

SSI Allianz Refugee Scholarships
2021 academic year / **Skills + Qualifications Recognition**



Scholarship Information

The SSI Allianz Refugee Scholarships have been created to minimise the financial barriers experienced by refugees as they participate in the NSW education system, including in relation to skills and qualifications recognition.

The skills and qualifications recognition fund reflects an understanding that many refugees living in Australia possess extensive tertiary qualifications and professional skills, yet unfortunately these are often not recognised in Australia. The cost of skills and qualifications recognition is often prohibitively expensive.

In response to this growing issue, the SSI Allianz Refugee Scholarships will provide financial assistance for those who require a skills assessment that may result in the awarding of an Australian qualification or Statement of Attainment.

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 each are available for eligible recipients of a refugee background in NSW, to assist them in this process.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be successful in their application for support, applicants must:

- be from a refugee background on a humanitarian visa - Subclass 200, 201, 202, 203 or 204
- have been living in Australia for five years or less
- be seeking their existing skills and qualifications to be recognised in Australia with the intent of the awarding of an Australian qualification or Statement of Attainment
- be pursuing an approved course, skills or qualifications assessment
- confirm that the place of study and/or attainment is approved according to the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection as per their list of authorities – <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills-assessment-and-assessing-authorities/assessing-authorities>
- be currently enrolled in a formal recognition program, or expecting to receive an offer of admission to start the program within the next nine months from the date of application for support
- be living or studying/or the place of attainment is in NSW
- not have been awarded an SSI scholarship previously

N.B. if successful no more than one scholarship will be granted per immediate family

Also, an unsuccessful attempt in gaining recognition does not invalidate the scholarship.

Scholarship Purpose:

The scholarship funding is intended to support students in their academic pursuits and can be used to fund education-related products and services, such as:

- course fees
- extra tuition costs
- textbooks and relevant course materials
- technology costs, such as computer, software and internet access

Application Guidelines:

Applicants must:

- complete the application form in full in the applicant's own words
- provide a copy of the most recent academic transcript (where possible)
- provide a letter of introduction
- be able to satisfy the visa eligibility requirements
- be able to provide evidence supporting their application if deemed necessary

Application Process:

- Application form is available at: ssi.org.au/scholarships
- Additional information is available at www.ssi.org.au/scholarships
- Applications can be submitted via:
 - Email: scholarships@ssi.org.au
 - Mail or in person: SSI Scholarships, 2/158 Liverpool Road, Ashfield, NSW 2131

Key Dates:

- Applications open 19 October, 2020
- Applications close strictly at **5pm, Monday 9 November, 2020**
- Skills and Qualifications Recognition Scholarships announced late-December 2020 / January 2021

Application Form

All eligible applications received will be considered by the Scholarship Committee.

Applicants are required to:

- meet the eligibility requirements as outlined on the previous page
- complete and submit this application form
- provide a letter of introduction
- provide a copy of your most recent academic transcript
- provide two referee contacts and at least one referee letter

Application Submission:

Please submit your application with all supporting documents **no later than 5pm, Monday 9 November 2020** (late or incomplete applications will not be considered).

Applications can be submitted via:

- Email: scholarships@ssi.org.au
- Mail or in person:
SSI Scholarships,
2/158 Liverpool Road, Ashfield, NSW 2131

Scholarship recipients will be announced late-December 2020 / January 2021.

1. Personal Details

Title: (eg Mr, Mrs, Ms) _____

Given name(s): _____

Family name: _____

Gender: Male Female

Date of birth: dd/mm/yy / /

Country of birth: _____

Contact details

Mobile phone: _____

Email: _____

Postal Address

Street: _____

Suburb: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Status

Visa class: _____

Are you a permanent resident: Yes No

Which year did you arrive in Australia? _____

•••

Is anyone else in your immediate family also applying for an SSI Allianz Refugee Scholarship?

Yes No unknown

If Yes, what is their name? _____

2. Course Details

Existing overseas qualifications that you are seeking recognition for:

Qualification or skills attained: _____

Institution name: _____

Location – City: _____

Country: _____

Date you completed the qualification: mm/yy /

Skills and qualification recognition program in Australia:

Institution name: _____

Course or program name: _____

Date you commenced course, or date of intended commencement: mm/yy /

Approximate cost for gaining the Australian Qualification or Statement of Attainment \$

3. Applicant insights

a) Describe your financial need. Why are you seeking financial support?

b) Detail the costs of having your qualification or skills recognised in Australia, and how you would spend the scholarship funds. Include an estimated cost of each item and how each item will contribute to having your skills and qualifications recognised.

Application Form continued

c) How will having your skills and qualifications recognised contribute to your long-term goals?

d) Please provide any evidence of your achievements or activities:

i. any unpaid activities that you have undertaken to benefit others (for example voluntary work, community support, etc).

ii. any social activities you have engaged in either academically, in sport or in arts and culture.

iii. any recognition of your activities (for example awards or certificates).

Application Form continued

4. Referee Details

Provide details for two referees *plus* at least one referee letter (eg school, community group, work - not family):

Referee 1

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Referee 2

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Instructions for referees:

Briefly introduce yourself and your relationship with the applicant.

Referee letters should describe the qualities of applicant based on the relationship you have with the applicant (for example, academic, character etc). Be specific and give examples.

5. Terms and Conditions

- SSI reserves the right to seek additional verification of applicants' submissions.
- Where a student either intends to change the circumstances of their study or experiences a change to their circumstances of study, as listed below, they must inform SSI in writing at the earliest possible opportunity.
 - The SSI Committee will then determine on a case-by-case basis whether the scholarship will be cancelled and the recipient is required to return their scholarship funding, either in part or in full.
 - A 'change of circumstances' includes:
 - deferring studies
 - changing the course of study
 - changing the institution of study
 - incompleting of the course of study
 - unsuccessful application to study
 - unsatisfactory academic progress
 - ceasing to meet the eligibility requirements of the scholarship
 - failing to return to study after an approved interruption to their scholarship purpose

- SSI reserves the right to cancel any scholarship and ask the recipient to return their scholarship funding, either in part or in full should:
 - the recipient, or their agent, be found to have provided false or misleading information during or subsequent to the application process,
 - the recipient commit serious misconduct at their educational institution (serious misconduct may be determined by either the institution or SSI)
- Recipients agree to the periodic assessment of their chosen study/course as covered by the scholarship. This is to ensure that the recipient remains eligible for the scholarship throughout their relevant study period.

6. Applicant Declaration

I declare that the information submitted in this application for support from the SSI Allianz Refugee Scholarship is true and correct.

I authorise SSI to make appropriate enquiries in regards to my submission, such as reference checking and validation of the submission.

I acknowledge that the submission of any incorrect or misleading information to SSI may result in the termination of any scholarship and in that circumstance I will be required to repay any scholarship funds.

I understand that the decision of SSI regarding the scholarship is final and that the scholarship is subject to the Terms and Conditions.

If I receive the scholarship, I give consent for SSI to disclose agreed to personal information, not including contact details, for publicity purposes.

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

7. Application Checklist

Before submitting your application to SSI, please ensure that you:

- Meet the eligibility requirements as outlined on page 2
- Complete and sign this application form
- Attach a cover letter
- Attach a copy of your most recent academic transcript
- Attach at least one referee letter