

A start in life
a brighter future for young australians

Career & Skills Development **Scholarship**

Introduction

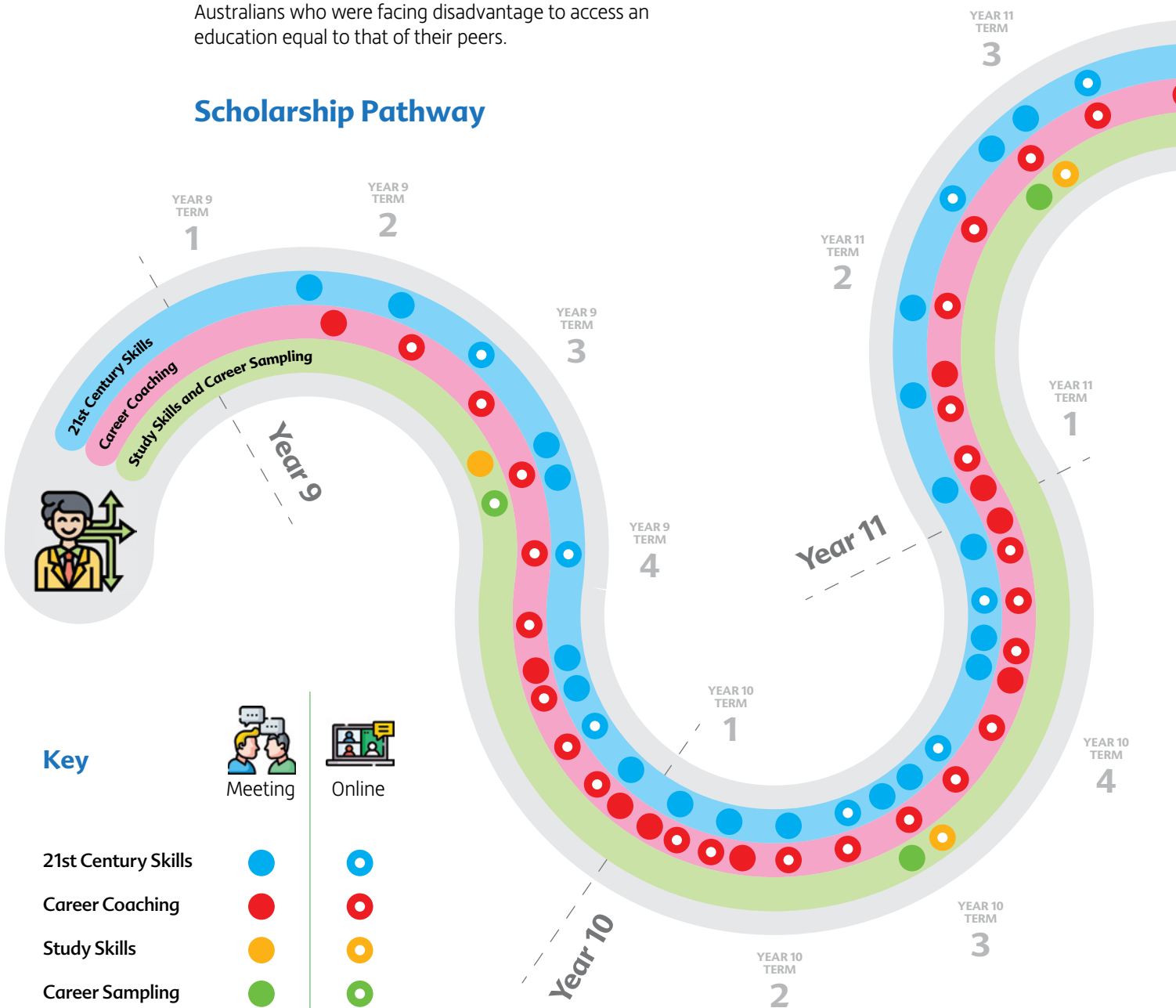
You may be a student who would benefit from our unique **Career and Skills Development Scholarship**. This Scholarship is designed to broaden your career horizons and train you in the most relevant skills for modern careers.

Who is A Start in Life?

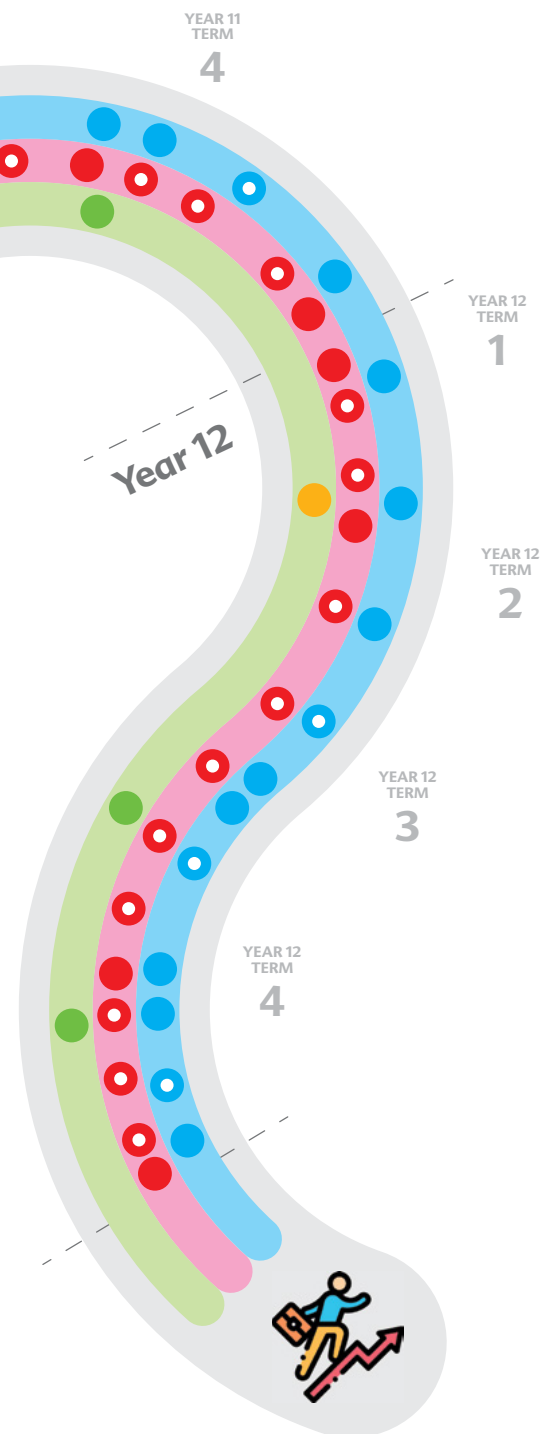
A Start in Life is a small Australian charity founded in 1923 to assist young Australians improve their educational outcomes.

Over the last 100 years, we have helped over 7,000 young Australians who were facing disadvantage to access an education equal to that of their peers.

Scholarship Pathway



Minor changes may be made to the pathway sequence for Years 10–12.



Why are we offering this Scholarship?

You learn a lot in school, but it can't cover everything! Schools teach vital academic knowledge, but often can't focus on all skills that modern employers are looking for. Additional time, assistance and resources are also required to help you discover the career options available and most suitable to you.

Current research shows that you could have up to 17 different jobs across five different careers in your lifetime! We offer this Scholarship to assist early discovery of career options and supplement your education with training in 21st Century skills. We call this 'future-proofing'.

What do I receive?

Successful applicants for our Scholarship receive up to four years of skills development workshops and career coaching (approximately 60 hours per year) plus up to \$1,000 financial assistance per year to help fund items that advance your education.

As part of this Scholarship, we will provide you with:

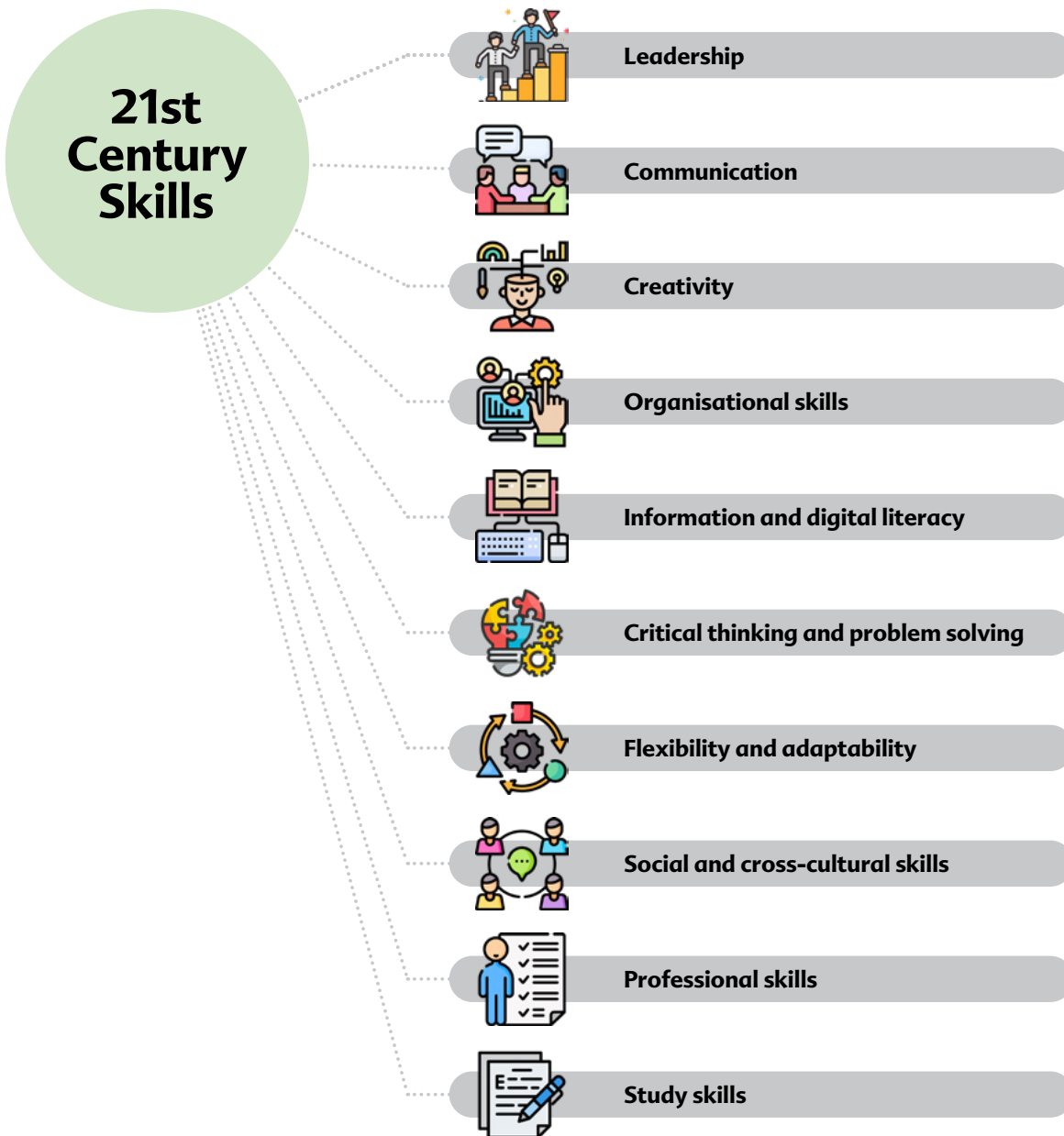
- monthly one-on-one interactions with a trained **Career Coach**, who will help you develop a structured career action plan. This plan will guide you towards managing your own personal and professional growth, leading to wider and more fulfilling career options;
- **practical training workshops** in identified high value and transferrable 21st Century skills, making you a more valuable employee;
- **study skills training** to help develop your note-taking, exam preparation and memory;
- a **unique report** that will help you better understand your innate strengths, skills and values and how they may relate to possible careers;
- **opportunities** to explore possible careers through interactions with industry professionals;
- access to **job preparation tools and resources**, with guidance on how to use them; and
- the opportunity to **work with peers** holding similar aspirations.



What are 21st Century skills?

We've spent a lot of time talking to employers about the things they wish their new employees already knew. With this information, we've put together a program of workshops that focus on enhancing these skills, and your ability to secure long-term employment.

Our research has identified the major behavioural, social, academic and professional skills that will help your career growth. These skills include:



Expanding your skills in these areas will boost your ability to secure your preferred careers.



Am I a student who would benefit from this Scholarship?

Our experience and research indicates this Scholarship will be most effective where the ideal applicant:

- **is aspirational** – you're motivated to grow your skills and work towards a future career that will provide you with the potential to become the best you can be;
- **is necessitous** – you need help (financial or otherwise) to get there; and
- **has high potential** – you're hard working and excel over your peers, even if your school grades may not necessarily reflect that.

What if I haven't chosen a career path?

Great! This program is for you as it will help you discover and determine how your strengths and values may relate to possible careers. It will provide you with resources to discover the career options available and equip you with skills valuable across many careers.

However, if you believe you have a chosen career path then this program could also suit you. Now might be the time to consider alternatives, think more broadly about what your future employment might look like and obtain skills that are relevant to other careers you may pursue later in life.

What are my responsibilities?

Successful applicants will need to commit approximately 60 hours to the Scholarship program each year (including after school and during school holidays).

You will be expected to actively participate in all components of the Scholarship program, including:

- attending training courses (workshops) and career sampling with industry professionals;
- having monthly face-to-face or Zoom meetings with our Career Coaches; and
- completing activities in a timely manner.

It sounds like a lot! But we work hard to make every hour worthwhile, averaging to a commitment of approximately 15 hours per term. A sample timetable of workshops and meetings over the period can be seen in the Scholarship Pathways diagram on pages 2 and 3.

What is the Scholarship worth?

The Career and Skills Development Scholarship has an estimated value of \$30,000 per student up to four years (including the direct financial assistance mentioned on page 3).

But more importantly, the skills and relationships you will develop over the course of the program will give you an invaluable opportunity to obtain the careers that most suit you throughout your working life.





What are the next steps?

It's not a difficult process to start, you simply need to:

1. **Talk to your parent/s** – tell them about the Scholarship and what it entails. Show them this brochure if you like.
2. **Contact *A Start in Life*** directly – we want to hear from you (yes you, personally!). Call us on (02) 9264 3017 or email us at careers@astartinlife.org.au. This will help us understand if you meet the application criteria.

That's it. We will email you an application form for you to fill out and return to us.

If you have questions about the Scholarship, please contact our Career Coaches, Giselle Morris and Anthony Siokos, on (02) 9264 3017 or careers@astartinlife.org.au and they will do their best to help you out.

Additional Information

Teachers



As teachers, you are a powerful resource in helping us identify potential Scholarship recipients. This Scholarship is designed to help level the playing field for those who would otherwise be denied the opportunities their talents, and more importantly, their dedication would otherwise get them.

The types of students who are expected to gain the most benefit from this Scholarship are entering Year 9. They may:

- be academically capable but under-developed in interpersonal and behavioural skills, and would benefit from assistance to develop these further
- benefit from assistance in recognising and developing their innate strengths, skills and values, and how they may relate to future careers
- come from a socio-economic circumstance that disadvantages their ability to access academic and career opportunities in comparison to their peers
- pursue a non-traditional pathway – e.g. move directly from high school into careers heavily reliant on 21st Century skills

Our additional training in the relevant skills, and development of individualised action plans will greatly assist these students develop ambitious yet realistic aspirations, and embrace emerging career opportunities.

These skills also contribute to personality development by enhancing empathy, communication skills, inclusive workplace behaviour and organisational skills.

In addition, successful applicants will:

- have a growth mindset and are future oriented;
- are motivated to develop their career options;
- show some capability when it comes to setting goals;
- exceed students of the same age in one or more – intellectual, physical, creative or advanced social abilities; and
- benefit from extended curriculum and learning activities.

If you think you know a student who could benefit, get them to contact us! Note that it's important that the student uses this as an opportunity to advocate for themselves, it helps build confidence. You can help them during the process, but resist the urge to apply on their behalf!

If you have questions about the Scholarship, please contact us on (02) 9264 3017 or careers@astartinlife.org.au.



Additional Information

Parents



We are a small Australian charity, and we've supported over 7,000 students during our 100 year history. This Scholarship is a newly developed, research-based and highly targeted program. It focuses on helping your child discover their career options and provides them with transferrable job skills designed to help your child achieve their full potential and the future they want. We call this 'future-proofing'.

What does this Scholarship provide?

Successful applicants will receive approximately 60 hours of career coaching and training in each of the four years. This program has been researched and developed utilising our decades of experience providing support to necessitous Australian students. The program is designed to allow self-discovery and grow skills that are highly valued in the modern workplace, with the aim of increasing long-term employment opportunities for your child.

Additionally, the Scholarship includes up to \$1,000 in financial support per year to help purchase items that advance educational and career goals.

Your consent

Parental consent is required as students are expected to directly interact with *A Start in Life's* Career Coaches, and associated third-party providers. Our Career Coaches and ALL third-party providers and associated professionals hold a national Working with Children Check.

Your child's responsibilities and the Scholarship

Your child will be expected to commit to the required course of workshops and training. They will also be required to submit required documents in a timely manner and agree to monthly face-to-face or Zoom meetings with our Career Coaches.

This total commitment works out to approximately 15 hours of after-school/holiday work per school term. Our experience is that students who engage the most with the support we offer are those that get the most out of it, and in return we do our best to help our students achieve their full potential.

If you have questions about the Scholarship, please contact us. We hope that your child will consider applying, we'd love to help them develop a brighter future.

The application process

We do our best to make the application process as straightforward and easy as we can. We will review their application and provide them with an outcome within 14 days. To have your child apply, simply have them follow the steps below:

1. Reach out to us and request an application form. This is an important step, so we want to hear directly from them and give them a chance to advocate for themselves. Based on this conversation, we can give them an application form.
2. Fill out the application form and return it to us. Successful applicants will need to provide evidence of:
 - **Aspiration** – personal values that reflect:
 - A growth mindset
 - Future orientation
 - Motivation to develop their career
 - Capabilities in goal setting
 - **Necessitous Circumstances** (your child will need this information from you) – in addition to personal criteria, we assess the financial circumstances of the student's family and consider necessitous circumstances exist where one of the following applies:
 - Annual taxable income is less than \$80,000
 - The full Family Tax Benefit Part A payment is being received
 - Centrelink payments may be the sole income
 - **High Potential** – their capabilities exceed students of the same age in one or more of the following areas:
 - Intellectual
 - Physical
 - Creative
 - Advanced social ability

They will benefit from extended curriculum and learning activities.

