

## Education Endowment Fund

### The AusIMM Education Endowment Fund (EEF) Scholarships Operational Guidelines 2026

#### The Sir Frank Espie/Rio Tinto Leadership Award & The AusIMM EEF Premium Scholarships

1. The objective of the undergraduate scholarships is to reward individuals who are passionate about a career in the minerals industry and take an active leadership role within the institute and wider community. The scholarship includes monetary support, a field trip, formal mentoring and opportunities to network and demonstrate leadership within the AusIMM and the minerals sector.
2. The scholarships shall be known as:
  - a. The Sir Frank Espie/Rio Tinto Leadership Award, and
  - b. The AusIMM EEF Premium Scholarship
3. The scholarships shall be awarded annually by The AusIMM EEF on the recommendation of the EEF National Scholarship Committee.
4. Scholarships are awarded for the length of undergraduate study until graduation, providing the student continues to meet the scholarship criteria. An Honours year is classed as an undergraduate year.
5. The value of the scholarships for full-time students in 2026 is as follows:
  - a. The Sir Frank Espie/Rio Tinto Leadership Award - \$15,000 pa
  - b. The AusIMM EEF Premium Scholarships - \$11,000 pa

In addition to these amounts, scholarship holders participate in a one-week intensive field trip to a mineral rich region of Australia, the costs of which (approximately \$5,000 per student) are covered by the EEF. Career building mentoring with an industry professional is another benefit offered to scholarship holders. This occurs in the first year of the scholarship and is valued at \$5,000. ***The total value of the scholarship is therefore approximately \$20,000 in the first year of its award.***

6. The cash component of the scholarship will be split with half the per annum rate being paid after the census date of each academic semester over the relevant length of the scholarship. Variations on this theme apply in situations where the academic year occurs over three terms. Each payment will be made once the student has completed enrolment and provided proof that they have maintained a high academic standard (credit +) and failed no subjects. This proof must be in the form of an original official transcript or a certified copy and official enrolment advice (i.e a CAN).
7. Pro-rata payments for part-time study will be applied.

#### Eligibility

1. Scholarship holders must be Australian citizens or students with a permanent resident visa status. Full fee paying international students are ineligible.
2. All applicants must clearly demonstrate their intent to work in the industry, evidence industry related work experience and hold current membership of the AusIMM.
3. Students studying relevant disciplines in mining/chemical engineering, metallurgy, earth/geoscience/geology and other disciplines relating to sustainability and indigenous anthropology (and other related areas) are encouraged to apply and demonstrate in their application how their degree is relevant and might be applied by the minerals industry.

#### Expectations for scholarship holders

1. Scholarship recipients must hold and maintain AusIMM membership during the tenure of their scholarship. This includes active involvement in local AusIMM Student Chapters and/or Branches and acting in an ambassadorial role for the AusIMM and the EEF.
2. A high academic standard (65+) and no failed subjects for the previous semester must be achieved and maintained over the duration of the scholarship.
3. As an EEF and Institute ambassador, scholarship holders must at all times demonstrate behaviour consistent with the professional and ethical standards expected of Institute members.

4. A student may defer a scholarship once only for a maximum of one year. Deferment requests must be made in writing.
5. A student may apply to transfer a Scholarship if enrolment is transferred to the same or another minerals industry related course at another Australian university.
6. A Scholarship may be cancelled should a recipient be involved in unethical practices or exhibit unprofessional conduct at any time during the tenure of the Scholarship.
7. Scholarship holders must report on their activities and achievements at the end of the academic year during the life of the scholarship and then each year after graduation whenever requested.
8. Participation in the annual field trip held in early to mid July of each year is **mandatory** as is participation in relevant mentoring programs arranged by the EEF.
9. On request, scholars are required to present to relevant groups on their field trip experiences, their involvement with the AusIMM and their scholarship.
10. Scholarship instalments will not be paid during any period of international exchange. Instalments will recommence on return to Australia and the resumption of studies.

#### **The Sir Frank Espie/Rio Tinto Leadership Award & The AusIMM EEF Premium Scholarships**

The most outstanding students awarded an AusIMM EEF Premium Scholarship are considered for the Sir Frank Espie/Rio Tinto Leadership Award. Assessment for this award places particular emphasis on the leadership skills and potential of applicants, as demonstrated through involvement in the industry, AusIMM Student Chapters and the community at large.

As part of the application and interview process, candidates may be invited to:

- define leadership and provide examples of leadership roles held;
- speak to long-term career ambitions;
- outline how the scholarship will support the achievement of personal and professional goals;
- provide details of any other scholarships, awards and prizes held or in prospect.
- outline extracurricular engagement including any community based activities, team sport, cultural or social service involvements.

**Applicants are asked to note that applications MUST be submitted via the online application portal. It will not be possible to add to your application after it has been submitted.**

Contact [eef@ausimm.com.au](mailto:eef@ausimm.com.au) for any further information on The AusIMM Education Endowment Fund and its scholarship program.