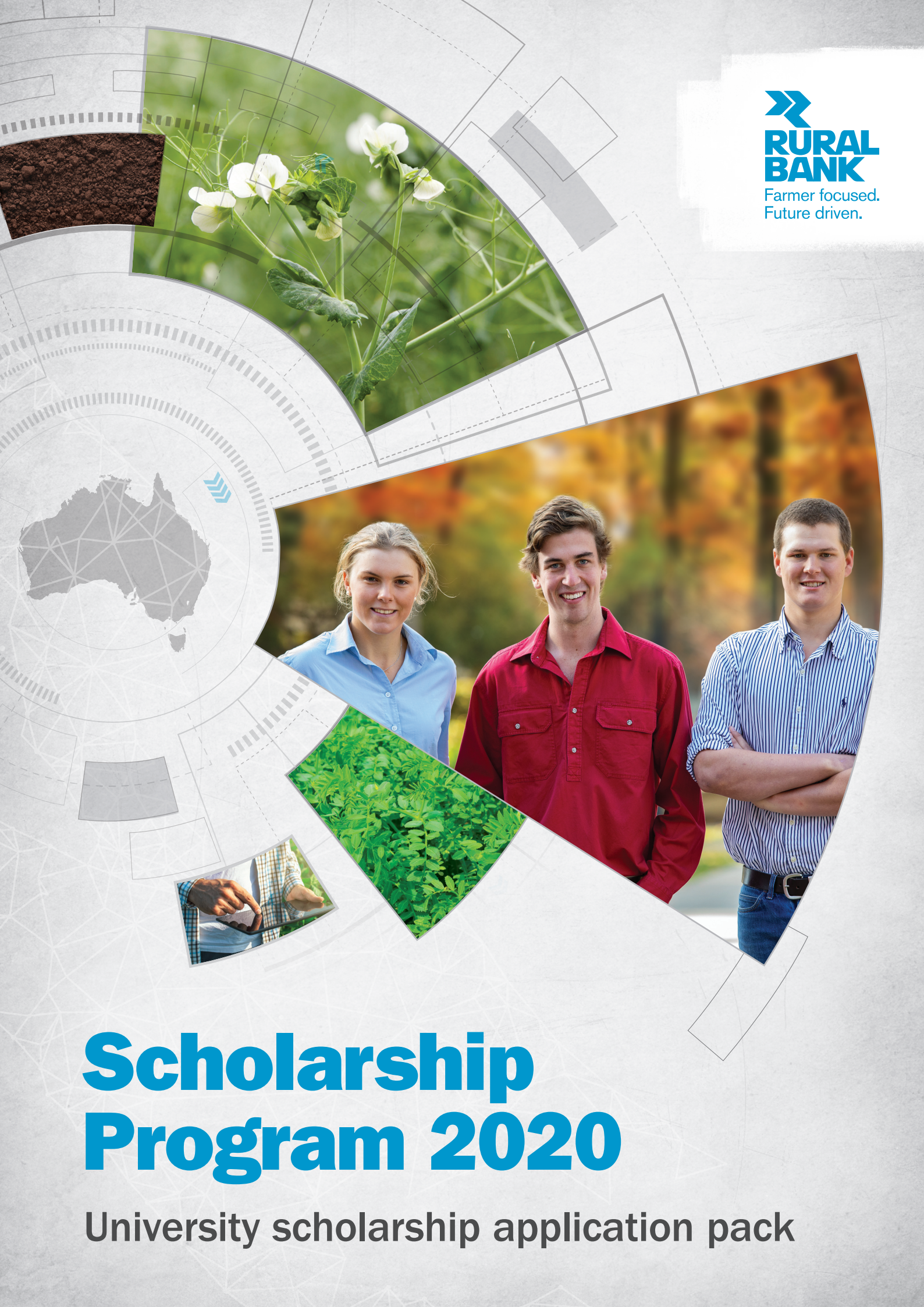




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Scholarship Program 2020

University scholarship application pack

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As the only Australian-owned and operated dedicated agribusiness bank in the country, Rural Bank is committed to backing the Australian farming community.

We believe the future for agriculture is bright, and that young people have a vital role to play in the development and sustainability of our industry.

In 2020, Rural Bank is pleased to be offering up to 15 scholarships as part of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's Scholarship Program, to encourage young people to study a field that leads to a career in, or supports the Australian agricultural industry.

This document is designed to help guide you through the 2020 Rural Bank Scholarship application process and to answers any questions you may have regarding your eligibility.

Should you have any further questions, please read through our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) located at www.ruralbank.com.au/about-us/scholarship

Rural Bank Scholarship Team

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Fast facts – University scholarship

How many Rural Bank Scholarships are available in 2019?	Up to fifteen (15)
What are the eligibility criteria for the Rural Bank Scholarship Program?	<p>The scholarship criteria stipulate that an applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is a first-time undergraduate tertiary student in 2020;• Has been offered a full-time place at an Australian university or college to study a bachelor degree that will enable them to contribute to the future of Australian agriculture;• Is a school leaver (or has taken a gap year);• Can demonstrate a career commitment that will ultimately benefit agriculture, and/or regional and rural communities;• Is an Australian citizen or permanent resident;• Has outstanding academic achievement and community involvement;• Can clearly demonstrate excellence in and passion for agriculture.
How much is each Rural Bank Scholarship worth?	Up to \$10,000 (\$5,000 each year for two years), dependent upon satisfactory academic progress in the first year of study.
What can the scholarship funds be used for?	Study related expenses, such as accommodation costs, course costs, study-related materials and equipment, textbooks or tutoring.
How is a Scholarship recipient selected?	A selection committee will determine successful applicants based on the submitted details and with reference to established criteria.
When do applications open and close?	Applications open 2 December 2019 and must be submitted online by 28 January 2020. Successful applicants will be notified by April 2020.

The application process

How do I apply for a Rural Bank Scholarship?

Applications open on 2 December and can only be submitted online. Applications must be completed by date of 28 January 2020.

To apply online:

- 1 Visit www.ruralbank.com.au/scholarship
- 2 Click on **Apply now** to be directed to the login page of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's Community Enterprise Foundation website
- 3 Click **Register here** to create your unique login
- 4 Fill in the requested details, clicking **Register** once complete
- 5 Commence your application!

What information do I need to provide?

The online application form is separated into five sections and you must complete all of these as they will help us gather the information we need to get to know you a little better:

1 Introduction

Information about our privacy policy.

2 Applicant

Firstly, we ask you for the basics: name, address, contact details and date of birth. Please ensure you provide current contact information as this is how we'll contact you. You'll also be asked to confirm you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

3 Education

This is where you start to tell your story. You will need to provide evidence of your Year 12 tertiary entrance score, along with the details of the secondary school you attended and information about any awards or leadership roles you have achieved.

You must also tell us why you are seeking a scholarship – why you need support, your achievements to date and your vision for your studies and career ahead.

4 Course details

Now it's time to talk about where and what you will be studying – you can find the requested information on the provider's website or from their admin office. Please also confirm that you will be studying full-time and advise if you have applied for other scholarships.

Here you can also detail the expenses for which you are seeking support, such as accommodation or materials.

5 Miscellaneous questions

Lastly, it's down to the fun stuff. We ask you to describe how your studies will enable you to contribute to the Australian agricultural industry. These questions must be completed to enable us to assess your application (add attachments to support your application, especially when you come to question four).

This section will identify any items within the application that require further attention and also request that you attach your supporting documents. Ensure that you do not submit your application until you have attached the necessary supporting documents as detailed in the next section.

Do I need to complete the application all at once?	No, once you have commenced your application, you can save it and come back to it at any time before the closing date – just remember to click on “Save” at regular intervals. This means you do not have to rush your application and you can ensure you have all the necessary information to support your submission. Please ensure that your application is 100% complete before finalising, as once you submit you will not be able to recall or amend your application.
How do I know if my application has been submitted correctly?	<p>You will receive an email confirmation once your application has been submitted correctly.</p> <p>Only applications which have been fully completed and submitted will be considered as part of the scholarship selection process.</p> <p>The closing date of 28 January 2020 will not be extended and it is your responsibility to ensure your application has been submitted by the closing date.</p> <p>If you encounter difficulty during the application process or you do not receive an email confirmation once you have submitted your application, you can contact our Scholarship Administrator on 1300 304 541.</p>

Supporting documents

What other documents do I need to provide to support my scholarship application?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of Tertiary Entry Score (compulsory i.e. ATAR notice) • University or College Letter of Offer (compulsory) <p>A letter from you outlining how your university studies support your career objectives and will enable you to contribute to the Australian agriculture sector.</p> <p>A referee letter supporting your application – this could be from a family member, good family friend, health professional, teacher or somebody in the industry you are seeking to work in (optional but recommended).</p>
How do I provide these documents?	The scholarship online application process includes capability for you to upload scanned or digital versions of these documents. Attaching your supporting documents is the final step of the online process. You should only upload these attachments when are ready to finalise your application.

Next steps

What is the process once applications are submitted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for the Rural Bank Scholarship Program close on 28 January 2020. • From 31 January 2020, we will commence the review of all applications received. • Our selection committee will carefully consider all eligible applications and will determine shortlisted applicants in accordance with our eligibility criteria. • Shortlisted applications will be contacted to organise a short phone or face-to-face interview depending on location.
How will I know whether my application has been successful?	All students will be advised in writing of the outcome of their scholarship application. It is anticipated that this will occur during April 2020.



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Agriculture scholarships are provided by Rural Bank a Division of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, and administered by the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited Scholarship Program and Community Enterprise Foundation, The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo, VIC 3550. (1382646–1391560) (11/19)

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