



SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Scholarships Information Pack 2026/27

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1. Purpose

Southern Highlands Christian School is a *Christ-centered learning environment*, that provides a challenging, engaging and *nurturing community*, equipping students to *flourish* in the world. Southern Highlands Christian School recognises that all people are made in God's image and have the capacity for curiosity, critical thinking and creativity.

The awarding of scholarships is intended to provide families with financial support to further enable a student to experience Christian education, encouraging gifts and talents to flourish for the betterment of the individual and the community.

Scholarship recipients are expected to be committed to the pursuit of a love of learning, a desire to make a positive contribution to the SHCS community and developing in expression of the SHCS values.

Scholarship holders are also expected to uphold and contribute to our school's distinct strategic pillars: Learning, Wellbeing and Community, as outlined below.

Learning - we experience challenging, engaging Christ-centered learning.

As life-long learners,

1. We pursue improved teaching and learning
2. We critically evaluate our world from a biblical perspective
3. We engage students, staff and parents with dynamic learning



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Wellbeing - we are known, seen and loved.

As image-bearers of Christ,

1. We explore and grow our faith in Jesus
2. We grow in resilience and capacity
3. We pursue healthy life choices

Community - a deep sense of belonging is fostered in our community.

As people innately wired for relationship,

1. We build deep connections between parents, students and staff
2. We serve others in our local, national and global communities
3. We show respect to others, ourselves and our environment

Values

We seek to support all staff and students, to pursue and contribute to the continued high expectations and positive environment of the SHCS community.

All staff and students are aware of and seek to live out the values that define our community.

1. **Christian character** – we seek to be people who pursue wisdom, servanthood and Christ-likeness in their personal growth, their interactions with others; building a strong life-long foundation of faith.
2. **Love of Learning** – we are people who are committed to the pursuit of understanding, a growth mindset, engagement, collaboration and creativity.
3. **Excellence** – we are people who work hard to do their best in all academic, physical, relational and spiritual pursuits.
4. **Respect** – we are people who honour ourselves and others in the way they communicate, empathise and behave; contributing to a truthful, honest, welcoming and safe environment for everyone.
5. **Service** – we are people whose lives are characterised by joyful service and sacrificial love for all people.
6. **Partnership** – we are people who partner together to create a place of belonging, encouragement and compassion.

These values are demonstrated in adherence to and support of all school policies, codes of conduct and positive ways of relating to each other.



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2. Who can apply?

Students from other schools as well as current SHCS students are eligible to apply for an SHCS scholarship.

3. Value of Scholarship

SHCS offers a range of partial and full financial assistance scholarships for a two-year period. Scholarships are reviewed every year to ensure continued adherence to the scholarship requirements. Students are welcome to apply for additional scholarships every two years.

4. Scholarship Categories

The Principal may award a number of scholarships for each year group. They will be available to new students as well as those currently enrolled at SHCS.

Most scholarships will be awarded for two years for the following year groups and are conditional on the continuation of the relevant criteria being met.

- Stage 3 Scholarships for Years 5 and 6
- Stage 4 Scholarships for Years 7 and 8
- Stage 5 Scholarships for Years 9 and 10
- Stage 6 Scholarships for Years 11 and 12

Scholarships may be awarded in the following areas:

1. Academic

For students who have displayed consistently high levels of academic achievement and effort including results in school assessments, reporting and scholarship testing.

2. Music

For passionate students of Music, who have been learning an instrument from a qualified music teacher, have undertaken music examinations and/or been involved in music ensembles.

3. Christian Character

For students who have a personal relationship with Jesus and are part of a church community, attending youth group regularly and are seeking to make a positive contribution to the Christian culture at SHCS.



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5. Duration of Scholarships

In most instances scholarships will be awarded for a two-year term. The scholarship is awarded on the provision that the student maintains the conditions for the scholarship. Scholarships will be reviewed annually and any recipient with an unsatisfactory review against the criteria, may have their scholarship withdrawn. Parents will receive notification of any changes.

6. Criteria for the Awarding of Scholarships

All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Principal, as advised by the Scholarship Committee. Scholarships are awarded on merit and the number of scholarships awarded in each category may vary from year to year. Students may apply for scholarships in multiple categories. Consideration will be given to the following selection criteria in the awarding of scholarships.

1. Academic

- High achievement in the scholarship tests
- Two of the student's most recent school reports
- Meeting the conditions for maintaining a scholarship (see next section)
- The student's academic portfolio including achievements, awards, certificates, results of competitions such as ICAS testing.
- Evidence of contribution to school life and values in the areas of Learning, Wellbeing and Community (1 page essay or CV)
- Two character references that highlight personal qualities and attributes that would contribute to the community at SHCS.

2. Music

- Applicants should have demonstrated a level of musical proficiency through either/both external examinations (such as AMEB) or internal school music results
- Demonstrated proficiency in the requirements of the audition process
- Meeting the conditions for maintaining a scholarship (see next section)
- The student's music portfolio which may include, achievements, awards, certificates
- Evidence of contribution to school life and values in the areas of Learning, Wellbeing and Community (1 page essay or CV)
- Two character references that highlight personal qualities and attributes that would contribute to the community at SHCS



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3. Christian Character (Stage 4, 5 & 6)

- Attending / membership of a local church community – church services and youth group activities
- Actively involved in the life of the church
- Meeting the conditions for maintaining a scholarship (see next section)
- Evidence of transferable qualities that highlight personal qualities and attributes that echo the SHCS values in the areas of Learning, Wellbeing and Community and would contribute to the Christian community at SHCS (1 page essay or CV)
- Two character references that highlight personal qualities and attributes that would contribute to the Christian community at SHCS

7. Conditions for Maintaining Scholarships

Recipients will be expected to maintain the following conditions. If a student is a successful recipient in multiple categories, they will be expected to maintain the requirements for each category.

1. Academic

- Maintenance of high academic grades (Achievement Grade at, or above a B level for the key learning areas of Mathematics, English, Science and HSIE/ be ranked on average in the top 25% of their cohort)
- Contribution to a range of academic extra-curricular activities such as peer tutoring, Chess, debating, Da Vinci Decathlon, homework clubs
- Participation in school run academic competitions or faculty events
- Maintain exemplary behaviour and attitude
- Evidence of contribution to school life and values in the areas of Learning, Wellbeing and Community

Note: Students in Stage 6 Preliminary courses are expected to maintain a minimum B average Achievement Grade across their 12 units of study and be ranked on average in the top 25% of their cohort in their respective subjects.

2. Music

- Maintenance of good academic effort across all subjects
- Continue private tuition and/or examinations in music with the communication of achievements to the Head of Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)



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- Maintain exemplary behaviour and attitude
- Evidence of contribution to school life and values in the areas of Learning, Wellbeing and Community
- Contribution to the culture of Performing Arts at SHCS specifically, students are required to commit to a range of activities each year from the list below:
- Participation in ensembles and groups – including representing the school at external performances and events
- Participation in ensembles and groups – including performing at internal school events, recitals, assemblies and other performances as requested
- Stage 5 and 6 recipients studying elective music
- Other activities as negotiated with the Head of CAPA
- School Musical involvement (if applicable)

Note: Students in Year 12 are expected to maintain their involvement in Music activities during their final year of school, as negotiated with the Head of CAPA.

3. **Christian Character**

- Maintenance of good classroom and homework effort across all subjects
- Maintain exemplary behaviour and attitude, positively contributing to the Christian culture of the school
- Evidence of contribution to school life and values in the areas of Learning, Wellbeing and Community
- Contribution to a range of activities that build Christian community such as lunchtime groups, Chapel services and Christian events in the school
- Continued involvement in a Christian community church/youth group

Note: Students in Year 12 expected to maintain their involvement in building Christian culture at the school, as negotiated with the Head of High School and Chaplain as well as regular church attendance.

8. **Application Process for Scholarships**

Notice of scholarships will be advertised on an annual basis by the Enrolments Registrar through various means including social media, site billboard advertising and the school website.

- An application for enrolment and a \$50 application fee will be required.



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1. Academic Scholarships

- Complete the scholarship application form (downloadable from the SHCS website) and return it to the Enrolments Registrar, with the supporting documentation (as outlined under 'Supporting Documentation' in the form).
- For Academic candidates, scholarship testing will take place at SHCS on Saturday, 3rd May. Students are expected to attend on this date. No rescheduling of the test will be organised unless the student was absent on the day due to the following reasons:
 - o Death of an immediate family member
 - o Natural Disasters (e.g. Flood/fire)
 - o Genuine illness (supported by a medical certificate)

2. Music Scholarships

- Complete the scholarship application form (downloadable from the SHCS website) and return it to the Enrolments Registrar, with the supporting documents (as outlined under 'Supporting Documentation' in the form).
- Short listed students will be required to audition before a panel. This will include a pre-prepared performance/s and improvised activities under the direction of the panel on the day (see below for more information).
- For music auditions, students should prepare for the following:
 - o Performance - Students will be asked to perform two contrasting pieces of the student's own choice, excluding studies and exercises. The length should be 2-4 minutes in total (or dependent on the grade the student is currently studying). The piece/s the student chooses to perform should exhibit a range of skill in their chosen art form/s.
 - o Technical Work - Students may be asked to perform scales and arpeggios relevant to the last grade completed. These are to be played from memory.
 - o Aural Test, Sight Reading & General Knowledge - Students may be asked to improvise a response to aural testing, a performance of sight reading or respond to questions which test their general knowledge of Music and/or their instrument of choice.
 - o Interview - The panel may ask the student some interview-style questions about their experience of Music and future plans for Music, their understanding of the artform and their understanding of the SHCS scholarship process.



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Reminders:

- The choice of prepared performance piece/s should not offend the SHCS values. If required, for any current students of SHCS consultation on the appropriateness of choices can be discussed with the Head of CAPA. For any applicant who is not currently a student SHCS, please contact the Enrolments Registrar.
- Please provide accompanying music or backing tracks (if required) to the Enrolments Registrar at least two weeks prior to the student's audition time slot. The files should be MP4 and submitted on a USB which has been clearly labelled with the student's name.

3. Christian Character

- Complete the scholarship application form (downloadable from the SHCS website) and return it to the Enrolments Registrar, with the supporting documents (as outlined under 'Supporting Documentation' in the form).
- Short listed students will be required to attend an interview.
- Interviews will cover the following areas
 - o Student testimony of their faith in Jesus
 - o Discussion of ministry involvement
 - o Discussion of how the student would seek to live out their faith in our community, ideas for initiatives for students to grow in their faith and how to build Christian community at SHCS

9. Scholarship Conditions and Expectations

1. All scholarships are granted or withdrawn at the discretion of the Principal.
2. Decisions by the Scholarship Committee are final and no further correspondence will be entered into.
3. Scholarships are non-refundable and cannot be transferred to another School or student.
4. A Scholarship does not include any incidental expenses such as uniforms, stationery, transport costs etc.
5. Scholarship holders will be reviewed annually to ensure continued adherence to the SHCS standards.
6. The School reserves the right to withdraw the Scholarship if the holder's engagement, commitment or conduct does not meet School standards.
7. No 'Sibling Discount' or Fee Assistance will apply to the applicant if granted a Scholarship.
8. The School will maintain confidentiality regarding all successful and unsuccessful applicants and encourages the same from the Scholarship holder.



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9. Scholarship holders may be invited to engage with prospective Scholarship applicants or provide personal testimonials regarding the value of the Scholarship to them.
10. The School reserves the right to not proceed with an enrolment application with a Scholarship awardee should that process bring to light any issue that would normally preclude enrolment.
11. Selection criteria will be based on the portfolio supplied at the time of application.
12. The School may terminate any Scholarship at any time where, in its opinion, the terms of the award are not being met.