

2027 JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications

Form Preview

Welcome

The RAS Foundation (RASf) helps to support the development of sustainable and resilient regional and rural communities by promoting individual and community growth via educational scholarships and community grants. One such scholarship is the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications.

Purpose: To encourage students of courses relevant to journalism, media and communications to pursue a career in rural and regional journalism/communications upon graduation.

Value: The Award includes a \$12,500 scholarship in the 2027 academic year, plus a suite of internships providing practical work experience, including:

- Australian Community Media at The Land Newspaper
- ABC Landline in the Brisbane newsroom
- The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Media Team at the Sydney Royal Easter Show

Eligibility Guidelines:

- Applicants must be enrolled to study in any undergraduate or postgraduate courses of relevance at an approved Australian education provider including universities, colleges and education providers such as the Australian Film Television and Radio School.
- Applicants must demonstrate an active interest in rural and regional affairs and in pursuing a career in journalism/communications/media upon graduation.
- Applicants must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- Applicants must be aged 30 years or under.

How to apply: Submit a written article, blog post, video or audio report of up to 600 words on a topic of your choice. Your piece needs to be of publication standard and may have been published or broadcast previously. Please include a word count.

Shortlisted applicants will proceed to stage two and invited to submit a final piece on a nominated topic to proceed to the interview stage.

Selection will be based on:

- Proven interest in rural and regional issues.
- Commitment to pursuing a career in rural and regional journalism/communications.
- Academic merit.

Applications open: Wednesday 1 July 2026

Stage 1 applications close: Sunday 16 August 2026

Stage 2 applications close: early October 2026

Successful finalists interviewed: November 2026

Successful applicant notified: November 2026

Scholarship funds Awarded: March 2027

Further information: Contact Emma Clancey, Program Manager - Scholarships & Grants, RAS Foundation on (02) 9704 1234 or via email eclancey@rasnsw.com.au

2027 JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications

Form Preview

Your Details

* indicates a required field

Name *

Title

First Name

Last Name

Email Address *

Date of Birth *

Age as at 31 January 2027 *

Must be a number.

Gender

Male

Female

Prefer not
Indeterminate/to say
Intersex/
Unspecified

Postal Address *

Address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Primary Email Address *

Must be an email address.

Primary Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Alternate Contact Number

Home Town *

Place you originally resided

State *

Which state or territory is your home town in

Are you an Australian citizen or Permanent Resident? *

Yes

No

2027 JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications

Form Preview

Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent? *

Yes

No

How did you hear about the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications? *

School / University / College / TAFE RASF website

Newspaper advertisement or article Previous

JB Fairfax Award applicant Email Facebook

Instagram Radio

Other

Study Details

* indicates a required field

What course will you be studying in 2027? *

Which university or college will you be studying at? *

Where is your campus located? *

Will you be studying full-time or part-time? *

Full-time

Part-time

Unsure

Which year of study will you be completing in 2027? *

1st year

3rd year

Post Graduate

2nd year

4th year

Other:

By providing this information you consent to the RAS Foundation contacting the institution where required in order to process your application.

Scholarship Information

* indicates a required field

Are you receiving any of the following?

Youth Allowance

Other government financial assistance

Tertiary Access Payment

Austudy

Scholarship

Other:

2027 JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications

Form Preview

Abstudy

Please list any other scholarships you have applied for and/or financial assistance you will receive in 2027. This will not preclude you from being a successful applicant. *

Supporting Statements

* indicates a required field

Please respond to each question below in no more than 300 words:

Describe how receiving the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications would make a difference to you. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Describe your personal interest in rural and regional affairs. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Outline your career aspirations after graduation. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Submission documents

* indicates a required field

Reports and Resume

Please attach your latest resume and a recent transcript from your university or college. For high school students, please provide your most recent school report.

Please attach your resume (maximum of 2 pages). Note only MS Word (.doc) and Adobe PDF formats are allowed. *

Attach a file:

2027 JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications

Form Preview

Please attach your academic transcript/report. Note: only MS Word (.doc) and Adobe PDF formats are allowed. *

Attach a file:

Your submission

Submission Guidelines

- Submit an article, blog post, video, or audio report on a topic of your choice.
- Your submission must be of publication standard.
- Maximum 600 words for written pieces; approximately 3-4 minutes for a video or audio report.
- You may submit work that has already been published or broadcast.
- Please include the final word count at the end of your submission.

Written article may be submitted in an MS Word (.doc) or Adobe PDF Format

Attach a file:

Please include the word count

OR you may submit an audio or video file; please provide the link or file here.

Please provide your password to view your audio or video file (if applicable)

Criteria

Submissions will be assessed against the following criteria:

- appropriateness and significance of topic
- originality and newsworthiness
- depth of research and quality of resources
- clarity and accuracy
- grammar and writing skills

Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to progress to stage two of the application process and will be invited to submit a final piece on a topic to be advised.

Referee

* indicates a required field

2027 JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications

Form Preview

Please provide the names and contact details of a referee who may be contacted by the RASF in regard to your application. You are not required to provide a written reference.

Referee

Name of Referee: *

Position Title and Company Name (if applicable)

Referee's Relationship to Applicant

eg. Employer, colleague, mentor etc

Contact number *

Email Address

Declaration

* indicates a required field

The selection panel intends to make an offer to the successful applicant by December 2026. This offer will be conditional upon receipt of all information outlined above and the completion of standard university admission procedures as necessary.

Declaration by Applicant

I wish to be considered for the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications as specified above.

I authorise the RASF to contact my referee as outlined above, and acknowledge that the RASF reserves the right to vary or reverse any decision regarding an award made on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information and cease further scholarship payments.

Agree to declaration *

Yes

Privacy Act Statement

Information, personal or otherwise, provided by you as the applicant on this Application Form is to be used for the purpose of processing your application and any associated activity relating to the application, for RASF and RAS promotions including media activities and for archival purposes. The information will remain confidential at all times except for disclosure which you have consented to or which is required by law. You may request access

2027 JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications

Form Preview

to your information and request that it be corrected at any time or the facility cancelled by advising the Privacy Officer on 9704 1111 or by writing to The Privacy Officer, RASF, 1 Showground Road, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127.

By submitting this application you agree to the Declaration above and to the Privacy Act Statement for this website.

I agree to the declaration and to the Privacy Act Statement above. *

Yes

Parent/Guardian Consent (for Applicants under 18 years old)

Parent/Guardian name

Contact phone number

I agree to provide consent

Yes

As the parent/guardian for the under 18 applicant completing this form, by ticking the box at the end of this paragraph I agree to and provide permission for my child to make this application. I understand that his/her details, including some private information collected in this form, will be used by the RAS and the RASF to process the application, including contacting institutions and referees to discuss my child. I agree that if my child's application is successful then his/her information may also be communicated or published (including the internet) to promote the RASF and/or the RAS. I also agree to be contacted directly on the phone number provided in the event that the RASF or the RAS have future scholarships or projects that my child may benefit from being involved in.