

AsylumFest Scholarships

AsylumFest will offer two annual scholarships, open to all Australian/NZ citizens and permanent residents with an established interest in the horror genre (fiction, film, art, poetry, gaming, music).

These scholarships will provide successful candidates with funds that can be used to help further their careers in the field of horror.

The following scholarships are available:

The Spectral Scholarship for Diversity (\$500)

The Hume Nisbet* Scholarship (\$500)

*Named after Hume Nisbet (1849-1923), a prominent colonial writer of novels, plays, poetry, and short stories. Nisbet wrote many horror stories, including two of the earliest Australian-penned vampire tales, "The Vampire Maid," and "The Old Portrait," the latter considered a classic of the genre.

Scholarship Details

Submission of your application indicates you are in full agreement with the terms and conditions set out below.

The Spectral Scholarship for Diversity (AU\$500) is open to underrepresented Australian/NZ citizens or permanent residents with an established interest in the horror genre. The term 'diversity' here includes (but is not limited to) gender, culture, language, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, and neurodiversity.

The Hume Nisbet Scholarship (AU\$500) is open to all creatives (writers, editors, artists, film makers) with an established interest in the horror genre with Australian/NZ citizenship or permanent residency.

Application Form

The Application Form will be made available soon.

Along with the standard application details (name, address, email address, proof of citizenship/permanent residency, etc.), you will also need to provide the following information when you apply:

- Why you believe you may qualify for one of the Scholarships.
- Your bio (maximum 300 words).
- Your financial need for the scholarship.

- A Scholarship Plan, detailing how you would use the scholarship in consideration of the Scholarship Rules. This Plan needs to include a detailed breakdown of related costs, and not total more than the full Scholarship amount. See #10 under the Scholarship Rules for details on the Plan.
- Two (2) references who will confirm your commitment to your Scholarship Plan and the horror genre.

Scholarship Rules

1. The scholarships are only open to Australian/NZ citizens or permanent residents.
2. The scholarships must be applied toward advancing careers in the horror genre.
3. The application period shall be announced soon. All applications received outside of this period shall be deleted without reading.
4. A panel assigned by the AsylumFest committee shall determine the winners of each Scholarship. Their decision is final.
5. Winners for the inaugural scholarships shall be announced at Asylumfest at Beechworth, VIC (October, 2023), although you do not need to present to accept the scholarship.
6. The Scholarship Panel will consider the following when making their decisions:
 - If applying for The Spectral Scholarship for Diversity:
 - the applicant's explanation of why they qualify.
 - For all scholarships (including The Spectral Scholarship):
 - The applicant's need for the scholarship.
 - The applicant's Scholarship Plan.
 - How likely the scholarship will aid the applicant's career in horror.
 - The applicant's commitment to the horror genre.
7. No one can receive more than one Scholarship each year.
8. No one can receive a scholarship if they were awarded one in the previous two years.
9. Applicants must complete an application form (to be released soon), and follow all instructions accordingly.
10. The application form will require the Applicant to detail how they intend to use all the Scholarship funds and how such uses will benefit the applicant's career development (the Scholarship Plan). This Plan should be as detailed as possible, including expenses, dates, and all other relevant details. The Scholarship Plan will be approved by the Panel, and must be adhered to upon award of the Scholarship as much as possible. Accepted expenditures include (but are not limited to):
 - Courses/workshops (either in person or online) from recognized institutions.
 - Materials (ie, textbooks) required for such courses/workshops.
 - Publications (ie, Writing or Film Making Guides) or subscriptions to publications directly relevant to advancing your career.

- Genre convention or festival registration fees.
- Writing or film group memberships (ie, AHWA, SpecFicNZ, HWA).
- Workshop, consultation and/or editing fees (please also provide a bio for any convenor/consultant/editor)

11. Expenditures not eligible under the scholarship include (but are not limited to):

- Travel and accommodation fees.
- Tuition fees.

12. AsylumFest will make all payments for approved expenditures on behalf of the successful applicant, but it will be the successful applicant's responsibility to advise the Panel on payment deadlines so all payments are made on time.
13. Any funds paid for by the successful applicant will not be reimbursed by AsylumFest unless AsylumFest approved this process via email beforehand.
14. The successful applicant will have one year to spend the awarded funds.
15. Any funds not spent at the conclusion of one year shall be forfeited.
16. AsylumFest will work with each successful applicant as much as possible to ensure the most is gained from each scholarship.
17. Any successful applicant found to be disingenuous, fraudulent or otherwise of poor conduct may have their scholarship withdrawn without notice and must repay part or all funds provided.