

Aboriginal Languages Trust

2025-2026 NSW Aboriginal Languages Educational Scholarship Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Context

The Aboriginal Languages Trust (**ALT**) administers grant programs, referred collectively as the Aboriginal Languages Community Investment Program, to support the growth and nurturing of Aboriginal Languages in NSW, consistent with the *Aboriginal Languages Act 2017* (AL Act).

The Aboriginal Languages Community Investment Program has four funding streams, one of which is:

The **NSW Aboriginal Languages Educational Scholarship Program** is an open, non-competitive program offering grants from \$1,000 to \$50,000 to eligible applicants.

NSW Aboriginal Languages Educational Scholarship Program

The NSW Aboriginal Languages Educational Scholarship Program (the **Program**) was established in October 2023 and is administered and funded by the ALT. It was established to provide grant funding to eligible Aboriginal individuals, to support them undertake training or education related to the learning, teaching and research of Aboriginal Languages for the benefit of their Communities, as well as for Aboriginal Languages across NSW more broadly. In providing this grant the ALT is seeking to work with the Aboriginal Languages Community, to grow the number of Aboriginal Language speakers, educators, teachers and researchers within their Community, consistent with the objectives and functions of the ALT, as set out in the AL Act.

When can I apply?

Applications open at 9:00am on Monday, 15 December 2025.

Applications close at 5:00pm on Friday, 23 January 2026.

What do I need to do before I apply?

You should read the Program Guidelines to make sure you are eligible for funding and can meet the specific information and evidence requirements.

The Guidelines are available on the ALT's website: <https://www.alt.nsw.gov.au/>

How do I apply?

All ALT grants are administered using the electronic Management System, SmartyGrants. You will need to create a secure account with login name and password in the [SmartyGrants Portal](#). You can then complete your online application form via the [ALT SmartyGrants Home Page](#).

Can I submit more than one application?

No, applicants are limited to one application per funding round (noting Tier 2 and Tier 3 offer multi-year funding of up to 2 years).

Can I get support to prepare my application?

Yes, if you need support with the application process, completing the application form (due to disability, disaster (flood), or access to technology for example) or are in a remote Community with limited access to the internet, please contact the ALT:

- Phone: 1300 036 406
- Email: grants@alt.nsw.gov.au

I'm having issues in SmartyGrants, what can I do?

For general assistance with SmartyGrants, you should check out their [Help Guide for Applicants](#) and [Applicant FAQ's](#). For further support you can contact:

Technical Assistance

- Contact SmartyGrants
- Phone: 03 9320 6888
- Email: service@smartygrants.com.au
[Technical help guide for applicants](#)

If I am ineligible, will I be told?

All applications will be screened for project eligibility. Ineligible applicants will be notified in writing.

For any questions regarding the Program, please contact the ALT:

- Phone: 1300 036 406
- Website: www.alt.nsw.gov.au
- Email: grants@alt.nsw.gov.au

If I am successful, when and how will I receive funds?

Aboriginal Languages Educational Scholarship funds will be paid directly via electronic funds transfer (EFT) to the applicant's nominated bank account (annually) within four (4) weeks of the agreement being signed and returned to the ALT.

Multi-year grant funding will be provided annually for approved courses or research. Funds for the follow-on year will only be released when evidence is provided that the grantee has successfully attended and completed the current year's approved study or research.

I will be studying through a university based outside of NSW, should I still apply?

Yes, if you identify and are recognised by your Community as an Aboriginal person and are a NSW resident, exception may be granted under special circumstances, where an applicant can demonstrate that the Language group area crosses State borders and/or the study/research will significantly benefit a NSW Languages group.

I will be undertaking fee-free TAFE study in NSW. If I am successful, what costs could my scholarship cover?

Under Tier 1: Community and TAFE Study Scholarship, funding may be used for:

- Tuition Fees: covering the cost of courses.
- Books and supplies: purchasing textbooks, electronic books and resources, study equipment, and other necessary materials.
- On-campus: assistance with on-campus housing and parking costs.
- Transportation: transportation to attend a course.
- Course materials: software, technology, or specific tools required for a program.

These are provided as examples of the types of activities that may be funded (but are not limited to the above). Funding can be used for study and research that meet the aims and objectives of the Aboriginal Languages Educational Scholarship Program, as such any further costs should be clearly identified in the applicant budget.

I have just completed my study. Can I still apply?

No, for all three tiers, funding cannot be used for costs associated with previous courses / research already completed.

Does the Educational Scholarship have a minimum age requirement?

While there is no specified age limit when applying for the scholarship, the applicant would need to meet the Program's eligibility criteria (appropriate to the Tier of funding being applied for), and any age requirements set by the educational institution in order to be accepted into the nominated course.