



Scholarship Guide

At Strathcona, we support each individual girl to develop her own voice and identity, as well as health, mind and spirit. Learning is the heartbeat of our culture and throughout the history of the School each student has been instilled with the self-belief and resilience to embrace new opportunities and the confidence to pursue their passions so they make their way bravely, faithfully and happily through life. Strathcona offers a limited number of Academic, Music and Special Scholarships on an annual basis. Scholarships recognise achievement, enable success and assume a commitment to the School.

Strathcona is a vibrant, warm and connected community and families of scholarship applicants are expected to understand and uphold the values of the School. Before making an application for a scholarship please take the time to read all the information below, outlining the types of scholarships on offer, the process of applying for a scholarship and some helpful frequently asked questions. For more detailed information, we kindly refer you to our Scholarship Policy document that is also available on our website.

Available Scholarships

Academic Scholarships

The Principal of Strathcona, Mrs Marise McConaghy, invites applications for academic scholarships every year from current and prospective students. In 2023, the following years of entry will be available: Year 5 through to Year 9.

Music Scholarships

Music and performance form a rich part of the tapestry of learning and life here at Strathcona. The successful music scholarship applicant is expected to take an active part in the musical life at the School.

Special Scholarships:

Beth McLaren Smallwood Scholarship Program

This scholarship is funded by the Beth Smallwood Trust to support prospective students who have a hearing impairment. The application is subject to hearing and academic assessments, in addition to a family means test.



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How to Apply

Academic Scholarships

1. Submit a Scholarship Application Online with EduTest. When the Scholarship applications are open, the link is available on our website (<https://www.strathcona.vic.edu.au/contact-admissions/scholarships/>).
2. Submit a Scholarship Portfolio and supporting documents to our Registrar (via email or post). This must be submitted at least one week prior to the Academic Testing Day. Please note that your submission must include the following documents:
 - A letter from the student to our Principal outlining why they would like to attend Strathcona. Preferably, this letter is to be handwritten and in the student's own words.
 - Copy of the student's Birth Certificate. Please note that where the student has been born overseas, please also provide a copy of the student's Australian Passport, Australian Citizenship Certificate or Permanent Resident Visa.
 - Copy of the student's two most recent School Reports (e.g. Semester 2, 2020 and Semester 1 of 2021).
 - Copy of the student's most recent NAPLAN summary if available.
 - Any supporting certificates, awards, photos of trophies or examples of outstanding work, that you feel would be relevant to uphold the application for scholarship.
 - MUSIC ONLY: provide relevant documentation supporting your daughter's current standard of performance or musical achievements such as AMEB or similar examination reports.
 - Please **do not** include any original documents or display folders. Due to the bulk of submissions received, we will be unable to return these to you.
3. Attend Academic Testing Day (specific dates will be published on our website).
4. Shortlisted candidates only will be invited to attend an interview with the Principal, Mrs Marise McConaghy or a member of her leadership team.
You will be invited to submit an Application for Enrolment at this point.

Music Scholarships

All music scholarship applicants must also participate in the Academic Scholarship testing process, and we ask that you follow the same steps outline above. **Additionally, Music Scholarship applicants must apply online (<https://www.strathcona.vic.edu.au/music-scholarship-application/>) and you will be invited to attend an audition time in the weeks before or after the testing day.** Please provide copies relevant documentation supporting your daughter's current standard of performance or musical achievements such as AMEB or similar examination reports as part of your portfolio submission.

Special Scholarships

Please review our website for information about how to apply for the following opportunities:

- Beth McLaren Smallwood Scholarship Program



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Academic Testing Day

Typical Schedule

- 8.15am Registrations Open
- 8.45am Presentation in Featherstone Hall
- 9.00am Testing Commences
- 12.30pm Students Available for Collection in Featherstone Hall

Please note that as the rest of the School will be closed, we are unable to host waiting families, however we are located just a short walk to Maling Road (with numerous coffee and food options).

What To Bring

A morning tea of fruit and water will be provided for students. Students should bring the following items: a 2B or HB pencil, blue or black pen, eraser and sharpener in a clear, plastic packet or sleeve (no pencil cases). Please note that no iPads, no phones, no digital watches or similar are permitted.

Additionally, students must bring **one** of the following forms of identification:

- Student Card (issued by your school)
- Recent Class Photo (name clearly shown)
- Current School Report (with photo)
- Passport (recent)
- Current Library Card (with photo)
- Current Student Travel Card (with photo)

Please ensure that staff are aware of any medical concerns and receive copies of relevant asthma / anaphylaxis action plans. Please also ensure that your child brings along any required medication to the testing day. A medical officer is typically in attendance.

Attending Your Audition

Each applicant for a Music Scholarship will undertake a practical audition process. Auditions are held at the advertised date and applicants will be required to register for an audition on the day. Applicants who learn more than one instrument may audition in more than one instrument. Each applicant must provide her own accompanist. The use of backing tracks is NOT allowed. Applicants must provide a copy of each work to the Head of Performing Arts before the start of the audition. Successful applicants who have auditioned on more than one instrument will only be awarded a Music Scholarship on one instrument.

Applications will perform (subject to annual review):

- Two contrasting pieces (no more than 10 minutes total duration)
- Technical work (a study or vocalise, scales and arpeggios)
- A sight-reading exercise (provided by the Head of Performing Arts)
- A short aural theory test based on basic musical knowledge.



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Scholarship Review Process

Following the testing day, the School typically receives results from EduTest within approximately two weeks, although this can sometimes vary. Shortlisted candidates are then contacted for an interview and this may take an additional two weeks. Strathcona endeavours to notify **all** candidates in writing at the successful conclusion of the scholarship review process and we thank you for your patience as we work through this process (prepare for approximately 6 weeks).

Please note that Strathcona declines to share any Scholarship testing results or feedback with participating families due to the competitive nature of this process.

Attending An Interview with our Principal

If you have been invited to attend an interview with our Principal, congratulations! This means that you, and a small number of other candidates, have made it to the second round. Please submit an [Application for Enrolment](#) to confirm your attendance at this interview.

Accepting a Scholarship Offer

Following a successful interview with our Principal, Strathcona may be in a position to provide you with a Scholarship Offer, congratulations! We ask that you be prepared to accept this offer within two business days.

All scholarship holders, together with their parents / guardians will be required to accept and sign a Scholarship Agreement that will detail the concession conditions. This will include committing to the ethos, program and expectations of the School. The agreement will also include details of the annual performance review.

To accept the Scholarship Offer, families will be asked to make a payment of a \$1,000.00 non-refundable enrolment fee and a \$1,000.00 non-refundable scholarship holding fee. The School requires receipt of the signed acceptance paperwork, in addition to receipt of all required documents as part of a standard enrolment (e.g. Application for Enrolment form signed by both parents, Birth Certificate, Immunisation Record, any Visa or Citizenship documents).



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Frequently Asked Questions

Should I attend a tour with my daughter prior to applying for a Scholarship with Strathcona?

The short answer is yes! It is always in your best interests to attend a tour of a school prior to submitting an [Application for Enrolment](#) or Application for Scholarship. During the scholarship process, there will be limited tours available and so sooner is always better. We recommend attending the [next tour opportunity](#) to gain valuable insight into a typical day at Strathcona.

Are the Strathcona examinations run by an external organisation?

Strathcona utilises the services of a company called [EduTest](#) for all academic assessments. This company manages all applications and the examination process (including results).

Does Strathcona have a set number of scholarships to award every year?

The number of scholarships on offer varies from year to year and is highly dependent upon the academic performance of individual students.

Does Strathcona award a certain amount or percentage?

Our School may award anything between 25% to 80% of the tuition fee, and this amount can fluctuate from student to student. It is worth noting that Strathcona does not offer any full scholarships of 100% and any other levies or charges may be applicable.

Does Strathcona provide any feedback following the examination and is it possible to obtain a copy of the Scholarship results?

Due to the competitive nature of the Scholarship process, Strathcona declines to share feedback or results with participants.

If I have accepted a Scholarship offer, but later change my mind, what happens?

Any fees paid are non-refundable, and subsequently are forfeit. Please read our Scholarship Policy carefully.

MUSIC: What level should my daughter currently be at with AMEB to be considered as eligible to apply?

Typically, we recommend at least Grade 4. Please refer to the Music Scholarship AMEB Guide available in our Scholarship Policy for details.

I already hold a Scholarship with Strathcona, am I eligible to participate?

Regretfully, students that already hold a Scholarship with Strathcona are not eligible to participate.

What can my child expect from the academic examination?

There are typically five sections to each examination paper:

1. Verbal Reasoning
2. Numerical Reasoning
3. Reading Comprehension
4. Mathematics
5. Written Expression

Do you have practice tests that my child can use to prepare for the examination?

EduTest has some [practice assessments available online](#). Please note that online tests are designed to make students feel comfortable with the style and format of the questions they are likely to encounter in a scholarship examination, and do not entirely duplicate the examination material.

MUSIC: If I receive an offer for a Music Scholarship, will this include Instrumental Music Tuition?

The cost of music tuition for one instrument is included in a Music Scholarship offer, to the value of \$100 per lesson for 32 weeks (\$3200 total).

Am I am eligible to apply as an International Student?

Full Fee Paying Overseas Students (on a 500 Visa or similar) are not eligible for these scholarships.