

SOUTHERN CROSS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS



About this scholarship

Southern Cross Catholic College is proud to offer the Years 7-10 Academic Excellence Scholarship; an annual award that recognises, supports and celebrates young people of exceptional merit, character and promise. Grounded in our Catholic identity and Lasallian tradition of social justice, this scholarship is designed to ensure that a Southern Cross education is accessible to students who demonstrate outstanding ability, regardless of personal or financial circumstances.

We believe every young person who has the potential, drive and character to contribute positively to our community deserves the opportunity to do so. This scholarship is one of the ways we live that belief.

Scholarship at a Glance	
Scholarship value	\$2,500 per annum (credited towards tuition fees)
Duration	Awarded at entry to Year 7 or commencement at SCCC in Years 8-10. Renewed annually through to Year 12, subject to conditions
Number available	Up to 10 scholarships per year available
Entry level	Years 7-10
Closing date	Applications must be submitted to the College and ACER registration must be submitted by Friday 2 October . Applications submitted after this date will not be considered
Notification	Pending exam results and submitted application, applicants will be notified whether they will be shortlisted for an interview by Monday 2 November. Interviews will be held on Thursday 5 November. Confirmation of successful recipients will be provided by Monday 9 November.
Enquiries	SSCAEnrolments@bne.catholic.edu.au 07 3480 3600

Purpose and Intent

The Southern Cross Catholic College Academic Scholarship reflects the College's deep commitment to:

- Recognising and rewarding academic excellence, character and holistic achievement;
- Ensuring students who would benefit from a Southern Cross education, but face financial barriers to access, are not excluded from this opportunity;
- Encouraging greater participation and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Catholic secondary education;
- Supporting students who are active members of their local Parish community, strengthening the connection between school and faith;
- Investing in young people who will make a meaningful contribution to the life of the College and the broader community.

This scholarship is not simply a financial reward. It is a commitment between the College and student to grow together in faith, learning and service throughout the student's time at Southern Cross.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the SCCC Academic Excellence Scholarship, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled in Year 6 at a primary school in Australia for the year of application, or a new student to the College, enrolling in Years 8-10 to commence the year after application;
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident;
- Registered to sit the ACER Cooperative Scholarship Testing Program (Secondary) – See the ACER Scholarship Test section (below) for further details;
- Capable of demonstrating academic achievement, character and contribution through school reports, references and the written application.

Prior eligibility – strongly encouraged to apply

The following groups are particularly encouraged to apply. Priority consideration will be given to eligible applicants from these categories:

- **Financial accessibility**
Students from families for whom the cost of a private Catholic secondary education may represent a significant financial commitment; families are invited to indicate this

confidentially as part of their application. This information is treated with the utmost discretion by the selection panel.

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students**

In recognition of BCE's commitment to reconciliation and First Nations education, we warmly encourage applications from students who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

- **Active Parish community members**

Students who are active and engaged members of their local Catholic parish, including participation in Mass, sacramental preparation, altar serving, youth ministry or other Parish activities, are strongly encouraged to apply. Parish involvement is considered a reflection of the student's lived faith and community spirit.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed holistically by the College Scholarship Selection Panel. The following criteria will inform the selection process:

1. Academic Excellence and Application

- Results from the ACER Cooperative Scholarship Testing Program, mandatory for all applicants;
- Consistently high academic achievement across core learning areas, as evidenced in the students' three most recent reports;
- Strong work ethic, intellectual curiosity and engagement with learning;
- Evidence of a growth mindset and willingness to challenge themselves academically.

2. Character, Values and Catholic identity

- Personal qualities that reflect the values, ethos and mission of Southern Cross Catholic College – faith, excellence, service and community;
- Active and meaningful participation in Catholic Parish life – liturgy, sacramental programs, youth ministry or community service within a faith context;
- A demonstrated commitment to living Gospel values in daily life, both at school and in the community;
- Personal integrity, resilience and moral courage as evidenced through references and the personal statement.

3. Behaviour, Attendance and Engagement

- Excellent conduct and behaviour as reflected in school reports and teacher references;
- Strong attendance and punctuality, demonstrating commitment to learning and community;
- A positive attitude toward the school community, peers and teachers.

4. Co-Curricular and Community Involvement

- Active participation in co-curricular activities – sport, the arts, music, leadership programs, STEM, cultural activities or community service;
- Leadership roles or initiatives undertaken within the school or broader community;
- Contribution to the life of the school community beyond the classroom;
- Participation in service and outreach activities that reflect concern for others.

5. Financial Accessibility (confidential consideration)

Where two applicants are of equal merit in all other criteria, priority may be given to students from families for whom the cost of tuition at Southern Cross Catholic College would represent a genuine financial challenge. This consideration is strictly confidential and will be sensitively and privately reviewed by the selection panel only. It will not affect the dignity or standing of any applicant. Families are invited, but not required, to indicate this as part of their application.

6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identity

Applications from students who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander are strongly and warmly encouraged. In honouring our commitment to reconciliation, equity and the broader BCE vision for First Nations education, the selection panel will apply culturally responsive consideration to these applications. Students may self-identify on the application form. The College and BCE are committed to ensuring this process is respectful, culturally safe and fully confidential.

The ACER Scholarship Test

All applicants for the Years 7-10 Academic Excellence Scholarship are required to sit the ACER Cooperative Scholarship Test. This is a standard requirement used by many leading Australian Catholic, independent and grammar schools as part of their scholarship process.

Test Provider	Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)
Test Level	Levels 1, 2 and 3 (depending on year level of entry)
Test Content	Written expression Humanities – comprehension and interpretation Mathematics (Level 1) Mathematics and Science (Levels 2&3)
When	Saturday 17 October, 8.30am
Where	Brother Timothy Peter Centre 304 Scarborough Rd, Scarborough
Registration	Families register directly with ACER at https://scholarships.acer.org/ Parents must create a Parent Account, log in, add their child and follow the instructions for registration

Registration fee	\$140 paid directly to ACER when registering. If payment of registration fee presents a barrier to applying, please contact our enrolments office - scccenrolments@bne.catholic.edu.au for a confidential discussion
Results	Test results are provided by ACER to the College, directly
Sitting the test	Sitting the ACER test does not guarantee a scholarship offer. It is one component of the holistic application process

Scholarship Conditions and Renewal

The Years 7-10 Academic Excellence Scholarship is renewable annually from the year after successful application, through to Year 12, subject to the following ongoing conditions:

- The student maintains consistently strong academic achievement and application throughout the year;
- The student demonstrates excellent attendance, punctuality and conduct in line with College expectations;
- The student actively participates in the co-curricular and community life of the College;
- The student upholds the values, ethos and expectations of Southern Cross Catholic College and Brisbane Catholic Education.
- The student continues to demonstrate the qualities of character and community that were recognised at the time of the original award.

Review and Withdrawal

The scholarship is reviewed annually. It may be withdrawn if the conditions above are not met, or if there is a serious breach of the College's Code of Conduct. The Principal holds final decision-making authority regarding all scholarship matters, including renewal and withdrawal. Families will be given appropriate notice and opportunity to discuss any concerns before a decision is made.

The scholarship is not transferable and applies only to the enrolled student for whom the award was made.

Scholarship Conditions (ongoing)

The scholarship is **reviewed annually** and is conditional on the student:

- maintaining a strong level of academic performance and application
- demonstrating continued effort and commitment to learning
- upholding the behavioural expectations of the College

- maintaining regular attendance
- contributing positively to College life
- demonstrating ongoing alignment with the Catholic ethos

The scholarship:

- **may be withdrawn** if conditions are not met
- **may be adjusted or discontinued** at the discretion of the Principal

Review and Renewal

- Annual review occurs in **Term 3 each year**
- Evidence considered:
 - academic reports
 - staff feedback
 - co-curricular and community involvement
 - Renewal is not automatic

How to Apply

Applications to ACER and the College must be submitted by the closing date (2 October) and should include all of the following:

Step 1: Register for the ACER Test

- Visit scholarships.acer.org and register for the test relevant to year of entry.
- Select 'Southern Cross Catholic College' from the list of participating schools
- Complete registration before the deadline

Step 2: Complete the Scholarship Application Form available on the College website

- Complete all sections of the Southern Cross Catholic College Scholarship Application Form, available from the College website.
- Ensure the application addresses all of the selection criteria outlined in this document.
- The application should provide concrete, specific examples of academic achievement, character, community and faith involvement.
- Applicants and families indicating financial need may complete the relevant confidential sections.

Step 3: Gather Supporting Documents

- Provision of the student's latest three reports
- A written reference from your current school's Principal or Teacher (on school letterhead)

- A written reference from your Parish Priest or a recognised community or faith leader (where applicable)
- Evidence of co-curricular and community involvement (certificates, program participation, leadership roles)
- For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants: a letter of community confirmation or support may be provided, although this is not required.

Step 4: Submit Your Application

- Submit completed Microsoft Form
- Supporting documents will need to be emailed to SSCAEnrolments@bne.catholic.edu.au once application is submitted.
- Supporting documentation can be delivered in person to the secondary campus Enrolments Office.
- Closing date: 2 October. Late applications will not be accepted.