

GLOWS Scholarship 2025 Guidelines

About Lowitja Institute

Lowitja Institute is Australia's only national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health research institute, named in honour of its co-patron, the late Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG.

We work for the health and wellbeing of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by facilitating high-impact quality research, tools, resources, and knowledge exchange, and by supporting a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

Established in 2010, Lowitja Institute operates on key principles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, a broader understanding of health that incorporates wellbeing, and the need for the work to have a clear and positive impact.

Lowitja Institute members community

Our vibrant and engaged members community is integral to creating research outcomes that centralise and amplify the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To learn more about our membership community and to apply for membership, please visit our [website](#). There are no fees to join.


Lowitja Institute's research agenda

Lowitja Institute's research is built on key priorities identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We aim to achieve positive health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the high-impact research, tools and resources that we produce. We facilitate engagement between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, tertiary education and medical research institutions, government, and partner organisations to maximise the impact of research, knowledge and innovation. Importantly, Lowitja Institute drives our research agenda by ensuring that the research that we commission is led and owned by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

We also engage with our Indigenous family around the world, facilitating networks and collaborations that improve the health and wellbeing of First Peoples globally.

Our research methods have been refined over more than 20 years.

For more information, refer to our website's [Research page](#).



Lowitja Institute's research agenda is underpinned by a rigorous approach to research that adheres to Lowitja Institute's research principles of:

- **Beneficence** – to act for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the conduct of our research.
- **Leadership** by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- **Engagement** of research end users (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities, policymakers, other potential research users).
- **Development** of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research workforce.
- **Measurement** of impact in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health.

Lowitja Institute's research agenda 2024–26 aims to achieve positive health and wellbeing benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across four key themes:

1. **Self-determination** – this theme seeks to uphold historical, contemporary and future truth-telling as a fundamental process for decolonising health and wellbeing policies and practices. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the right to regain control to lead research and decision-making processes to contribute to social transformation throughout generations.
2. **Sovereignty** – this theme seeks to acknowledge the political and intellectual sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It upholds sovereignty in the political discourse, including determining the agenda, the creation, governance, control, and protection of knowledge.
3. **Cultural determinants** – this theme seeks to recognise the importance and relatedness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural determinants, which include our knowledge systems as integral to strong health and wellbeing.
4. **Racism** – this theme recognises the ongoing legacy of colonisation and the impacts on health and healthcare delivery and access. It seeks to uphold Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to culturally safe systems that are free of racism, by privileging community-led solutions to policy development and implementation to health service management and delivery, research, education and training, to improve the quality and safety of health systems.

About the GLOWS Grant Program 2024–26

The Guiding Local Opportunities for Wellbeing (GLOWS) Grant Program 2024–26 offers scholarships and research grants to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations and their partners for work relating to HIV and viral hepatitis over the next three years. In partnership with [Gilead Sciences](#), Lowitja Institute aims to further increase health equity, address disparities that continue to drive disease transmission, and work towards the elimination of HIV and viral hepatitis in all of our communities.

The GLOWS Grant Program 2024–26 aims to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, researchers, and organisations, to transform their ideas into aspirations that meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a decolonised and intersectional approach to grants.

The GLOWS Grant Program 2024–26 aims to support initiatives that align with at least one of the following funding priorities:

- **Prevention and education** – reforming and reinvigorating prevention strategies in HIV and viral hepatitis, while navigating racism and structures that act as barriers to disease prevention and education.
- **Individual and community agency** – supporting Indigenous-led organisations to strengthen skills, capabilities and infrastructure, and ensure the ongoing sustainability of HIV and viral hepatitis services. Additionally, create opportunities to support individual personal development and agency to encourage the next generation of leaders and mentors.
- **Reformed healthcare** – dismantling structural barriers to improve access to HIV and viral hepatitis prevention and care services, and building culturally safe and respectful environments for Indigenous people to navigate care.

Four different grant types and two scholarship streams will be offered over the course of the program. These include large and medium grants focused on providing opportunities for research and community programs that are aimed at addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community needs. The program will also include incubator, seeding or demonstration grants, scholarships and education grants. Funding tiers range from up to \$800,000 for large and medium research grants over two years, to seeding grants and student scholarships ranging from \$25,000 to \$55,000.

GLOWS Scholarship streams

GLOWS Scholarship

The aim of GLOWS Scholarship funding is to offer supplementary financial support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate and postgraduate students who are wanting to develop their skills and knowledge on how to increase health equity and address disparities that continue to drive the transmission of HIV and/or viral hepatitis within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This would be through studies that support the student's entry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research workforce.

Lowitja Institute has identified the following undergraduate and postgraduate programs available in the required focus:

- Bachelor of Public Health
- Bachelor of Public Health and Public Health Promotion
- Bachelor of Medicine
- Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Infectious Diseases Intelligence
- Master of Infectious Diseases
- Master of Epidemiology

If you would like to propose a program not listed above, please email the details of your proposed course to glows@lowitja.org.au prior to submitting your application.

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE, DURATION AND REQUIREMENTS

- The GLOWS Scholarship value is up to \$25,000.
- The amount awarded will be assessed against criteria including assessment of alignment with the GLOWS program objective.
- The maximum duration is up to one year.
- The number of available GLOWS scholarships may vary.
- The value of GLOWS scholarships may vary. The full scholarship value may be on a pro rata basis, depending on timing of scholarship payments and duration of study.

- Acceptance of the scholarship is subject to the awardee, Lowitja Institute and the administering university accepting and agreeing to all conditions set out in the GLOWS scholarship agreement.
- Continuation of funding during the tenure of the scholarship is dependent on the recipient maintaining satisfactory progress in the relevant program in which they are enrolled and meeting key deliverables stipulated in the GLOWS scholarship agreement.
- If you have been awarded a scholarship offer as part of the GLOWS application process, you cannot defer the scholarship offer.

GLOWS MAE Scholarship

The aim of the GLOWS MAE Scholarship is to attract and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to undertake a Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology (MAE) or a Master of Epidemiology. The objective of this scholarship is to support an MAE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholar placement with an Aboriginal community-controlled health service.

Lowitja Institute has identified the following programs available in the required focus:

Course	Location	Details
Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology	Australian National University (ANU)	Further program information can be found here
Master of Epidemiology	University of Melbourne	Further program information can be found here
Master of Epidemiology	Western Sydney University	Further program information can be found here
Master of Science (Epidemiology)	University of Melbourne	Further program information can be found here
Master of Medicine (Clinical Epidemiology)	University of Sydney	Further program information can be found here

If you would like to propose a program not listed above, please email the details of your proposed course to glows@lowitja.org.au prior to submitting your application.

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE, DURATION AND REQUIREMENTS

- The GLOWS MAE Scholarship value is up to \$55,000.
- The amount awarded will be assessed against criteria including, but not limited to, alignment with the GLOWS program objective.
- The maximum duration is up to one year.
- The number of GLOWS MAE Scholarships available may vary.
- The value of GLOWS MAE Scholarship may vary. The full scholarship value may be on a pro rata basis, depending on timing of scholarship payments and duration of study.
- Acceptance of the scholarship is subject to the awardee, Lowitja Institute and the administering university accepting and agreeing to all conditions set out in the GLOWS scholarship agreement.
- Continuation of funding during the tenure of the scholarship is dependent on the recipient maintaining satisfactory progress in the relevant program in which they are enrolled and meeting key deliverables stipulated in the GLOWS scholarship agreement.
- If you have been awarded a scholarship offer as part of the GLOWS application process, you cannot defer the scholarship offer.

Before starting your application

Applicants are encouraged to ensure that they have read the guidelines carefully to develop a thorough understanding of the scholarship application process and university requirements.

Before starting an application, please ensure:

- you meet all the eligibility criteria
- you address each of the application questions and upload all required documentation
- you review the application timeline as there will be no application extensions available.

An application may be considered ineligible and excluded from further consideration if it does not meet all eligibility criteria as set out in the following conditions of award:

- GLOWS MAE Scholarship conditions of award 2025
- GLOWS Scholarship conditions of award 2025

How to apply

All scholarship applications are to be submitted through the Lowitja Institute [SmartyGrants online grant application portal](#).

The SmartyGrants online portal requires frequent saving to keep your application as up to date as possible. It is recommended that you save your submission and refresh the application portal every 10 minutes.

Once you have submitted your application, the system will send you an automated email that provides an application number and copy of your completed application form. If you do not receive this email, you have not submitted your application correctly.

See the [Help Guide for Applicants](#) and [Applicant FAQ's](#) for further information on how to use the SmartyGrants portal.

What can scholarship funds be used for?

Funding awarded through the GLOWS program scholarship scheme is to cover the following costs:

- university course fees
- student amenities fees.

Timeframes for release of scholarship funds will be detailed in the scholarship agreement and agreed upon by all parties.

2025 GLOWS Scholarships application timeline

Our scholarship application timeline is as follows:

Date	Task
29 November 2024	Round 2 applications open
24 January 2025	Round 2 applications close
Mid-February 2025	Assessment review and approval of applications
Early March 2025	Successful and unsuccessful applicants notified
Early March 2025	Recipient acceptance of scholarship and funds released

Selection criteria and assessment process

The GLOWS scholarship scheme is an open and competitive process. The assessment process is designed to ensure research excellence and rigour as well as privilege Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.

The assessment process includes the following steps:

- Once the funding round closes, applications undergo internal assessment for eligibility.
- All eligible applications progress to peer review by a panel that is comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts and Lowitja Institute board members and staff.
- Applications are scored and ranked based on the assessment criteria.
- Recommendations for funding are considered and approved by the Lowitja Institute Board of Directors.
- Successful and unsuccessful applicants are notified via email.
- **Important to Note:** From the time that emails are sent out by Lowitja Institute, successful applicants have 10 business days (including public holidays) to accept the offer. The offer is accepted by signing the scholarship agreement and returning it, by email, to Lowitja Institute.
- If a successful applicant does not meet this deadline, the next ranked successful applicant(s) will be contacted in a second round of awarded scholarship funding.
- Lowitja Institute may request advice or clarification from applicants at any time during the assessment process.

Lowitja Institute encourages all applicants to adhere to these timeframes as there will be no exceptions or extensions available if grant funds are not accepted within the allocated timeframe.

Unsuccessful Round 1 GLOWS scholarship applicants are eligible to reapply for future GLOWS scholarship rounds.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria are welcome to apply for both the GLOWS Scholarship stream and the GLOWS MAE Scholarship stream.

The criteria are:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student.

- Enrolled as a full-time domestic student in an eligible course.
- Applicant has commenced studies or can commence studies in the next study semester.
- Applicant has not previously been awarded a GLOWS Scholarship or GLOWS MAE Scholarship.
- Applicant can demonstrate how the requested area of study is related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing and aligns with the GLOWS program objective.
- Applicant can demonstrate that the enrolled university supports the application for a GLOWS scholarship and the university's scholarship team, or appropriate delegate, agrees to administer the scholarship.

Application requirements

- Submission of a fully completed application form with required evidence.
- Provide confirmation of Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander descent.
 - This should include the common seal and be signed by the chairperson of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land council or an incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation in whose area the person lives or has previously lived.
- Provide proof of fulltime enrolment in an eligible program of study.
- Provide proof of additional funding or scholarships.
- Provide a letter of support from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community member, making brief comments against the selection criteria.
- Provide a letter of support from a current university lecturer or course convenor, making brief comments against the selection criteria.
- Confirmation that the enrolled university supports the application for a GLOWS Scholarship / GLOWS MAE Scholarship and the university scholarship team, or appropriate delegate, agrees to administer the scholarship.
- Provide contact details for the enrolled university's scholarship team representative, or appropriate delegate, including representative's contact name, email, and phone number.
- Demonstrate how area of study is related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing and aligns with the GLOWS program objective.

- Provide supporting comments against selection criteria, demonstrating alignment to funding priorities.

Selection criteria

- Describe your professional experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health (300 words max.)
- Describe your personal and professional goals and aspirations in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health (300 words max.)
- Describe how completing the chosen program of study contributes to your professional development and future goals (300 words max.)
- Describe how completing the chosen program of study will benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing (300 words max.)

Assessment criteria

Scholarship applications are assessed against the following criteria:

Assessment criteria	What is Lowitja Institute looking for?	Weighting
Applicant is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	<p>Applicant will be required to provide confirmation of Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander descent.</p> <p>This must include the common seal and be signed by the chairperson of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land council or an incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation in whose area the person lives or has previously lived.</p>	30%
Is eligible for the chosen course and has commenced studies or can commence studies in the next study semester.	<p>Applicant to provide proof of fulltime enrolment in relevant studies.</p> <p>Applicant to provide proof of additional funding or scholarships that they are in receipt of in relation to the chosen course (if relevant).</p>	30%
Can demonstrate how area of study is related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and	Applicant to provide supporting comments against selection criteria, demonstrating alignment to funding priorities.	40%

wellbeing against one or more of the funding priorities.

Application support

If you require any assistance in completing an application for a GLOWS program scholarship, please contact Lowitja Institute via email at glows@lowitja.org.au

www.lowitja.org.au

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