



Government of South Australia

Department for Education

educators

Minister's Language Immersion Scholarships 2023

Information for Applicants



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Minister's Immersion Scholarships for Language Teachers **2023**

Applications must be complete and submitted online

no later than 5.00pm Friday 25th August 2023

Application Form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/languagescholarships2023>

The Minister for Education, Training and Skills is offering five scholarships to language teachers in South Australia for language immersion experiences within Australia or overseas. Scholarships are available in the following categories:

- One scholarship for a teacher in a Catholic Education School
- One scholarship for a teacher in a Department for Education School
- One scholarship for a teacher in an Independent School
- One to an early career educator from Department for Education School who is in their first 5 years of teaching (including contract, TRT and ongoing appointments)
- One to an early career educator from a Non-Government School (Catholic or Independent) who is in their first 5 years of teaching (including contract, TRT and ongoing appointments).

Each scholarship is worth \$8000.

The immersion scholarship program for language teachers aims to improve language skills, proficiency, and intercultural understanding.

Immersion scholarships

This scholarship program provides selected language teachers the opportunity to undertake one of two types of in-country study programs:

- personal in-country immersion
- immersion program within Australia

Teachers may propose their own immersion program focused on improving their language skills and proficiency, and intercultural understanding. Applicants are required to establish a detailed itinerary and budget plan to support their proposed personal in-country immersion program.

Immersion scholarships are only available for languages that have a curriculum or framework in the Australian Curriculum. Depending on applicants, the scholarship program will aim to cover a range of languages in each cycle, including Asian, European and Australian languages.

Please note that travel overseas or within Australia for these scholarships can only occur if permitted within any COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time of travel. Decisions on travel to overseas destinations should be made according to the advice provided on [Smartraveller](#).

Eligibility

To be eligible for the five scholarships, applicants must be practicing language teachers who:

- hold current registration with the [Teachers Registration Board of SA](#)
- have a direct language teaching role in a (Catholic Education, Department for Education and Independent) school for the academic year that the Immersion program takes place
- have support from their school principal to participate in the scholarship program
- for an in-country immersion have been declared fit to travel by a medical professional
- are available to participate in the program in 2024.

Teachers in their first 5 years of teaching are eligible for the two Early Career scholarships. The 5 years includes contract, TRT, and ongoing appointments.

Teachers are only eligible to apply for one scholarship in each round of applications. Teachers in their first 5 years of teaching, may apply for their sector award and indicate on the application form that they wish to be considered for the early career awards as well.

Leaders in positions of assistant principal or above, at the time of undertaking the immersion or short course, are not eligible to apply.

Key selection criteria

Applicants are required to describe:

1. Full details of the type of immersion program they are proposing, including location, itinerary, detailed budget and how this opportunity will improve language skills and proficiency, and intercultural understanding.
2. How the language course component, be it in Australia or overseas, will impact on improving their language skills, proficiency, and intercultural understanding. Applicants must provide full details of the proposed language course.
3. How they will apply the new knowledge and skills gained through their scholarship experience within their teaching practice.
4. How the experience fits into their professional learning plan and what professional learning they propose to offer to others as a result of this learning experience.
5. What immediate and long-term impact the Immersion experience will have on student engagement and retention in Languages at their site.

Applicant obligations

Teachers in Independent and Catholic Schools

Successful scholarship recipients from Independent and Catholic schools MUST, where applicable:

- Regularly check the [Smartraveller](#) advice in relation to the proposed country of travel
- Adhere to their school's policies, processes and procedures while undertaking the scholarship, particularly any overseas travel procedures and school reimbursement processes.
- Behave according to the ethos of the Public Sector Code of Ethics (even though not a public servant), while undertaking an in-country immersion program.
- Complete and submit to Educators SA a completion report outlining what they have done and an evaluation of its impact on their practice and potential impact on student learning.
- Include a financial reconciliation of the scholarship funds within the final scholarship report.
- Provide structured feedback on the scholarship experience and outcomes through a formal evaluation process.
- Commit to continuing to teach languages for two years after receiving the scholarship.
- Successful applicants will need to negotiate their employment and leave status with their school for the entire duration of the scholarship as per approved itinerary.

Teachers in Department for Education Schools

Successful scholarship recipients from Department for Education schools MUST, where applicable:

- Regularly check the [Smartraveller](#) advice in relation to the proposed country of travel
- Adhere to their school's or Department's policies, processes and procedures while undertaking the scholarship, particularly the overseas travel procedures and school reimbursement processes.
- Behave according to the ethos of the Public Sector Code of Ethics while undertaking an in-country immersion program.
- Complete and submit to Educators SA a completion report outlining what they have done and an evaluation of its impact on their practice and potential impact on student learning.
- Include a financial reconciliation of the scholarship funds within the final scholarship report.
- Provide structured feedback on the scholarship experience and outcomes through a formal evaluation process.
- Commit to continuing to teach languages for two years after receiving the scholarship.
- Successful applicants will need to negotiate their employment and leave status with their school and the Department for the entire duration of the scholarship as per approved itinerary.

All successful applicants will be required to share their professional learning with colleagues in ways that benefit the broader teaching and learning community.

- This will take the form of a short report at the end of their professional learning activity.
- Participate and present in a professional learning session where they share their learning from the award with other educators. A suitable time and date for this event will be negotiated with the award winners.

They will also be expected to attend the [Educators SA World Teachers Day event to be presented with their scholarship \(27th October 2023 from 6:30pm- 10.30pm at National Wine Centre\)](#). This gala event is free for scholarship winners.

Scholarship values and expenditure rules

Immersion Scholarships within Australia or Overseas

There are five scholarships of up to \$8,000 each and are for travel in 2024. The amount approved will be based on the individual's budget plan. The scholarships will cover the direct cost proposed in the budget plan and may include:

- a) Airfares and taxes – bookings MUST be made via a reputable travel agent or website
- b) Travel insurance
- c) Accommodation
- d) In-country language course fees and related resources
- e) In-country transport
- f) Staff replacement (MUST specify)
- g) Meal allowance and incidentals

Scholarship funding allocation models

Once scholarships are approved, schools will invoice Educators SA for the total amount of the scholarship. Schools will manage all approved expenses and reimbursements to teachers internally. The schools will provide an acquittal to Educators SA. Any unspent funds must be returned to Educators SA.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

- The evaluation and review will be submitted by the scholarship winner within 60 days upon completion of the immersion program.
- The monitoring, evaluation and review will be done through the evaluation pack. This pack will be made available by January 2024. Educators SA will be responsible for monitoring the scholarships, evaluation and review, and provide feedback if applicable.

Supporting Documents Independent and Catholic Teachers

- [Language Immersion Scholarship Application](#)
- [Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector](#)
- [Smartraveller](#)

Supporting Documents Department Teachers

- [Language Immersion Scholarship Application](#)
- [Overseas Travel Procedure \(Travel involving only adult travellers\)](#) (login to LearnLink required)
- [Overseas Individual Package](#) (login to LearnLink required)
- [Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector](#)
- [Overseas Post Travel Report](#) (login to LearnLink required)
- [Smartraveller](#)

Interested in applying?

To apply go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/languagescholarships2023>

Applications close on Friday 25th August 2023 at 5pm.

Tips for preparing your application

Please respond to the Selection Criteria as outlined above using the online application form. Answers can be drafted in a Word document and copied into the online application when ready.

Partially completed online applications can be finalised using the **same device** and **web browser** on which they were started.

When exiting a partially completed application, please ensure you click 'Next' at the bottom of the page you have been working before exiting.