

Applying for a Regional Tertiary Scholarship

Application forms can be downloaded from Gardiner Foundation's www.gardinerfoundation.com.au/ts and emailed to scholarships@gardinerfoundation.com.au

Applications close 5:00pm Monday, 24 November 2025. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants are required to submit along with their application form:

- A copy of their most recent academic results transcript (for those who have studied in the last 3 years)
- An up-to-date resume
- A letter of support from an independent referee

Objectives

The Gardiner Foundation's regional scholarships are designed to:

- **Attract talented students** into fields of study that align with the future workforce needs of the Victorian dairy industry and dairying communities.
- **Support regional retention** by encouraging students from dairy regions to pursue further study locally.
- **Strengthen industry pathways** by connecting scholars with networks of interest and opportunities for work placements within the dairy sector.
- **Build long-term capacity** for professions critical to the resilience and growth of Victoria's dairy regions, including agriculture, food science, engineering, health and veterinary services.

Eligibility requirements

Gardiner Foundation will be awarding up to 3 scholarships. Successful scholars must be:

- Studying at a Regional University or Regional College in the following areas of study:
 - Agriculture (related)
 - Animal Science
 - Business (related)
 - Engineering
 - Food Science and/or Nutrition (related)
 - Health (related)
 - Other fields of study (this will be appointed should the fields above not be allocated)
- Committed to a career through their chosen course that will benefit the Victorian dairy industry and/or Victorian dairy communities.
- Commencing their first year of full-time tertiary study on campus in 2026.
- An Australian citizen.
- Currently residing in a Victorian dairy region.

Scholarship Value:

Eligible scholars will receive up to **\$30,000-\$40,000** (\$10,000 per year) **for three to four years** (course dependent).

Assessment Criteria

Applicants will be assessed on their:

- **Commitment to the Dairy Industry and Dairying Communities**
 - Clear intent to pursue a career that contributes to the Victorian dairy industry and/or the wellbeing of dairying communities.
 - Demonstrated understanding of the role their chosen field of study can play in supporting the future of dairy.
- **Engagement with Industry and Community Networks**
 - Willingness to participate in dairy industry or dairying community networks, events and initiatives.
 - Desire to undertake industry placements, internships or other practical experiences that build connections and skills.
- **Personal Development and Leadership**
 - Evidence of initiative, resilience, and a commitment to personal growth.
 - Involvement in extracurricular, volunteer or community activities that show leadership potential.
- **Academic Commitment and Achievement**
 - Demonstrated ability to succeed in tertiary study, including past academic performance and future potential.
 - Clear dedication to completing their chosen course of study.
- **Regional Retention and Contribution**
 - Likelihood of remaining connected to a Victorian dairy region after graduation.
 - Intention to apply their skills in ways that strengthen local services, businesses, or community resilience.

Selection Process

Applications will be shortlisted **by mid-December**.

Shortlisted applicants will need to supply their ATAR (VCE) score upon receipt (expected on 11 December 2025) and notification of university offer (first round available on 13 January 2026). Upon receipt of ATAR scores and university offers, shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview **mid-late January 2026**.

Interviews will be conducted by an independent panel. Candidates are required to provide evidence at their interview that they have been offered a place in a suitable tertiary course (If an applicant is awaiting a second round offer, they must advise the panel at interview).

The interview panel will determine its preferred 3 scholarship candidates and will recommend them to Gardiner Foundation. Interviewees will be advised of the outcome by the **last week of January 2026**.

Successful scholars will be required to sign a Letter of Agreement accepting the Terms and Conditions of the scholarship. At this time, they will also need to provide evidence of their enrolment.

Once Gardiner has received a scholar's signed Letter of Agreement and evidence of enrolment, the first payment will be made into the nominated bank account within 30 days.

Successful scholars will be invited to **attend a presentation lunch with their families in the last week of January 2026** where they will be presented with their scholarship certificate and meet other scholars.

Scholarship Terms and Conditions

Scholar reports

In order to receive their payments, the scholar must provide reports to Gardiner Foundation before each semester begins. These reports are due twice every year of study, on **1 February** and **1 August**.

In year 1 of the scholarship, prior to **15 February**, the scholar will provide a copy of their enrolment statement for first semester and a signed Letter of Agreement.

Prior to **1 August** in year 1 of the scholarship, and every subsequent year prior to **1 February** and **1 August**, the scholar will provide a progress report detailing their experiences during the previous semester on the template provided by Gardiner Foundation, a copy of their academic results transcript for the previous semester, and a copy of their re-enrolment statement for coming semester.

Continuity of studies

Gardiner Foundation agrees to provide funding of \$10,000 per year, totaling up to \$30,000–\$40,000 over three to four years for the scholar's approved course, as outlined in the Letter of Agreement.

The scholar agrees to advise Gardiner Foundation in advance of any proposed change to their course of studies. This might include extension of the study period, withdrawal, deferral, transferal to a different course or to part-time study. Gardiner Foundation will review the circumstances and may elect to terminate the Scholarship Agreement if deemed appropriate.

Should a scholar withdraw from their course for any reason prior to graduation, Gardiner Foundation will terminate the Scholarship Agreement.

If a scholar fails a unit, they will be required to meet with the Project Coordinator to discuss the circumstances and will have the opportunity to demonstrate renewed commitment to completing the course. After the meeting, Gardiner Foundation may elect to terminate the Scholarship Agreement if deemed appropriate.

Publicity and communications

Gardiner Foundation will use some of the information provided in successful scholars' application forms to promote its Tertiary Scholarships program. This information will be published in print media and online. Gardiner Foundation may also wish to take photographs of the successful scholars and use these for media and communications purposes.

Scholars will be invited to participate in Gardiner Foundation functions or events from time to time and may be required to speak or present at such an event.

Gardiner Foundation will keep scholars informed of any upcoming opportunities for professional or leadership development that it may be able to offer.