



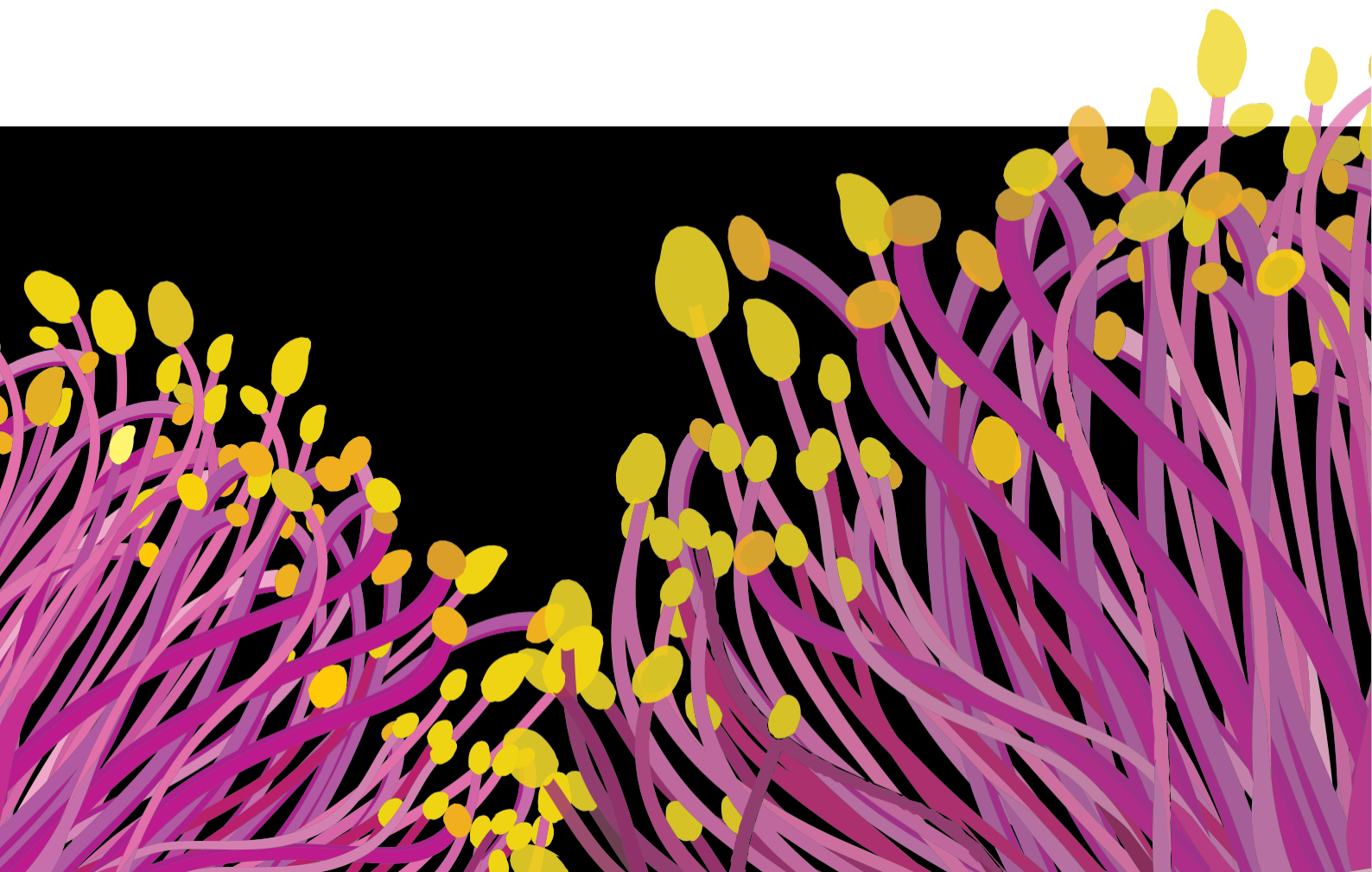
JAN PENTLAND  
FOUNDATION

# SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES 2026

**Applications close Friday February 27, 2026**

The trustees of the Jan Pentland Foundation reserve the right to suspend, amend or vary these guidelines, the scholarship application process or any part thereof.

Administrative support for the Jan Pentland Foundation is provided by Financial Counselling Australia.



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# 1 OVERVIEW

## 1.1 The Jan Pentland Foundation

The Jan Pentland Scholarship is administered by the Jan Pentland Foundation, a registered Australian charity with deductible gift recipient (DGR) status.

The scholarship recognises Jan Pentland's long-standing contribution to the Australian financial counselling sector and her commitment to social justice. You can read more about Jan and the Foundation on the Foundation's [website](#).

## 1.2 The Jan Pentland Scholarship

The Jan Pentland Scholarships are awarded annually, at the Jan Pentland Foundation dinner. This is held in May of each year in conjunction with the Financial Counselling Australia (FCA) annual conference.<sup>1</sup>

The scholarship provides financial assistance to individuals who are undertaking study or are intending to undertake study in financial counselling.

The scholarships support the development of the financial counselling sector, by helping to overcome the financial challenges that some individuals face in entering the profession as well as contributing to addressing workforce shortages.

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.fcaconference.com.au](http://www.fcaconference.com.au)

## 2 THE 2026 APPLICATION ROUND

### 2.1 Key Dates

**Applications close:** Friday 27 February, 2026

**Recipients announced:** Thursday May 7, 2026 at the Jan Pentland Foundation dinner. This coincides with the FCA annual conference.

The 2026 conference dinner will be in Cairns at the Convention Centre.

### 2.2 Application Requirements

Applications are made [online](#).

Applicants will need to upload:

- a current CV
- details of two referees.

If you have questions, contact:

Financial Counselling Australia

Email: [info@financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au)

### 2.3 Context for the 2026 Round

The 2026 scholarship round has been designed to complement the FCA National Workforce Strategy 2026-30. The three elements of this strategy that are relevant and have been reflected in the eligibility criteria in Section 3.5, are attracting workers in areas of geographic shortage, increasing workforce diversity and growing the First Nations workforce.

## 3 DETAILS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

### 3.1 What does the scholarship cover?

The scholarship provides financial assistance to individuals who are undertaking study or are intending to undertake the Diploma of Financial Counselling.

The relevant study/training covers 17 units and must be undertaken through a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) (see 3.3 below).

The scholarship will cover costs relating to study relevant to financial counselling. These costs could include the cost of the course and/or related costs such as travel, accommodation, stationery, technology, childcare or supervision.

Applicants will need to show that costs are directly connected to their study. Scholarship recipients may seek assistance for the costs of a current course of study or for a course they have not yet started.

For recipients who are already studying, the scholarship can cover reimbursement for payments made to their RTO from 1 January 2026. Costs incurred before that date will not be reimbursed.

### 3.2 List of Registered Training Organisations

Registered Training Organisations offering the Diploma of Financial Counselling are:

- Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors
- Australian Institute of Social Relations
- ICAN Learn
- TAFE NSW Western Institute
- TAFE SA
- Salvation Army Eva Burrows College Vocational Training
- South Metropolitan TAFE

For contact details please go to [the FCA website](#).

*Important:* if you enroll with the Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors (AIPC), you will need to pay AIPC direct, and the Foundation will reimburse you on proof of payment. Reimbursements will be made as you make progress with your study. The reason for this approach is that AIPC will offer a discount on fees if full payment is made up front - something the Foundation will not do - see section 3.6 also. A Student may also elect to not receive the discount and pay fees on a regular basis (eg Monthly) and seek reimbursement periodically.

### 3.3 Maximum and minimum amounts

The scholarship is for a maximum of \$5,000. There is no minimum amount.

### 3.4 People who can apply

Scholarship recipients may be:

- A person who is already working as a financial counsellor or in a related discipline
- A person who wishes to become a financial counsellor
- A person who wishes to incorporate financial counselling functions in their current role who requires financial assistance to study.

### 3.5 Selection Criteria

Scholarships will be awarded based on responses to the questions on the Application Form. Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply the following year.

The mandatory selection criteria are:

- need financial assistance to study
- have a strong interest in financial counselling
- are committed to study
- will make, or are making, a strong contribution to the field of financial counselling (for example, as demonstrated by community involvement).

The additional selection criteria below are not mandatory, but preference may be given to applicants with these attributes to assist in the development of the financial counselling workforce:

- living in a rural or remote area, or be willing to move to a rural or remote area
- proficient in a language other than English and connected with a culturally and linguistically diverse migrant community
- identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

### 3.6 Payment arrangements

#### Payments to the RTOs

Payment of course fees (if included in the application) will be made direct by the Foundation to the course provider, on the provision of an invoice.

The Foundation will not pay 100% of the costs of a course up front to an RTO.

Payments will be made at appropriate points as the recipient undertakes the study, for example, at the beginning of each semester. (This is to manage the risk that a recipient could enroll with an RTO, the Foundation pays the full course cost up front, but the recipient only completes few, if any, units.)

### **Other associated costs**

Payment arrangements for other costs, such as travel, accommodation, or supervision, will be negotiated with the successful applicant. Generally, these will require the provision of supporting documentation and will be paid on a reimbursement basis. These payments will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to your nominated bank account.

## 4 CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

### 4.1 Scholarship agreement

All scholarship recipients will be required to sign an agreement – see Appendix 1.

Please read this agreement as it sets out the conditions for the scholarship.



## APPENDIX 1 – AGREEMENT

*This is the agreement that successful scholarship recipients will be required to complete. Make sure you read and understand this.*

This agreement is between the recipient and the Jan Pentland Foundation Ltd as trustee for the Jan Pentland Foundation (ACN 141 552 847).

As a recipient of a Jan Pentland Scholarship for the amount above, I agree to the conditions below.

### 1. Enrolling in your course

Scholarships are announced in May each year.

I agree to enroll with an institution offering the Diploma of Financial Counselling by the end of 2026.

I agree that if I am unable to enroll within this timeframe, I will notify the Foundation.

I acknowledge that if I am unable to enroll within this timeframe, the Foundation may decide to extend the enrolment timeframe or alternatively may withdraw the offer of the scholarship.

### 2. Suspension of study

I agree that if I suspend my study for any reason, I will notify the Foundation of the reasons for doing this and how long this suspension will last.

I acknowledge that the Foundation may decide to extend the timeframe for completion of the qualification or alternatively may withdraw the offer of any funds remaining in the scholarship.

### 3. Withdrawal from your course

I agree that if I withdraw from my course, I will notify the Foundation immediately.

If the Foundation has paid out scholarship funding, I agree to repay any monies that are either refunded to me by the course provider or that have been paid to me and that represent payment for the units in which I am no longer enrolled or completing.

### 4. Time limit for completing study

I agree to complete my study within two and a half years from the time I begin studying.

## 5. Payment of the scholarship

I agree that if my scholarship provides for payment of any expenditure such as travel costs, these will be paid on a reimbursement basis. I agree that I will provide invoices/receipts or other appropriate documentation so that this can occur.

I understand that the Foundation will not pay an entire scholarship in advance but will instead release funds in two (or more) tranches as study progresses. The Foundation will generally make these payments directly to the RTO.

I understand that the Foundation will not reimburse me for any costs paid to the RTO prior to 1 January 2026.

I acknowledge that if I am enrolled with the Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors (AIPC), that I will need to pay any course costs, and the Foundation will reimburse these costs. This reimbursement will be 50% on commencement and 50% on completion of the course if I pay upfront. If I am paying in instalments, I will be reimbursed when I provide copies of my invoice and receipt.

If I receive any other subsidies toward the cost of my study, I will disclose these amounts to the Foundation, and I agree that the Foundation may reduce the amount of my scholarship to offset these.

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Recipient's Signature

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Date

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Foundation Representative's Signature

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Date



# JAN PENTLAND FOUNDATION

The foundation honours Jan Pentland—a remarkable woman. Jan Pentland's commitment to financial counselling and to helping low income and disadvantaged consumers is the hallmark of her legacy.

The death of Jan Pentland was a huge loss. Many, many people wanted to honour Jan's memory in some way and continue her legacy. Setting up a foundation was a tangible way to do this.