



## COMMUNITY BANK SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES For TAFE & university study in 2021

The Maldon & District Community Bank is offering three scholarships – a \$2,000 scholarship (major) and a two \$1,000 scholarships (minor) – to support young TAFE or undergraduate tertiary course students from the Maldon, Newstead, Harcourt, Dunolly and Mount Alexander districts for their studies in 2021.

These scholarships are awarded to cover costs associated with tertiary education, such as course fees, rent, purchasing computers, books, equipment or other resources associated with your course.

Applications are sought from young people aged 25 years or under starting or continuing a TAFE-based apprenticeship, a TAFE Certificate course, a diploma, advance diploma or university degree in 2021.

### About the scholarship program

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Eligibility</b>  | <p>The Maldon &amp; District Community Bank (MDCB) TAFE &amp; University Scholarship Program is open to young people who live in the communities or attended a secondary school in the catchment area served by the Maldon &amp; District Community Bank (and our branches in Dunolly, Maldon and Newstead).</p> <p>It also includes the following towns and surrounding areas of Maldon, Newstead, Dunolly, Baringhup, Walmer, Nuggetty, Strangways, Sandon, Welshmans Reef, Muckleford, Elphinstone, Castlemaine, Harcourt, Eddington, Campbells Creek, Taradale, Bealiba, Guildford, Moliagul, Tarnagulla, Chewton, Lockwood South, Laanecoorie and the Mount Alexander Shire.</p> <p>So if you are planning on entering an Australian university or TAFE or continuing these studies in 2021 you can apply for this scholarship. The university, college or TAFE must be an accredited and registered tertiary provider.</p> |
| <b>What university courses are eligible for this scholarship program?</b> | Bachelor undergraduate degree level courses in any field of study.   |
| <b>What TAFE courses are eligible for this scholarship program?</b>       | <p>Eligible TAFE courses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full-time or competency-based completion (apprenticeships).</li> <li>• Certificate I, II, III or IV.</li> <li>• Diploma, Advanced Diploma or Associate degree.</li> <li>• Course must be of at least 10 weeks' duration for full-time study or the part-time equivalent.</li> </ul> <p>Courses ineligible for this scholarship include VETiS and Foundation level training and short courses.</p>   |
| <b>I am planning to defer my studies in 2021. Should I still apply?</b>   | Scholarship funds cannot be deferred or held over, so if you're planning a gap year you'll have to wait to apply. We require you to study in 2021 to be eligible for this scholarship.   |
| <b>How much money is available?</b>                                       | <p>There are three scholarships available for study in 2021. These scholarships are for one year only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2,000 (major) – one available</li> <li>• \$1,000 (minor) – two available</li> </ul>  |
| <b>I require more funds for my studies, so can I ask for more money?</b>  | Unfortunately you cannot request more money, as the scholarship is strictly \$2,000 (major scholarship) or \$1,000 (minor scholarships).   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Duration</b>   | One year.   |
| <b>Do I need to be studying full-time to be eligible?</b>     | <p><u>For university courses:</u> if you are studying at university, then a full-time study load is one of the eligibility criteria.</p> <p><u>For TAFE courses:</u> eligibility for the scholarship is open to full-time or part-time students.</p>  |
| <b>What can I use the scholarship for?</b>                    | <p>Any costs associated with your studies, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rent or accommodation costs</li> <li>• Study related material or equipment (text books, stationery etc.)</li> <li>• Computers, printers, laptops or other study related IT equipment</li> <li>• Tutoring</li> <li>• Course costs</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Age</b>  | You must fit our age criteria of being 25 years or younger at the time of submitting the application.   |
| <b>Citizenship</b>  | It is only open to Australian citizens, permanent residents or those on permanent humanitarian visas.   |
| <b>Applications open</b>                                      | 30 November 2020  |
| <b>Applications close</b>                                     | <p>Midnight, 31 January 2021</p> <p>The application date will not be extended. It is your responsibility to ensure your application is submitted by the closing date.</p>   |
| <b>How to apply</b>   | <p>Please visit <a href="https://maldoncb.com.au/investing-back-community/sponsorships-grants/">https://maldoncb.com.au/investing-back-community/sponsorships-grants/</a> to access the application form.</p> <p>Another way to get a hold of the application form is by contacting the Bank's Executive Officer Karly Smith via email or phone: 0478 435 110 or <a href="mailto:executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au">executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au</a></p> <p>We will send all applicants an email to confirm receipt of their application.</p>  |
| <b>How do I submit my application?</b>                        | <p>We prefer applications to be submitted via email. We also accept applications via post or hand delivered.</p> <p>Applications will be accepted any time up to midnight on 31 January 2021. Submit the completed application via:</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au">executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au</a></p> <p>Post: Executive Officer<br/>Maldon &amp; District Financial Services Ltd (MDFSL)<br/>PO Box 268, Maldon VIC 3463</p> <p>Deliver: To our Maldon Branch – 81 High Street Maldon<br/>or to our branches at:<br/>Dunolly (at the Dunolly RTC) or<br/>Newstead (at the Newstead RTC)</p> |
| <b>Do I need to type my answers?</b>                          | Applications can be hand-written or typed. Just make sure we can read your writing if you are hand-writing it.  |
| <b>How is the scholarship recipient selected?</b>             | <p>A selection committee will carefully review all eligible applications and will assess the submitted details against our criteria. Incomplete applications will not be assessed, and we will not consider applications submitted after the closing date (midnight, 31 January 2021).</p> <p>If we require further information or clarification, we may contact you during this process. We may also ask you to undertake an informal interview to assist with our selection.</p> <p>The scholarship will be awarded on the recommendation of the selection committee.</p>   |
| <b>How will I know whether my application was successful?</b> | All applicants will be advised in writing (email) of the outcome of their application. It is anticipated this will happen by the end of February 2021.  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>If I am unsuccessful, can I re-apply for funding next year for my tertiary studies?</b>                                       | Yes, by all means you can reapply for funding in subsequent years.  |
| <b>How are the scholarship funds paid?</b>   | If successful you will be expected to sign a funding agreement that outlines the conditions of funding.<br>The scholarship will be paid as a \$2,000 Maldon & District Community Bank account (major scholarship winner) or a \$1,000 Maldon & District Community Bank account to each runner-up (2 minor scholarships available). If you don't have an account with our Community Bank we can set one up for you to receive the scholarship funds.   |
| <b>Is the scholarship funding counted as income for taxation purposes?</b>   | You'll have to get your own professional advice about this, as the Maldon & District Community Bank does not offer taxation advice regarding the scholarship.   |
| <b>Do I need to let you know about other scholarships or awards I have received for study in 2021 or that I am applying for?</b> | We do want to know this information as part of the application process. This will not rule you out for our scholarship, but it may be taken into consideration when assessing your application.   |
| <b>Protecting my privacy</b>   | We will keep secure all of the information you provide. The information will be reviewed by a small selection committee and it will be treated with sensitivity and care.<br>The Maldon & District Community Bank treats all information provided by applicants in accordance with the <i>Information Privacy Act 2000</i> . The information will only be used for the purpose of assessing the scholarship application and will not be disclosed to any other party except as required by law. |
| <b>What if I quit my studies before the end of the year?</b>   | Please let us know as soon as possible. As a scholarship recipient, you are required to let us know of any change in circumstances that may affect your studies. We will endeavour to discuss options with you, however Maldon & District Community Bank may seek for the scholarship funds to be reimbursed if you cease your studies without adequate explanation or reason.  |
| <b>If I receive a scholarship, will I have to show how I spent the funds?</b>  | Yes, you will need to provide copies of receipts at the end of the funded year of study to show us that the money was spent to support your tertiary studies.   |
| <b>Do I need to report back to the Maldon &amp; District Community Bank when I have finished the 2021 academic year?</b>         | Yes, we do need to hear back from you at the end of your studies in 2021. We have a simple acquittal form for you to complete to let us know how the funds helped your studies, what you used the money for and your future study and work plans. This form must be returned to the Executive Officer by 1 December 2021.   |

### **If you need more information or have any questions**

Please contact the Executive Officer Karly Smith about this scholarship and application process by email [executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au](mailto:executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au) or phone 0478 435 110. Karly is available during office hours on Monday-Thursdays. Do leave a message and she will return your call or email.

Alternatively you can contact Maldon & District Community Bank Board Chair Ross Egleton via [chair@mdcb.com.au](mailto:chair@mdcb.com.au) or 0425 801 959.