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**Application guide   
2019 Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior STEM Student Awards**

In this guide, you will find information to assist you with your application for a Peter Doherty Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior STEM Student Award. Please read through this information carefully and complete the application checklist on page 5 before submitting your application.

**Eligibility requirements**

To be eligible to receive a Peter Doherty Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior STEM Student Award, you must:

* be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, and able to provide written evidence of being recognised as a member of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community/ies or being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
* have completed Year 11 in a Queensland state or non-state school
* have attained a very high level of achievement or equivalent in at least two Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) or other approved curriculum science, technology, engineering or mathematics Authority subjects in Year 11
* be currently enrolled in at least two Year 12 QCAA or other approved curriculum science, mathematics, engineering or technology Authority subjects in a Queensland state or non-state school
* not have previously received a Peter Doherty Award.

A list of award-eligible Authority subjects can be found on page 4.

***Obtaining evidence of heritage***

An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person is one who:

* is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
* identifies as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person
* is accepted as such by the community in which s/he lives or has lived.

Provision of any of the following documents will be accepted for the purposes of your award application:

* letter from school principal or community education counsellor
* evidence of having previously received ABSTUDY support
* evidence of support received from any other reputable organisation where proof of heritage has been a requirement of receiving support
* birth records or genealogies verified by a suitable authority
* a letter (on letterhead and often bearing a common seal), where alternate records are not available, signed by the Chairperson of an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander incorporated organisation in which you live or have previously lived.

Applicants can nominate themselves or be nominated. If the applicant is nominated by another person, the applicant must agree to the nomination.

**How to apply**

Once you have determined that you are eligible to apply for the award, you will then need to:

* complete the [Project consent](https://education.qld.gov.au/about/news/Documents/Peter-Doherty-Awards-project-consent-form.doc). If you are under 18 years of age, your form must be signed by your parent or guardian. The form will allow the Department of Education to use names and photographs for promotional purposes
* have the [Principal’s verification of results and enrolment](https://education.qld.gov.au/about/news/Documents/Peter-Doherty-Awards-verification-results-enrolment.docx) completed by your school principal to verify your Year 11 results and your Year 12 enrolment.
* include written evidence of being recognised as a member of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community/ies or being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
* have the details of two referees who agree to endorse your application. The referees may be asked to provide more information about aspects of your written statement
* Click on the [Entrant Portal](https://www.e-award.com.au/2019/peterdohertyawards/newentry/index.php) to create an account and submit your application, provide details of two referees and upload your signed Project Consent Form, Principal’s verification of results and enrolment and written evidence of heritage.

All forms should be completed electronically and submitted with your written statement.

**Written statement**

Your written statement provides you with an opportunity to tell us about yourself, your achievements and interests in STEM, and why you should receive a Peter Doherty Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior STEM Student Award.

Your statement should be no more than 1,000 words and should clearly respond to the selection criteria outlined in the table below. A selection panel will use these criteria to assess your application. Please note the selection panel will not assess statements beyond 1,000 words.

When writing your response, make sure you are succinct — consider using dot points (where appropriate) to summarise — and give examples of your achievements and experiences in STEM. You should also include data to support the claims you make in your statement, for example the award level in a competition, research location and time commitment, university name, number of local forums and names.

***Selection criteria: Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior STEM Student Award***

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| **The applicant:** |
| * **Demonstrates a commitment to deep learning in STEM that goes beyond school curriculum requirements** |
| This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:   * a commitment to participating in school and wider community STEM events and activities (including those online), reflecting a strong passion for any STEM subject * involvement in STEM extracurricular activities (forums, events, activities) as a participant, initiator, leader or invited guest * a depth of learning undertaken in one or more STEM fields (examples could include research undertaken, work experience completed, STEM competition participation and achievement, STEM forum participation, ambassador roles for STEM events and volunteer work) * excellence in STEM (examples could include outstanding achievement in STEM, recognition of scientific work by school partner organisations, selection to participate in camps and forums, awards for excellence in science or technology or engineering or mathematics). |
| * **Exhibits a well-developed plan to pursue a STEM pathway beyond school** |
| This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:   * details of the university STEM pathway that the applicant plans to pursue * understanding of both the requirements of the pathway and the prerequisite steps needed to reach the goal * clear and concise reason for selecting this pathway, such as a specific career goal, a general enjoyment of STEM or the influence of school and/or teachers (if applicable) on the decision-making process * how has participation in STEM-related activities inspired the applicant into further STEM studies and action in the community (eg advocacy, tutoring, mentoring, organising activities). * demonstrated work ethic required to achieve the desired goals (examples could include previous achievements and actions, work experience and voluntary work). |

**More about the awards**

**Award-eligible Authority subjects**

Below is a list of award-eligible Authority science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects. You need to have attained a very high level of achievement or equivalent in at least two of these subjects in Year 11, as well as be currently enrolled in at least two of these subjects in Year 12. Equivalent IB Program or other approved curriculum science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects will also be accepted.

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| * [Agricultural Science (2013)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/sciences/agricultural-science-2013) * [Aerospace Studies (2011)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/ict-design/aerospace-studies-2011) * [Biology (2004)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/sciences/biology-2004) * [Chemistry (2007)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/sciences/chemistry-2007) | * [Mathematics A (2008)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/mathematics/mathematics-a-2008) * [Mathematics B (2008)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/mathematics/mathematics-b-2008) * [Mathematics C (2008)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/mathematics/mathematics-c-2008) * [Physics (2007)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/sciences/physics-2007) |
| * [Earth Science (2000)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/sciences/earth-science-2000) * [Engineering Technology (2010)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/ict-design/engineering-technology-2010) * [Graphics (2013)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/ict-design/graphics-2013) | * [Science21 (2010)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/sciences/science21-2010) * [Technology Studies (2013](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/ict-design/technology-studies-2013)) |
| * [Information Processing and Technology (2010)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/ict-design/information-processing-technology-2010) * [Information Technology Systems (2012)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/ict-design/information-technology-systems-2012) * [Marine Science (2013)](https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/sciences/marine-science-2013) |  |

**How the award is to be used**

The Peter Doherty Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior STEM Student Award is to be used to:

* undertake activities associated with tertiary STEM courses
* attend conferences, forums or events that will extend your experiences in STEM
* purchase equipment that can assist your learning and development in STEM
* undertake research projects, including experience in a research laboratory.

**Award ceremony**

Recipients of the Peter Doherty Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior STEM Student Award will be invited to attend the awards presentation ceremony in Brisbane in August. It is anticipated that successful applicants will attend the awards ceremony.

If required, travel and accommodation expenses for Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior STEM Student Award recipients will be paid by the Department of Education. The travel and accommodation expenses will also be paid for two adults accompanying the student, if required.

**Application checklist**

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| Before submitting your application, please ensure that you have: | |
|  | read carefully through the application guide |
|  | checked that you meet the eligibility requirements for the award |
|  | written evidence of being recognised as a member of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community/ies or being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander |
|  | written a statement of no more than 1,000 words that clearly responds to the award selection criteria |
|  | details of two referees |
|  | completed the project consent form |
|  | your Principal’s verification of results and enrolment |

Once you have completed all items on this checklist, click on the [Entrant Portal](https://www.e-award.com.au/2019/peterdohertyawards) to create an account and submit your application, provide details of two referees and upload your signed project consent form, Principal’s verification of results and enrolment and written evidence of heritage.

All forms should be completed electronically and submitted with your written statement.

**Further information**

If you would like further information or if you have any questions about the Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM Education, please email [peterdohertyawards@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:peterdohertyawards@qed.qld.gov.au).