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| Mensa New Zealand Scholarship Program Application Form – 2025 |  | A blue and white logo  AI-generated content may be incorrect. |

**SECTION 1**

**RULES & GUIDELINES**

Top of Form

* Only one application is allowed per student in this scholarship competition.
* Applicants must intend to enrol in an accredited educational institution for the 2026 academic year.
* Applicants must complete all required information on the application.
* Essays must be the applicants' original work and written without the use of artificial intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT.
* Essays must be no more than 550 words in length.
* Make sure your paragraph breaks are visible.
* Applicants' names, addresses, and other identifying information MUST NOT be included in their essays.
* By submitting the form electronically applicants provide their digital signature certifying that their information and essays are their own original work and that they have read these rules and guidelines.
* Applications must be submitted online on or before 11.59pm on 10 November 2025.
* Application judging is done anonymously. The judges do not know who has entered the competition. If, by chance, you know a scholarship judge, do not contact that individual regarding the competition or your application may be disqualified.
* If awarded a scholarship you will be asked to provide a letter of acceptance or confirmation of study at an approved tertiary education institution. Awards will be paid out upon notification and in accordance with the tertiary education institution’s scholarship guidelines.
* The winners will receive a certificate and, if not already a member, an offer for a free Mensa Entry test.

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| **Applicant Statement**   * Bottom of Form * Top of Form * Bottom of Form * Top of Form   I certify that the accompanying essay is solely my own work, that I have read and understand the rules and conditions set above, and that I meet all of them. I agree to accept the judges' decisions as final. I understand that any award may be revoked for failure to provide appropriate documentation regarding educational status. I also understand my information will be retained and can be used by Mensa New Zealand consistent to its privacy policy. All essays become the property of Mensa New Zealand. I agree that Mensa New Zealand may publish my essay in or on any Mensa publication or website; may submit appropriate publicity releases to the media; and may post results on any Mensa website.  Yes |

**SECTION 2**

**ELIGIBILITYBottom of Form**

To be eligible to participate in the Mensa New Zealand Scholarship Program, you **MUST**:

* be a **member of Mensa New Zealand** OR the **child/dependent of a member of Mensa New Zealand**
* be a **New Zealand resident** OR **New Zealand citizen**
* be **currently** residing in New Zealand
* be entering your **first year** of tertiary education
* plan to study at an **approved tertiary education institution**

1. Are you applying as a member of Mensa New Zealand?

Yes

Mensa New Zealand Member ID

Click or tap here to enter text.

No

1. Are you applying as the child/dependent of a member of Mensa New Zealand?

Yes

Qualifying parent/guardian name

Click or tap here to enter text.

Qualifying parent/guardian Mensa New Zealand Member ID

Click or tap here to enter text.

No

1. Are you a New Zealand resident or citizen currently residing in New Zealand?

Yes

No

1. Will you be entering your first year of tertiary education in 2026?

Yes

No

1. Do you plan to study at an approved tertiary education institution in 2026?

Yes

No

**SECTION 3**

**Bottom of FormPERSONAL INFORMATIONBottom of Form**

1. Top of Form
2. First Name

Click or tap here to enter text.

Top of Form

Last Name

Click or tap here to enter text.

Top of Form

Preferred Name

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Date of birth

Click or tap to enter a date.

1. Bottom of Form

Top of Form

1. Gender

Choose an item.

1. Bottom of Form

Top of Form

**Bottom of Form**Top of Form

1. Personal Email Address

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Bottom of Form

Top of Form

1. Phone Number

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Present address

Address 1

test

Address 2 *(optional)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Address 3 *(optional)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Rural delivery number *(if applicable)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Town/City

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postcode

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Permanent/parental address *(if different to present address)*

Address 1

Click or tap here to enter text.

Address 2 *(optional)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Address 3 *(optional)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Rural delivery number *(if applicable)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Town/City

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postcode

Click or tap here to enter text.

**SECTION 4**

**EDUCATION INFORMATION**

1. High-school/college where currently enrolled

Click or tap here to enter text.

Final year of secondary study

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Selected tertiary institution

Click or tap here to enter text.

Selected degree course

Click or tap here to enter text.

Selected major

Click or tap here to enter text.

**SECTION 5**

**PARENTAL CONSENT FOR APPLICANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18**

Are you under 18 years old?

Yes

No

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| For applicants under the age of 18, the applicant's parent or guardian hereby certifies to the content of this application on behalf of the applicant and consents to the applicant's participation in the scholarship program.  Yes  Please type the full name of parent or guardian  Click or tap here to enter text. |

**SECTION 6**

**QUALIFYING ESSAY**Top of Form

Essay length is a minimum of 500 words and not more than **550** **words**; anything in excess of this limit will be truncated. DO NOT include information in your essay that would clearly identify you. Submit in English as a typed, double-spaced, plain-text entry (no formatting or markup), including an additional blank line between paragraphs.

Emphasis in judging is placed on a goal statement that includes specific information on experience or steps taken toward the goal, persuasiveness (e.g., how your past achievements/experiences and your future planning increase the probability of reaching your goal), why you think that you will succeed, and also grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Since your scholarship application will be**judged solely on the basis of this essay**, it's important that your essay accurately and fully describe your life, academic, career and/ or vocational goals and how you plan to achieve them.

Did you use the services of a translator in the preparation of your essay?

Yes

No

Bottom of Form

**SECTION 7**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

How did you hear of the Mensa New Zealand scholarship program? *(Optional)*

Click or tap here to enter text.Top of Form

Top of Form

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| All application materials must be received by **10** **November 2025** to be considered.  Send completed materials to – [**scholarship@mensa.org**](https://mensanz.sharepoint.com/sites/allofficeholders/Scholarships%20Team/Annual%20Application%20Form%20Releases/2025/scholarship@mensa.org)  **Submission checklist**  Completed application form  Essay  Reference letter  Resume/CV |

**SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY TIPS**Top of Form

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**Address the essay prompt clearly and early**Make sure your essay actually answers the question you're being asked. Don’t make the reader dig for it. Spell it out early and directly, ideally by the end of your introduction. You can always build from there, but your answer should be crystal clear right away. “Great writing can’t save an essay that doesn’t answer the question.”  
 **Be specific about your goals and accomplishments**“Everyone wants to save the world. Be specific.” Tell us how, where, and why. If your goal is to be a Special Education teacher, mention the child development classes you’ve taken, your volunteer work with the adaptive swim lessons at your local YMCA, and how you’ve already joined the Best Buddies club at your college. Not only does this show you’ve given serious thought to your area of study, but it also makes for a more compelling read as well.

**Make your essay personal and authentic**  
Scholarship judges read a lot of essays, and the ones that feel *human* are the ones that stand out. We’re not looking for a laundry list of accomplishments or a dramatic life story. “We want to know the real you, not your resume in disguise.” Think about moments, big or small, that helped shape how you see your future and include them in your essay. Don’t just write what you think a “smart” essay should sound like - let your voice and personality shine through.

**Think deeply and reflect that in your writing**“Help me understand your thought process, not just your accomplishments.” Judges want to see not just *what* you’ve done, but *why it mattered* to you. What did you learn from that volunteer experience, leadership role, or challenge you faced? How did it shape your thinking, your values, or your future plans? Strong essays connect actions to meaning and show that you’ve taken time to reflect. That depth of thought is powerful (and memorable).

**Use a clear structure**You don’t need to be fancy, but you *should* be organized. The five-paragraph essay is a classic for a reason. Start with an introduction that addresses the essay prompt, use the body to tell your story, and finish with a conclusion that ties it all together. Make sure each part supports your main idea. And definitely use paragraphs – “a wall of text is an automatic red flag,” one of our judges said.  
 **Follow every instruction, every time**“Brilliant essays get tossed simply because they don’t follow the rules.” It sounds basic, but it’s critical. A strong essay that breaks a rule, even a small one, can be disqualified. Our scholarship program, for example, requires all essays to be anonymous, and our judges reject hundreds of essays every year because the writer included their name or other identifying information. Stick to the word limit, answer all parts of the prompt, and follow every instruction exactly.

**Proofread (then proofread again)**Even a single typo or grammar slip can distract from your message. Clean, polished writing makes a strong impression and shows you take this seriously. Remember, spellcheck won’t catch everything. True story: I once reviewed an essay where the writer said their goal was to *immolate* (not *emulate*) Gandhi. Print your essay out. Read it out loud. In fact, one of our judges suggests giving your essay to three proofreaders: “an English teacher who likes you, an English teacher who hates you, and a complete stranger.”

**Keep it focused**“Trying to cram your whole life story into one page usually means none of it sticks.” Limit yourself to one clear goal and one main story or theme that supports it. Rambling essays lose impact. Stay on message, and make every sentence earn its place. If something you’ve included doesn’t connect to your goal or show us something important about you, it probably doesn’t belong in the essay.

**Exercise caution when reusing an essay**It’s common to see similar prompts across scholarships and college applications, and it can be tempting to reuse the same essay. It may save you time to recycle an essay you’ve already written, but you’ll be wasting your time if you don’t edit your paper to fit the requirements for each scholarship. If your essay doesn’t clearly match the prompt, skips required information, or feels too generic, it sends a message: you didn’t take the submission seriously. **Always read the instructions closely.** Reflect on what’s being asked, review what you’ve written, and revise accordingly. If it’s not a great fit, write something new.

**Show you’re serious (but not desperate)**  
“Confidence is more compelling than desperation.” Explain how the scholarship will help you, *not* why you’re hopeless without it. Judges want to support students with a plan, a purpose, and the drive to follow through, whether they win or not. Focus on what you’ve done, where you’re headed, and how this scholarship will support your journey.

**Don’t use AI to write your essay**If you can’t be bothered to write something, don’t expect judges to read it. And when you read hundreds or thousands of essays, it becomes clear pretty quickly which ones were actually written by humans. “AI writing feels like CGI,” one of our judges wrote. “It looks right, but it has no soul.” Worse, unedited AI content can include errors, weird phrasing, and leftover prompts. Scholarship essays are supposed to be personal and reflective, so use your own thoughts and words.

If you’ve made it this far, you care about doing this well, and that already sets you apart. As you get ready to write your scholarship essay, keep these essentials in mind:

**Start early.** You’ll write a better essay when you’re not racing the clock.

**Prepare diligently.** Read the prompt. Outline your thoughts. Know your message.

**Write honestly.**Be real. Tell your story in your voice. Help your reader feel great about awarding you.

**Proofread relentlessly.** Then have someone else proofread. And maybe one or two more people after that.

**Follow every instruction.** Every detail matters. Don’t risk disqualification over something avoidable.

**Don’t give up.** As one judge put it:  
*“Even if you didn’t win this year, you’re building the skills that will carry you far. Keep trying. We’re rooting for you.”*

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