

TIME NOW TO APPLY FOR 2014 SCHOLARSHIPS

A LARGE RANGE OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE

by **DAVID McDONALD**

In an age of study that is defined by debt, receiving a scholarship to contribute towards your fees and expenses can be extremely beneficial.

We spoke to Julia Goebel from Breakout to get the best advice for students trying to gain a scholarship.

Breakout is an online search tool operated by the Funding Information Service which provides information about over 4000 scholarships, grants and awards.

"The first thing you need to know is what is on offer. Check the scholarship webpages of the universities you plan to go to or search the Breakout database to find your perfect match."

"There are so many different scholarships available and you don't need to be an A+ student," Julia says.

Scholarships can be attained by students on the basis of ethnicity, leadership, financial hardship, area of study, service to community, academic distinction and many other reasons.

There are a few things to be aware of when applying for a scholarship.

The process of applying for scholarships generally requires students to complete an application form and put together various documents.



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"It depends on the scholarship but you usually need a good CV, references, a copy of your birth certificate and a record of your learning. You may also be asked to attend an interview with the scholarship panel," Julia says.

It is strongly encouraged that students apply as early as possible to give themselves the best possible chance.

"Scholarships close all year round and now is a really good time to start applying for scholarships in 2014. You really need to start applying a few months before you start your study, as it takes time to find the right scholarships, apply for them, be selected and then be paid."

Check with your library or school career office for a copy or visit their website:
www.breakout.org.nz

School Connect also has a large database of scholarships on their website:
www.schoolconnect.co.nz

SOME application tips:

-  Make sure you fit all the eligibility criteria.
-  Make a note of the closing date and send in the application on or before the due date (the earlier the better).
-  Create a folder with a collection of documents that are usually required for applications.
-  Write an information sheet about yourself and your achievements that you can include in your applications.
-  Create a CV that is tailored to each scholarship that you are applying for.
-  Make sure that you have attached all the required documents and get someone to check your application. These documents may include references, proof of address, passports and academic results. You may need to have photocopies certified by a Justice of the Peace, so be prepared – this can take time.
-  We strongly recommend students actively seek and apply for scholarships. It is free financial assistance and there are scholarships for everyone. The more you apply for the greater your chance.
-  Talk to your school's career guidance officers; they will assist you with finding and applying for scholarships.

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