



Orienteering Scholarship Australia

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About

- Offers young orienteers an opportunity to live and coach in Australia for up to 12 months.
- Typically billeted/live in the local orienteering communities where the scholarship is undertaken.
- Provided with \$1500 for a 6-month period in return for about 15 hours per week average of orienteering related work.
- Have the opportunity to earn extra money by activities such as working in schools, where paid the award rate for community casual coaches (\$A20 to \$A25/hour).
- Able to train, compete and experience a diversity of different orienteering terrains.
- Free club membership and entry to local and national events.
- The opportunity to travel in Australia.

History

- 2012 - First thought of by David Poland (ACT). A desire to ensure sustainability of coaching for young orienteers. A lack of volunteers to do important youth development work.
- 2013 - ACT program - first scholarship Lukas Funk (SUI). Also Ludwig Ahlund (SWE) to QLD as was very keen.
- 2014 widened nationally. 9 high quality applicants. Most were able to gain a place.
- 2016 - streamlined the process with a website and a central place for applications.
- 2018 – many applicants, more than can be accommodated.

How to Apply

- Through website - scholar.orienteering.asn.au
- Read FAQ page first.
- Email to scholar@orienteering.asn.au with your name and the word scholar in the title, e.g. “John Smith – scholar application”.
- Attach
 - A small photo
 - Your Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 - A list of your coaching experience
 - A list of your mapping experience
 - Two referees – email and phone
 - A brief letter outlining why you want the scholarship
 - Your preferred dates (Preferably 6+ months but you can apply for 3, 6, 9 or 12 months)
 - Your name / gender / date of birth / email / mobile phone / skype address

Activities/Tasks

- Coaching – individuals, groups
- Organising events
- Mapping
- Developing the sport – teaching children/adults to orienteer
- Sporting schools – a nationally funded sport recreation program for school students.
- Keep a record of all activities including numbers / places / times / and what you taught/did
- Produce a short (300 words) written report at the end of the scholarship.

Eligibility – Visa Requirements

- A working holiday visa is required/advised especially if gaining extra payments over the base “scholarship”.
- Allows people aged between 18 and 31 to work anywhere in Australia for up to one year.
- Citizens of IOF members able to apply for working holiday visa as of August 2018 are ARG, BEL, CAN, CHN, CYP, CHL, DEN, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, HKG, HUN, IND, IRE, ISR, ITA, JPN, KOR, MAL, NED, NOR, POL, POR, SVK, SWE, TPE, TUR, USA, URU.
- Visa situation can be complex. Australian immigration may consider the “scholarship” payment to be income so a tourist visa can be a problem.
- Possible for citizens from other IOF members to gain a visa for a scholarship but process is more complex.

Requirements

- Travel and medical insurance. Some countries have reciprocal medical agreements with Australia.
- Be a good orienteer. You do not need to be an elite.
- A police check. This is called a WWVP card (working with vulnerable people) and takes up to 8 weeks to process.
- Have good English and communicate well.
- No formal qualifications in coaching are required but some previous experience is essential.
- To complete an Australian Government ASC online coaching course (This takes 3-4 hours).
- Ability to make maps will help but is not essential.
- Ability to use OCAD, CONDES etc. to make training maps and set activities.
- A driving licence and to purchase/borrow a car.
- Computer and mobile phone.

A Local Perspective - Tasmania

- A great success.
- Our coaches have all been outstanding individuals.
- Have easily integrated into our orienteering communities.
- Many express a desire to return [Note: Christoph Prunsche (GER) is at this time back for a second time].
- Benefited greatly from hosting coaches:
 - For the coaching and assistance they bring, for example we could not operate our Sporting Schools program without them.
 - Expanding the horizons of our young orienteers by the opportunity to meet and be friends with orienteers from other countries.

Questions?