships are for entry into Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 for the following year and must be applied for in the set timeframe. Application forms are available on the School website in April each year for the following year and close the first week of May. Successful applicants are notified at the start of Term 3.

Scholarships are subject to annual review. Scholarship holders must maintain a level of performance commensurate with their ability.

Performing Arts Scholarship

Music

An interview panel will be formed for this scholarship with the Head of Music – Curriculum, Head of Music – Peripatetic & Performance, and the Head of Secondary School as well as any other staff as required.

Selection is based on student information as presented in the application. An audition will be part of the interview. The audition will consist of the student performing; two contrasting pieces of music (per instrument being auditioned) with accompaniment as applicable, a sight-reading test, a verbal test of general knowledge relating to the pieces performed and an aural test. For the successful candidate to maintain fulfilment of the scholarship requirements, it is expected that the student;

- Studies Music as an elective in Years 8-12.
- Maintains a high academic standard of excellence.
- Demonstrates a commitment to their instrument through ongoing completion of private lessons and completion of external examinations (eg. AMEB, Trinity or Rock School).
- Contributes to the co-curricular life of the Performing Arts Department by being available and willing to represent the school at a range of events both internally and externally. This includes but is not limited to: HICES Music Camp, Variety night, Open day, Musicale evenings, Awards Days.
- Participates in school ensembles (80% or more attendance each term) meeting the minimum standard.

Music scholarships are available to students who demonstrate evidence of outstanding musical ability and achievement on one or more of the following instruments. The instrument will also need to satisfy current needs within the Music program:

- Brass (trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba)
- Piano
- Percussion/Mallet Percussion

- Strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass)
- Voice
- Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon)

Due to strong demand for these music scholarships, there is a minimum standard required. This may change according to the instrument. The current recommendations for a minimum AMEB standard or equivalent are:

Students in Year 6 going into Year 7

- Piano 4th grade
- Woodwind 3rd grade
- Brass 2nd grade
- Percussion 2nd grade
- Strings 5th grade
- Voice 4th grade

Students in Year 8 going into Year 9

- Piano 6th grade
- Woodwind 5th grade
- Brass 4th grade
- Percussion 4th grade
- Strings 6th grade
- Voice 5th grade

Students in Year 10 going into Year 11

- Piano 8th grade
- Woodwind 6th grade
- Brass 5th grade
- Percussion 6th grade
- Strings 7th grade
- Voice 6th grade

Students who demonstrate participation and growth beyond the expected minimum standards are encouraged to reapply in the appropriate year group.

For Primary school students not in Year 6 that are interested in applying, the minimum standard of ability are that of the current recommendations for a minimum AMEB standard or equivalent of a Year 6 student going into Year 7.

The percentage of scholarship offered to successful applicants will be determined by:

- The number of instruments the student is able to play;
- The needs of the School; and/or
- The talent of the student as demonstrated throughout their audition.

Drama

An interview panel will be formed for this scholarship with the Drama teacher, Deputy Principal and other relevant staff as required. Selection is based on student information as presented in application. An audition will be part of the interview. This will require the student to perform a short monologue of 2 – 4 minutes followed by some questions about the character and the piece. The monologue can be from a play, a musical, a movie or written by the student themselves.

To be eligible for a Drama scholarship, the applicant's participation in the dramatic arts external to the School (i.e. community theatre, musical theatre workshops, NIDA, etc.) is essential. Selection of Elective Drama through Year 8-12 is a prerequisite for this scholarship. The student is expected to contribute to the life of the School by participating in Drama productions at the School as well as representing the School in external Drama competitions.

Visual Arts

Selection will also be based on student information as presented in application. A portfolio of work is to be presented at interview. Four (4) small sample postcard size images of their work are to be submitted with each application.

Selection of Visual Arts through Years 8-12 as an elective subject is required. There will be an exhibition of ongoing practical work and entry in external competitions as indicated by the Visual Arts Department.

In order to be awarded a 25% scholarship, students must be achieving at a 'Grade A' level in Visual Arts, display outstanding behaviour and participate in elective art programs outside of school.

In order to be awarded a 50% scholarship, students must maintain a 'Grade A' average level in Visual Arts, display outstanding behaviour and participate in elective art programs outside of school and be actively participating in art competitions and receiving external recognition for their work.

'Grade A' is described in the NSW Visual Arts Syllabus as:

A student at this grade typically:

- makes sophisticated artworks with a perceptive understanding of how the four frames and conceptual framework can be used to develop meaning and represent ideas and interests in the world.
- demonstrates highly developed technical accomplishment and refinement in making and resolving sophisticated artworks in 2D, 3D and/or 4D forms. They experiment, work with autonomy, and reflect on their actions, judgements and artistic intentions to make informed choices about their artworks.
- synthesises their understanding of practice, the conceptual framework and the frames to confidently interpret, explain and make judgements about art.

- demonstrates a perceptive understanding of the function of and relationships between the agencies of the conceptual framework, and how the frames can be used to represent a point of view.

Sporting Scholarship

The School does not offer specific training/coaching programs beyond the experiences gained as part of normal School sport. It is possible that the nominated sport of the scholarship applicant will not be part of our sporting program, but students do have access to trials for representation up to and including Australian representative level in any sport contained within the Combined Independent School's (CIS) sport program.

Selection for interview is based on student information as presented in the application. An interview panel will be formed with the Head of Sport, Deputy Principal and other associated staff. A high level of achievement/representation in their chosen sport is essential.

Criteria for assessment:

- Representation at a national level, competing for Australia at an International event (e.g. the Olympics) and being an active participant across a variety of other sports, including CASA sport representation in those other sports.
- Representing NSW (e.g. NSW All Schools) at an Australian championship (in their chosen sport), as well as other CASA sport representation.
- Representation in a NSW CIS Team in a State Championship (or similar) in their chosen sport, as well as other CASA sport representation.

Each student must also:

- Make a significant contribution to the GRG sporting program through coaching, officiating and mentoring at CASA and/or MISA representative levels.
- Participate within the school across several co-curricular areas.
- Demonstrate significant participation and representation in their chosen sport/s external to the School.
- Maintain a level of sporting representation commensurate with the criteria for assessment outlined above.

Removal of Scholarship

A Scholarship may be removed at any stage where a student has not met the requirements as set out above. All Scholarships will be reviewed annually (May). If a scholarship is to be removed mid-year (prior to the end of the calendar year) the following will occur:

- Staff member responsible for that scholarship will meet with student to outline the issues. At this time a letter of information to be sent to parents to outline the concerns raised;
- If no improvement is evident then a meeting will be held with the student, parents, Deputy Principal and Head of the relevant department to investigate and attempt to rectify the issues;
- If no improvement is evident a recommendation will be made to Principal for the removal of the scholarship. Parents will be informed in writing of the decision.