

Bright Futures Scholarship Application Form

Enquiries & Return Form to:

Principal's Executive Assistant
Damascus College
1412 Geelong Road, Mt Clear, VIC, 3350
03 5337 2222
Email: principal@damascus.vic.edu.au

Application dates

- Applications open – 6 October 2025
- Applications close – 6 February 2026 (enrolment close date)
- Scholarship offer released at the same time as enrolment offer
- Applicant to commence in Year 7 at Damascus College in 2027

About this Scholarship

Established in 2018 this scholarship sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy (John Thirsk Estate), Fr Brendan Davey and Damascus College, is for the purpose of supporting students and families who are experiencing financial or personal disadvantage, and who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice activities and contribute to their local community, but may not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic education.

This scholarship is awarded annually to one incoming Year 7 student for tuition relief, and is awarded for the duration of a student's enrolment at Damascus College (maximum of 6 years).

John Thirsk was a notable sports journalist who was cared for by the Sisters of Mercy throughout his life as a result of family tragedy. The Sisters of Mercy provided John with an education and a safe place for him to return throughout his life. He considered the sisters as family and his gift to them was to enable them to provide for others the support that they offered to him. The Sisters have entrusted these funds to Damascus College.

Fr Brendan Davey grew up in Ballarat and was priest of the Diocese for over 60 years. Fr Brendan always had a great empathy for human vulnerability and valued the gift of education. Upon his death he gifted Damascus College with funds to enable Catholic education to be made available to young people who may not otherwise be able to access it.

The Bright Futures scholarship honours the Christian spirit that prevailed through the work of Fr Brendan as a priest of the Diocese and the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Eligibility Criteria

- Grade 5 student currently studying at a Primary School within the Ballarat area (50km radius from Ballarat), does not have to be attending a Catholic Primary School
- Submitted Enrolment Application Form to Damascus College for Year 7 by the advertised deadline, the year prior to commencement

Selection Criteria

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following selection criteria:

- Family is experiencing financial and/or personal disadvantage. Please provide evidence to support application on page 5.
- Student demonstrates involvement in volunteer, social justice, fundraising and leadership activities within the Primary School or broader community. Please provide examples on page 6.
- Student demonstrates an involvement and commitment to a faith tradition. Evidence must be provided on page 7.
- Student to choose two values to describe and give examples of how these values relate to them.
Values: Compassion, Justice, Respect, Hospitality, Service, Courage.
Student can choose to write up to 200 words for each value, submit a video or photos that describes how these values relate to them. Students are encouraged to be creative.
- One written reference, to be obtained from a community member in support of the scholarship application. The community member is to complete the enclosed Support Form on page 4 and this is to be submitted with the scholarship application form.

Selection process

- Applicants will be shortlisted by a selection panel consisting of one nominee by the Sisters of Mercy, one nominee by the Brendan Davey family and one member of the Damascus College Leadership Team.
- Shortlisted applicants will attend an interview in late February, the year prior to commencement. The panel will contact the Primary School Principal for support regarding the shortlisted applicants.

Value

One scholarship valued at 50% of the annual tuition fee at Damascus College, paid as one instalment at the beginning of the year. The capital expense and technology fee is included in this tuition calculation.

The scholarship will be paid annually, for the duration of the award recipient's enrolment at Damascus College, which is a maximum of six years. The ongoing annual payment will be made at the beginning of a school year, and is conditional upon the recipient successfully meeting the ongoing requirements listed below.

Ongoing requirements

Award recipients are required to maintain the following:

- Good attendance rate at Damascus – 85% or above
- Makes a positive contribution to the life of the College as evidenced by participation in College activities
- Participating in social justice or extra-curricular activities at the College
- Annual Damascus College Principal endorsement

The above requirements will be checked by the Principal's Executive Assistant, at the end of the preceding year, prior to payment being made to each scholarship recipient.

Successful Bright Futures scholarship recipients are exempt from receiving any other internal Damascus College scholarship that are awarded for tuition fees.

Application process

Complete all sections of the application form provided to you.

Please ensure you have successfully completed the below requirements:

- Parent/guardian to advise about the financial and/or personal hardships or barriers you have faced, providing evidence to support application (health care card, medical forms etc)
- Student to tell us about any leadership roles, volunteering, fundraising or social justice activities they have been involved in at Primary School or in the local community. Please provide evidence if available
- Parent/guardian to please provide evidence of student's sacraments or parent/guardian to tell us how you and the student are committed to a faith tradition, using examples and provide evidence if available
- Student to choose two values to describe and relate to themselves, and how they interact with others
- Please provide one written reference to support the scholarship application

Please note: Unsuccessful scholarship applicants who do not take up an enrolment place at Damascus College, will be refunded their \$80 enrolment application fee.

**Submit the completed application form by the advertised deadline (6 February 2025)
to principal@damascus.vic.edu.au or post to:**

**Principal's Executive Assistant
Bright Futures Scholarship
Damascus College
1412 Geelong Road
Mt Clear VIC 3350**

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION CHECKLIST (to be completed prior to submission)

- ☐ Successfully completed a Damascus College Enrolment Application Form for Year 7, paid the enrolment application fee, and submitted by the advertised deadline
- ☐ Student is currently studying at a Primary School within the Ballarat area. This does not have to be a Catholic Primary School
- ☐ Student is in Grade 5/6 at the time of application to Damascus College
- ☐ Successfully completed ALL sections of the scholarship application form within
- ☐ Provide one reference from a community member
- ☐ Provided ALL evidence as required to support application (healthcare card, medical reports etc)

Bright Futures Scholarship Application Form

STUDENT INFORMATION

Surname: _____ First name: _____

Second name: _____ Male Female

Student's Residential Address: _____

Religion: _____

To commence Year 7 in (insert year): _____

PARENT INFORMATION

(all other contact information will be taken from the enrolment form)

Parent One

Surname: _____ First name: _____

Parent Two

Surname: _____ First name: _____

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COMMUNITY MEMBER SUPPORT/ENDORSEMENT

First name: _____ Surname: _____

Organisation: _____

Relationship to the applicant/family: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Statement of support/endorsement for _____
Student Name

Community member statement of support/endorsement, Please complete below or attach a separate letter of support/endorsement.

Community Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Selection Criteria

- 1. Parent/guardian to tell us about the financial or personal disadvantage or barriers the student and your family have faced.**

Please provide evidence to support this statement, and include how long you and your family have suffered the disadvantage and focus on how it has affected you and your education.

Selection Criteria

2. **Student to tell us about their involvement in volunteer, social justice, fundraising or leadership activities within their Primary School or broader community.**
Student to please give examples of involvement.

Selection Criteria

- 3. Parent/guardian to please tell us about your student and families commitment to a faith tradition**
Please provide sacraments (also needed for enrolment application form) or evidence of commitment to a faith tradition

Selection Criteria

4. Student to choose to two values to describe and give examples of how these values relate to them.

Values: Compassion, Justice, Respect, Hospitality, Service, Courage.

Student can choose to write up to 200 words for each value, submit a video or photos that describes how these values relate to them. Students are encouraged to be creative.

Value 1

Value 2