



The Young Optometrist NSW/ACT (YO NSW/ACT) Scholarship is a self-funded initiative that assists members with continued professional development via educational short courses, workshops and conferences. The intent of these scholarships and placement opportunities is to allow professionals to explore avenues of optometry that may be inside or outside their scope of practice. This is to enable them to become better practitioners and to advance their careers.

Whilst YO NSW/ACT encourages applicants to consider applying in areas of practice that may be outside their comfort zone, please be aware that we expect recipients to implement this new knowledge into practice.

Application Form

Name	
Date of Birth	
Graduation year	
YO NSW/ACT Membership Number	
Tier of scholarship/placement program you are applying for	<input type="checkbox"/> Tier One (up to \$750) <input type="checkbox"/> Tier Two (up to \$2000) <input type="checkbox"/> Tier Three (up to \$3500) <input type="checkbox"/> Placement Program
Name of conference, workshop or course or practitioner (name, specialty and region) for placement program	

Terms and Conditions

Purpose	This policy provides a framework for establishing and managing Young Optometrist NSW/ACT (YO NSW/ACT) scholarships and placement.
Scope	This policy applies to: All scholarships and placements awarded by YO NSW/ACT.
Value	There will be three scholarships and one placement offered annually, with the total value up to \$7,000.
Establishment of Scholarships	<p>The purpose of the YO NSW/ACT Scholarships and Placement Program is to allow members, who will be among the most able in their profession, to explore avenues for continued education within, or outside, their current scope of practice so that they can become better practitioners.</p> <p>The scholarship program provides three merit-based scholarships which may be partial or the full price of a professional development event.</p> <p>The placement program will allow an optometrist to visit, sit in and observe an optometric practice in another state.</p> <p>There will be a formal process comprising of a written expression of interest (submitted online) for determining the eligibility, range and value of all scholarships and placements which will be decided by the Y executive committee and its affiliates.</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Only Young Optometrist NSW/ACT members, who are not part of the committee, may apply. As well as this, they must be registered and practicing optometrists delivering clinical services in NSW/ACT, who are within 10 years of graduation.</p> <p><i>For the purposes of this scholarship, applicants must be delivering clinical services involving direct patient interaction, providing treatment, intervention, assistance, assessment, management and education across the healthcare system.</i></p>
Terms and Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The travel placement and scholarship must be used within the calendar year. 2. Payment will be made in the form of a reimbursement. Successful recipients must pay for all associated costs and YO NSW/ACT will reimburse the amount back accordingly; dependent on the scholarship tier, or allocated placement amount. If the successful recipient incurs costs greater than that of the scholarship or placement amount, they are personally responsible for the excess. 3. Successful recipients must provide all appropriate documentation,

	<p>including evidence of travel arrangements and provision of receipts as proof the money awarded was used appropriately.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. YO NSW/ACT may request further information from applicants and reserves the right to contact organisations cited in the application to verify information. 5. Generally recipients may only receive one scholarship or placement grant once within a three year timeframe. This is subject to change only with the approval of committee members and its affiliates. 6. Successful recipients are required to provide a written report to YO NSW/ACT within 6 weeks of returning from their travel, detailing the professional elements of the travel experience. YO NSW/ACT will be granted full permission to share this through their social media avenues and they may be required to share their experience publically at YO NSW/ACT events. 7. In the event that the proposed travel is cancelled or postponed, the recipient must immediately inform the YO NSW/ACT in writing. If the proposed travel is cancelled and the scholarship or placement fund has already been paid, the recipient may use the fund towards the next event of the same description. If the next conference is not within the same year, they must reimburse YO NSW/ACT the full amount to hold onto until the year of the event. For example, if the recipient was awarded a Tier One scholarship for a Orthokeratology Society of Oceania (OSO) Conference but could not attend in 2020, they may use the funds towards the next OSO Conference, but YO NSW/ACT will hold onto the funds until 2022 (the year of the next conference). 8. Applicants shall be responsible for paying any taxes incurred or arising from the receipt of the scholarship or placement fund. Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from the Australian Taxation Office and/or their accountant regarding possible tax implications arising from the scholarship or placement fund.
<p>Value of scholarships</p>	<p>The scholarship is to be used towards a short course, workshop or conference for which continuing professional development hours can be accrued. <i>YO NSW/ACT will not be responsible for lodging continuing professional development points. The onus is on the recipient.</i></p> <p>Maximum funding total is \$7,000. There will be three tiers of scholarships</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tier One <i>Value up to \$750 for a conference within Australia. This scholarship is aimed to provide insight into different scopes of practice, for example Australian College of Behavioural Optometry’s National Vision Conference (NACBO), or Orthokeratology Society of Oceania (OSO).</i> 2. Tier Two <i>Value up to \$1500 for a workshop/conference anywhere around the</i>

	<p><i>world. This scholarship is aimed at optometrists who wish to delve further into their scope of practice. This option is ideal for applicants who already have specialty specific equipment in their practice, or will be looking to purchase this in the future. Examples include conferences held by Orthokeratology Society of Oceania and the International Cornea & Contact Lens Society of Australia</i></p> <p>3. Tier Three <i>Value up to \$2500 for a course anywhere around the world. This scholarship is aimed at optometrists who wish to gain hands on experience by pursuing coursework. It is not intended for postgraduate degrees, nor is it a research grant. Examples of such courses include the Optometric Extension Program and ARVO.</i></p> <p>The placement program allows a recipient to visit an optometric practice, which has a special interest, in another state. The funding is up to the value of \$1000 and will include return flights, accommodation for three nights and meals.</p> <p>YO NSW/ACT scholarships may not be used for the procurement of registration to an external organisation or society, such as an annual membership fee. It is up to the recipient to finance their own membership fee if they wish to join a specific society.</p>
<p>Selection Criteria</p>	<p>These are competitive scholarships and placement, and will be awarded on the recommendation of YO NSW/ACT's Committee. Participants will be assessed on the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will the scholarship or placement program benefit: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the way you practice optometry? b) your longer term professional goals? c) your patients? 2. Describe your commitment to your scope of practice. 3. Describe your commitment to optometry, as a profession.
<p>Funding</p>	<p>YO NSW/ACT will fund the placement and all scholarships from their annual budget. Scholarship total is subject to annual review and will be decided by the YO NSW/ACT Committee.</p>