

Country Professional Experience Scholarship requirements

Program overview

The Country Professional Experience Scholarship is part of the Country Education Strategy, aiming to increase pre-service teachers' placements in country areas. It highlights employment and lifestyle opportunities in these regions, creating a pipeline of quality early career teachers prepared to live and teach in country settings.

Key components of the scholarship

Professional experience placement

We work with your university to provide a country professional experience funded by the Department for Education, removing the barrier to leave metro Adelaide to complete a placement.

Accommodation

Your accommodation during the placement is fully funded by the scholarship and you can expect the accommodation to:

- include separate sleeping areas, kitchen or kitchenette and private bathroom facilities outside of communal caravan park facilities
- be within a reasonable distance from the placement site.

You will need to ensure you have appropriate transport to and from your accommodation and site each day.

Financial support

The scholarship includes a travel subsidy to get you to and from the town where your placement will be, assistance with mortgage/rent, and living away from home expenses. Funds will be distributed in 3 separate payments: before, during and after placement. Applicants must ensure they can support themselves for the entirety of the placement before applying. You'll be provided with a payment schedule as part of your scholarship agreement, so you know when you'll receive the funds.

Note: If you will be receiving the Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP) for this placement, you will be ineligible to claim the mortgage/rent and living away from home assistance from this scholarship.

Induction events

This includes a welcome networking event and a program induction at Sprout Cooking School. Attendance at these events are mandatory to continue with the scholarship.

Support and learning

Weekly check-ins and professional learning sessions on topics including behaviour management and teacher wellbeing. Attendance at these sessions is mandatory. Non-attendance will result in an email notification to both you and your university.

Community induction

A combined effort from the site, local community and our team to integrate you into the country community.

Eligibility criteria

You must be:

- a pre-service teacher from Adelaide University (including University of South Australia and University of Adelaide), Charles Darwin University, Flinders University or Tabor College
- in the 3rd or 4th year of an undergraduate degree or studying a postgraduate degree.

You cannot be:

- a first or second-year undergraduate student
- also applying for a Catholic Education South Australia country scholarship
- also applying for a university scholarship for this placement
- seeking a placement at a metropolitan or APY Lands site.

Application process

After reviewing these scholarship requirements, eligible pre-service teachers can apply through completing an application form on the Department for Education's website.

Applicants can choose up to five regions they are willing to be placed in.

The scholarship is competitive with a limited number of positions available each year.

Selection criteria includes:

- applicant statement
- priority subject areas
- GPA
- preferred regions
- previous placement report comments.

Successful applicants will receive an email offer on September 1 to a region and must accept via a provided link. The confirmed school or preschool in their region will be provided to successful applicants no later than 1 December.

Conditions of the scholarship

Lead in days work differently for each university so please seek guidance as to whether your lead in days will be included in this scholarship.

Successful applicants must attend all scholarship events and online professional learning sessions.

Amendments to travel/accommodation will be at the applicant's expense.

The scholarship will be forfeited if the placement site is changed or another scholarship is accepted.

Program Timeline

- July 2025 - Application process
- August to November 2025 - Scholarship offers
- November 2025 - Welcome event and confirmation of school or preschool placement
- January to March 2026 - Placement coordination
- Terms 2 and 3 2026 - Placement

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility	
Can I apply if I study at a non-listed university?	Only students from listed universities with a memorandum of understanding with the Department for Education are eligible.
I am from the country, can I apply for a scholarship?	Yes, you can, but only if you choose to complete your country scholarship placement at a different country region from where you live.

Inclusions	
What does the scholarship cover?	<p>Our team will source and fund your accommodation for the duration of your placement.</p> <p>You will be provided with a travel subsidy (fuel allowance) to support the costs of travelling to and from your placement town at the commencement and end of your placement.</p> <p>You will receive a living away from home assistance payment (\$200 per week).</p> <p>If eligible, you will receive rent/mortgage assistance (up to \$100 a week). Evidence of rent/mortgage payments must be provided in order to receive this financial support.</p>
I am (or planning to) claiming the Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP). Am I eligible for financial support?	<p>If you are approved to receive the CPP you will not be eligible to receive the living away from home assistance payment (\$200pw) or the rent/mortgage assistance (up to \$100pw).</p> <p>To receive these payments, you will need to provide evidence that you have been declined to receive the CPP or that you are ineligible to receive the CPP.</p>
How do I provide evidence of my rent/mortgage payments?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A lease agreement including your name or a signed letter from your landlord confirming the payment amount and frequency. 2. A statement with rent payments clearly highlighted – the statement needs to have 'rent' as a reference. This statement should be from within the last 3-6 months.

Placement site	
Can I choose my placement site?	No, placements are determined based on several factors and cannot be negotiated or changed.
Can I be placed near home?	The scholarship aims to provide an experience in a new region, so placements near your current place of residence and/or your 'home town' will not be considered.
If I am on special authority to teach (SAT), can my scholarship be undertaken at that site?	No, placement scholarships are owned by the site you are offered. If you are unable to complete your placement at your offered site, your scholarship will be forfeited.
Can I apply for a scholarship to teach on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands?	The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands are not included in the scholarship program. Please speak with your university around any programs they run relating to placement opportunities in the lands.

Accommodation	
Do I need to find or pay for accommodation?	Accommodation is sourced and funded during your placement. In addition to your placement block we will provide accommodation up to 2 days prior and 2 days following your placement block dates.
Will you pay for my accommodation for lead in days?	Lead in days work differently for each university so please seek guidance as to whether your lead in days will be included in this scholarship.
Can I stay with family or friends?	Yes, but additional living expenses or travel assistance will not be provided.
Can I change my accommodation dates?	Yes, but this will be at your own expense. You will need to arrange this directly with the accommodation provider, not through the country teaching team.
Do I have to share accommodation with another pre-service teacher?	No, however previous feedback from participants suggests sharing accommodation with another pre-service teacher helped them feel supported, safe and enhanced their experience.

Contact Information

For questions, please contact the Country Teaching Team on 8226 3974 or teachincountry@sa.gov.au.



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education