

### **PIMCO BFA First Peoples Scholarship 2026 Guidelines, Terms & Conditions**

The PIMCO BFA First Peoples Scholarship aims to provide young, aspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists the opportunity to pursue their studies under the guidance of some of Australia's most accomplished artists.

The scholarship provides a stipend of \$20,000 p/a (up to 3 years) for a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Fine Art (full-time) at the National Art School (NAS). The recipient is intended to use the scholarship as a stipend to support living and study expenses.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Applicants must hold a current application or offer of place in the Bachelor of Fine Art degree program through UAC.
- Self-identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Provide documentation confirming Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

### **Confirmation Documentation**

Given the historical nature of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, we understand that obtaining an official Confirmation of Aboriginality can sometimes be challenging.

NAS accepts either of the following forms of documentation as a true Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent/heritage:

- A letter of "Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent/Heritage". This must be stamped with the organisation's common seal of certification.
- A Statutory Declaration. This is a legal binding document demonstrating your self-identification as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. The Statutory Declaration must be accompanied by additional supporting documentation as per the requirements outlined below.

### **Supporting Documentation**

If the applicant is providing a Statutory Declaration as Confirmation Documentation, NAS accepts any of the following forms of supporting documentation:

- Copies of a parents' 'Confirmation' document, along with a birth certificate showing the parent and applicants' relationship;

- Proof of genealogy, such as birth records or an official family tree;
- Evidence of membership to an organisation registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) as per the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006;
- Copy of your Abstudy forms;
- A letter from an Indigenous organisation or Aboriginal Liaison Officer that recognises you as an Indigenous person. This must contain the organisation's letterhead;  
Copies of any awards which are specified for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders;
- A letter from an Indigenous person employed in an Indigenous identified position. This must also contain the organisation's letterhead;
- A letter from a school that recognises you as an Indigenous student;
- Letter/s of support from a prominent Indigenous person in their community.

## Selection Criteria

The PIMCO BFA First Peoples Scholarship will be awarded to an applicant who would significantly benefit from financial support to commence the Bachelor of Fine Art program at the National Art School. Successful applicants will be selected based on:

- Performance in the admissions interview and portfolio assessment, demonstrating their artistic and academic potential; and
- A compelling written statement that clearly communicates:
  - A strong commitment to their artistic practice, and
  - A genuine need for financial assistance to support their studies.

## Applications

Please prepare the following required documentation to support your application. All applications must be made online by the deadline. Please reach out to [scholarships@nas.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@nas.edu.au) if you need assistance with the application process.

- Complete all aspects of the online application form.
- Submit a Written Statement of no more than 200 words outlining their aspirations and what they hope to achieve through their studies at the National Art School. Please include a brief statement on their need for financial support and potential impact of the scholarship.
- Submit a Digital Portfolio: All applicants must upload a maximum of 5 images of recent works, with one image per page in a PDF format. Each page should include the name of artist, title, date, medium, and dimensions. The selected work should best represent your current practice and interests.
- Submit official Confirmation of Aboriginality or Statutory Declaration with supporting documents (see notes above for further information).

## Conditions

- Applicants must submit a completed application that fulfils all eligibility requirements.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- Each submission will be considered by a selection panel comprising of representatives from the National Art School.
- The panel may request to meet with an applicant for an interview to discuss their application further.
- The scholarship is subject to satisfactory academic progression each year and maintenance of standard full-time enrolment in their degree.

- Scholarship holders are subject to all standard terms and conditions of enrolment in the BFA, and NAS policy.
- The scholarship offer is contingent upon completion of enrolment in 2026, and commencement cannot be deferred.
- The successful candidate will need to complete regular progress reports and undergo an acquittals process.

**Please email [scholarships@nas.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@nas.edu.au) for any inquiries regarding the application process.**