

Ailsa's LEGACY

HD Youth Education Scholarship

INFORMATION & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

in partnership with

Huntington's Australia



AILSA GORDON

Teacher, psychologist, HD family member & education advocate

Ailsa was smart, funny, creative, spirited, and curious. She loved to learn and found her purpose in sharing this gift with others. Ailsa believed in the power of education. As a dedicated teacher with a passion for helping kids grow through learning, she saw first-hand the opportunities education can provide for a child to imagine and create a life of potential well beyond whatever difficulties they were experiencing.

Ailsa also knew Huntington's disease. When she was a child, her dad developed HD - a disease she would unfortunately go on to inherit. Growing up with HD in the family, Ailsa and her sister experienced how challenging it was to stay motivated, resourced and engaged in education when everyone in the family was struggling with HD in their own unique way.

The HD youth education scholarship has been generously created and funded by a benefactor who knew and loved Ailsa; to honour Ailsa's commitment to the welfare and education of young people, to recognise her understanding of how challenging it can be growing up in a family impacted by HD, and to celebrate the creativity and courage in which Ailsa managed her own HD diagnosis.

Ailsa's Legacy has been created in memory of Ailsa to help young people impacted by HD on their journey towards everything an education can bring.



WHAT IS AILSA'S LEGACY?

Ailsa's Legacy is a youth education scholarship. Each year a number of individual sums of money (up to $2,000 each) will be given to successful applicants.

This Scholarship has been set up to provide financial support for young people in families impacted by Huntington's disease (HD) to start, continue, or return to education.

The payments can be used for education or training in a range of ways. These might include:

- uniforms and shoes
- course or school fees
- course work materials
- computers and software
- school excursions
- school camps or trips
- transport
- accommodation
- extra tuition
- extracurricular activities (eg music or gym classes etc)
- sports uniforms and equipment.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

To be eligible to apply for the Ailsa's Legacy scholarship, you must:

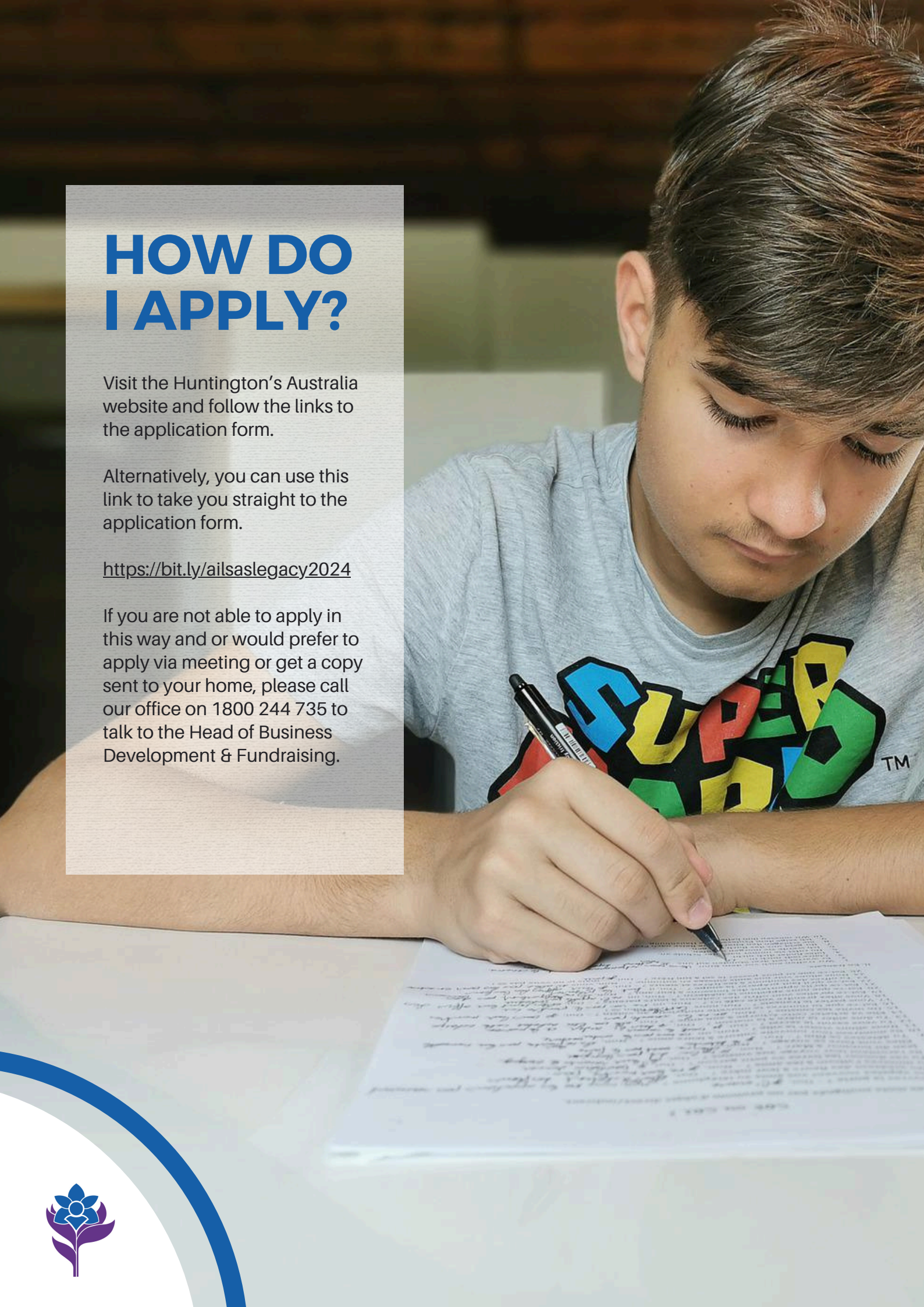
- Live with and/or care for a person impacted by HD *(In the case of a person with HD living in residential care, or outside the home or if your HD family member has passed away you are still eligible to apply)*
- Be 25 years old or under.
- Be living in NSW or the ACT.
- Be studying, or in the process of applying for school, TAFE, university, or another recognised education institute.

WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

Balancing education with the extra challenges living with a Huntington's disease (HD) impacted parent or carer can be hard.

For someone in this situation, life is often more challenging than it is for the majority of young people. It might be more difficult to stay engaged in school, TAFE, or uni as they take on the physical, emotional, and logistical challenges HD throws their way. There can be caring responsibilities for a parent with HD, extra work managing siblings and home life, financial stress and/or disadvantage, emotional stress around the disease, and often a lack of practical carer support for a young person that helps to make prioritising education possible.

Whether they are struggling to find a quiet space to learn, trying to find a balance between caring for a parent with HD and learning, these factors can make for a harder path to education.



HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit the Huntington's Australia website and follow the links to the application form.

Alternatively, you can use this link to take you straight to the application form.

https://bit.ly/ailsaslegacy2024

If you are not able to apply in this way and or would prefer to apply via meeting or get a copy sent to your home, please call our office on 1800 244 735 to talk to the Head of Business Development & Fundraising.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

01

How much can I apply for?

You can apply for a one-off payment of up to $2000.

02

What documents will I need to provide?

To make an initial application for the Ailsa's Legacy Scholarship, you do not have to provide us with any documents – just complete and submit the application form.

If your application is successful, you will be asked to provide the following documents to receive payment. At this time, you will be instructed on how to provide these documents for us to check.

Proof of age, identity and Australian residence using ONE of the following:

- Australian Driver's License
- Australian Birth Certificate
- Australian Passport
- Proof of Age card
- Student ID card

Proof of current enrolment in School, TAFE or University and residency in NSW or the ACT using ONE of the following:

- Signed form from school/TAFE/University professional (we will provide this form for you if you are shortlisted)
- Current Student ID card.

03

What if I am under the age of 18?

If you are under 18 you can fill out an application form and submit it without your parent or guardian's permission. If you are shortlisted, we will ask for your parent/guardian consent at that time.

An exemption can be applied in exceptional circumstances. Please contact Huntington's Australia if you are under 18 and you are not able to get parent or guardian permission, or if obtaining this permission will put you at risk in any way.

04

What happens if I do not have my own bank account?

Ideally, payments should go directly into your bank account however, if you are not able to get an account, you can nominate to have this paid into a parent/guardians account.

05

I am not sure if I will be returning to study next year, should I still apply

Yes. If you do not return to study, you can always withdraw your application at any time.

06

Is the Scholarship income tested?

No.

07

How many times can I apply for this scholarship ?

You can continue to apply each year if you remain eligible.

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Can other family members in the same household apply too?

Yes, we encourage everyone to apply that meets the eligibility requirements, even if you are all caring/living with the same family member with HD.

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Can I apply if I am receiving a government carers allowance, carers payment or other payments from the NDIS?

Yes.

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Is there a deadline for my application?

Applications open in July of each year and will remain open until all scholarships have been awarded. Up to 5 scholarships can be awarded in each round. We would encourage you to reach out to the HD Specialist in NSW to see if there are still funds available.

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Can my support worker, teacher, family member/carer, friend or other professional help me with my application if I require this?

Yes. We understand completing an application can be tricky and we encourage you to get whatever help you need in applying for this bursary and gathering the required documents if you are successful.

If the person helping you needs further information to assist you, please get them to contact Huntington's Australia.

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Can my support worker, teacher, parent, friend or health professional be listed as an extra contact person on my application if I need this?

Yes. If this person is over 18 years old and you list them as an extra contact person on your application, both yourself, and the adult listed will be able to enquire about the progress of your application and receive emails or phone calls from Huntington's Australia about this application.

We will not provide personal information about you to them or tell them what you have written in your application. Verbal or written consent is required for this to occur.

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Who will see my application and who will decide what applicant gets a scholarship?

Applications will go to the Huntington's Australia Head of Business Development and Fundraising and the HD Specialist for NSW. A panel including the benefactor and a member of the Community Advisory Committee (who has connections with the HD community) will review the applications.

Your responses to the questions in the application are important, as they will give us the information we need to make our decisions. All applications will be confidential.

You will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible, within 4-6 weeks in most cases.

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How do I know the information I put in my application will be kept private?

All of the people seeing your application are required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement – this is an agreement stating that they will keep all of the information they read in your applications private. This is a legal document designed to make sure the private information you tell us in your application is kept safe and not shared to others.

The only reason this Non-Disclosure Agreement can be broken is if an application contains information that indicates you or someone else is at risk of serious harm. If this occurs, the Huntington's Australia team will contact you to help find ways to make sure everyone is safe and may also be required to contact child protection or emergency service agencies to ensure safety needs are met.

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What are my responsibilities if my application is successful, and I receive the scholarship?

In order to help us make the best use of the scholarship funds in the future, we ask that you complete a short survey, approximately six months after you receive the scholarship. The survey can be completed either in writing or by speaking with one of the scholarship team on the phone.

Feedback is extremely important to us. We are keen to find out how the scholarship helped you. We are also keen to find out if we could have done anything differently to make the process easier or better.

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What happens if my application is not successful?

We understand that there are many young people impacted by HD in need of assistance. Unfortunately, we only have a limited number of scholarships available each year. If you are not successful this time, we encourage you to apply again next year.

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What if I need to talk to someone about HD? Can I get help?

Yes. Whether or not you are interested in, or eligible for this Scholarship, our HD Specialist can help you.

Please contact the Huntington's Australia if you need support, counselling, assistance, or would like to meet other young people in similar circumstances. All support provided is at no cost and is available all year.