

NSW Aboriginal Land Council Educational Scholarship

The **NSWALC Educational Scholarship** provides financial support and valuable on-the-job experience for eligible Aboriginal university students who want to pursue a professional career in the Land Rights Network.



2 X ONE YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED ANNUALLY



**INCLUDES \$10,000 FOR
EXPENSES WHILE YOU
STUDY, PAID IN TWO
LUMP SUMS OF \$5,000**



**PLUS A SIX-WEEK, PAID
INTERNSHIP AT NSWALC
RELEVANT TO YOUR
COURSE OF STUDY**



**BUILD NETWORKS AND GAIN VALUABLE SKILLS THAT CAN HELP YOU
PURSUE A CAREER WITH THE LAND RIGHTS NETWORK**



New South Wales
Aboriginal Land Council

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for the scholarship you must:

- Be an Aboriginal person, as defined by the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*
- Be a current resident of NSW
- Not be a current full-time employee of NSWALC
- Declare any potential or perceived pecuniary interest (e.g. relative is an employee or Councillor of NSWALC)
- Be enrolled full-time in the penultimate year of an undergraduate/graduate degree at a tertiary institution within NSW, in a discipline which supports the current and future business of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Network
- Be eligible for and in receipt of AbStudy, unless otherwise agreed by NSWALC
- Commit to undertake a six (6) week internship within a NSWALC Business Unit/s at an agreed time between November and February
- Submit a complete application with all supporting documents before the closing time/date

What kind of degrees support the current or future business of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Network?

Disciplines such as Law, Policy, Finance, Business, Human Resources, Land & Environment, Information Technology, Media & Communications, Property Management & Development and Planning support the current and future business of NSWALC and the Land Rights Network.

NSWALC will consider applicants in other disciplines who can demonstrate a clear link between their studies and our work.

How do I apply?

Visit www.alc.org.au and click on *NSWALC in the Community* then *Educational Scholarship*. You will find information about the scholarship including the application form and NSWALC Educational Scholarship Policy. Alternatively, you can call NSWALC on (02) 9689 4444 and speak to one of our staff.

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) is the State's peak representative body for Aboriginal people and our affairs and the largest member-based Aboriginal organisation in NSW, with more than 23,000 members across 120 Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs).

NSWALC aims to protect the interests and further the aspirations of its members and the broader Aboriginal community through working for the return of culturally significant and economically viable land, pursuing cultural, social and economic independence for our people and being politically proactive in voicing the position of Aboriginal people on issues that affect them.

What do we do?

Under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALRA) NSWALC, in conjunction with the network of LALCs, has a mandate to provide for:

- the development of land rights for Aboriginal people in NSW through land acquisition, establishment of commercial enterprises and community benefit schemes; and
- the maintenance and enhancement of Aboriginal culture, identity and heritage.

NSWALC also acts as an advisor to, and negotiates with Governments and other stakeholders to ensure the preservation of Aboriginal Land Rights.

How are we funded?

The Land Council network, including NSWALC, is self-funded and financially independent of government.

For more on the history and achievements of Land Rights in NSW, read [Success Stories in Aboriginal Land Rights in NSW](#).



What career opportunities exist at NSWALC?

The work undertaken by NSWALC to achieve the aspirations of those who came before us and the goals contained within our strategic plan is multifaceted and ambitious!

NSWALC has five strategic goals: secure our land and water rights; protect our culture and heritage; pursue economic independence, prosperity and security for our peoples; support our people; and secure our future.

To achieve these goals, we need people with expertise in:

- Law
- Policy and Advocacy
- Human Rights
- Commercial Property
- Business & Management
- Media and Communications
- Information Technology
- Land, Environment & Planning

And that's just to name a few! NSWALC wants to be the employer of choice for current and future generations of Aboriginal professionals with the knowledge and skills we need to achieve our goals and secure the future of the Land Rights Network.



What do former NSWALC interns say?

"The work I was given provided me with a fantastic opportunity to combine my knowledge and interest in Indigenous affairs with my passion for the law."

Andrea Bennett

"I found my overall experience at NSWALC interesting and exciting. I gained a wide understanding of the workings of NSWALC and the focused areas of law that it deals with, specifically land claims and native title. I am glad that I was given this opportunity and gained knowledge of such a stimulating and complicated area of law."

Aliessa Bailey

"Working in an organisation that promotes and supports the rights of Indigenous people is definitely something I would like to continue throughout my career as a lawyer. Having a positive impact on the way people in our community live their lives is something that I value highly in my working life"

Emma Lutwyche

"I think the most valuable part of this placement was gaining an understanding of the opportunities for Indigenous people provided under the ALRA and of the functioning of the different land councils throughout the state."

Laura Melhuish

"As much as I valued the opportunity to acquire new legal skills and knowledge, this was far surpassed by the personal enrichment I got out of spending time at NSWALC."

Juliette O'Brien

"The experience at NSWALC was really great and my expectations were exceeded. Working on real and current projects was very rewarding. The best aspects of the internship are being able to gain professional experience in a field of interest, while also having guidance and learning as you go."

Alice Temblett

FAQ

What is the penultimate year?

The penultimate year is your second last year of study.

What does the Scholarship include?

The two successful applicants will receive a one-year scholarship of \$10,000 as well as a six-week paid internship in a NSWALC business unit relevant to their course of study.

Do I have to complete the internship component at NSWALC's Head Office at Parramatta?

NSWALC has regional offices in Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Gosford and Queanbeyan in addition to its head office in Parramatta.

NSWALC will make every effort to support internship opportunities in regional offices, where those offices can provide an internship that is relevant to a scholarship recipient's area of study. As NSWALC's regional offices are smaller than head office, internship opportunities in regional offices will be limited.



Is the internship paid or unpaid?

Paid. Interns will be paid an entry level grade salary, pro rata for the duration of the internship (six weeks).

Do I have to undertake the internship component?

Yes. Completing the six-week internship is a condition of the scholarship.



Do I have to be enrolled full-time at university to be eligible for the scholarship?

Yes.

What if I have a disability or am experiencing barriers to accessing this Scholarship?

NSWALC wants to ensure the scholarship is accessible for all potential applicants. If you are experiencing any barriers or issues in the application process, or you anticipate barriers to participation in the scholarship program, please contact us on (02) 9689 4444 or at scholarships@alc.org.au.

Do I have to be a member of a Local Aboriginal Land Council to be eligible for the scholarship?

No, however NSWALC will only accept Confirmation of Aboriginality from a Local Aboriginal Land Council.

What are some other ways to get involved with the Land Rights Network?

As the peak representative organisation for Aboriginal people in NSW, we strongly encourage all Aboriginal people become involved with your Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and undertake the requirements of that LALC to become a member.

