



Motorola Solutions Foundation
2025 Engineering & Technology
Alumni Scholarship Recipients



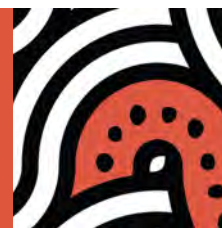
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Engineering & Technology University Scholarships



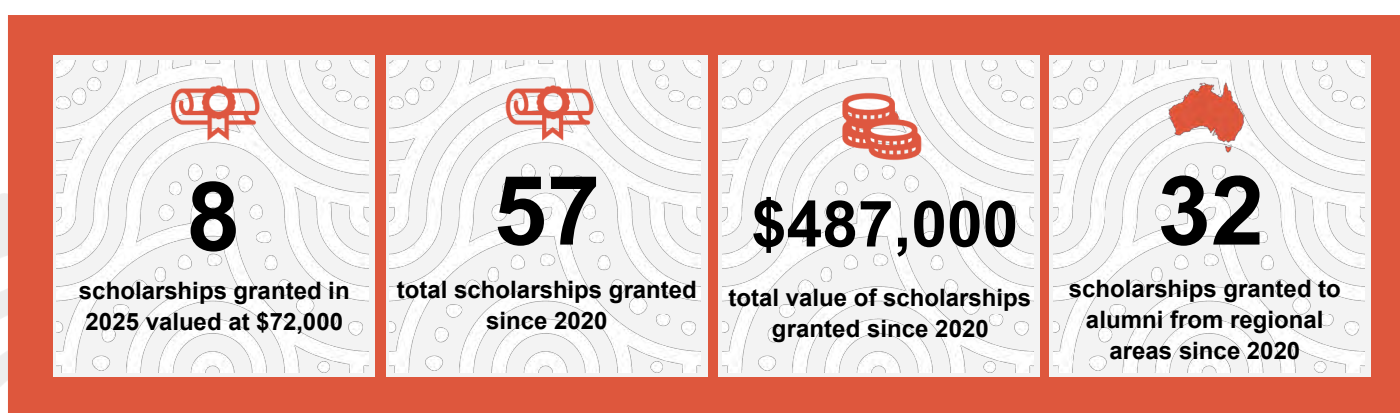
Motorola scholarships are offered to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are pursuing engineering and technology related studies at universities across Australia. This scholarship is available to students who participated in the Foundation's 'Follow the Dream' program and who are registered as alumni members.

In 2025, a total of eight scholarships have been awarded valued at \$72,000. Six valued at \$10,000 and two valued at \$6,000 to the recipients below.

Scholarship allocations are determined by a dedicated committee and are awarded based on course of study, financial circumstances and the need to relocate from regional areas.

Student	FTD Program / School	Offered	University	Course
Aaliyah Henwood	Mt Lawley SHS	Sem 1 & 2	ECU	Design (Visual Spatial & Games)
Alaxandrea Slade	Eastern Goldfields College (Kalgoorlie)	Sem 1 & 2	UWA	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Archer Key	Mt Lawley (Duncraig SHS)	Sem 1 & 2	UWA	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Daenah Blackley	Fremantle College	Sem 1 & 2	Curtin	Pre-Science & Engineering
Mitchell Uren	Mt Lawley SHS	Sem 1 & 2	Curtin	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Rhys Barrett	Eastern Goldfields College (Kalgoorlie)	Sem 1 & 2	Curtin	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Tyreece Smith	Sevenoaks Senior College	Sem 1 & 2	Curtin	Pre-Science & Engineering
Brodie O'Breza	Albany Senior High School	Sem 1 & 2	Curtin	Bachelor of Science

Since the Motorola Solutions scholarship program's inception in 2020, the Polly Farmer Foundation has awarded a total of 57 scholarships, valued at \$487,000.



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Alexandrea Slade

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
University of Western Australia

In 2025 I will be engaged in my 2nd year of a Bachelor of Environmental Engineering (Honours) at the University of Western Australia and will be engaged in full-time study for the entirety of 2025. I chose to study Environmental Engineering because it has a focus on land and water rehabilitation, conservation and management, something which I am deeply passionate about as I believe how we leave our country for future generations should be at the forefront of our minds within the industry. Throughout my studies, I have come to love my degree as it pushes me to question our practices and develop an understanding of its real-world application and the ripple effect design solutions can have on society. I believe engineers are at the forefront of change within society and I want to be a part of the collective of minds that innovate and create to make industry and systems more efficient, economic, environmentally friendly and in particular, culturally appropriate as a mediator between industry and regional communities.

I will use the scholarship to pay for resource expenses to support my studies such as study materials and software, I also intend to put the scholarship towards my HECS debt at the end of each semester as I aim to pay this in full by the end of each year to mitigate the financial stress of increasing interest rates upon student loans. The scholarship will help me pay for personal expenses such as rent and utilities, food, and other items for daily life, as I have recently moved out of college and am renting in the Fremantle area. As I have moved the scholarship will also help me pay for transport fees as I am on campus 4 days a week commuting in and out.



Overall, the scholarship will help me to alleviate the financial stress I would experience being a fulltime student, it will allow me to focus fully on my studies rather than trying to find part-time employment to cover my living costs.

The Motorola Scholarship will continue to foster my growth, as it will allow me to undertake any extra courses I decide to take throughout the year to broaden my academic ability and tutoring.

I will also use the scholarship to pay for tickets to events and functions that I need to attend. The scholarship would enable me to pursue my educational goals as well as help to act as a role model for other young Indigenous girls who want to pursue a pathway in STEM or tertiary education.





Aaliyah Henwood

Design (Visual Spatial & Games)
Edith Cowan University

I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Design course offered at Edith Cowan University. This is my first semester of my second year studying. I am doing a double major in both Visual Spatial Design and Games and Interactive Design.

Growing up I had no connections to my Indigenous heritage (which was outside my family's control) and always felt as if there was a part of me that was missing. This made me feel ashamed for not knowing my own culture. It was when I became a part of the Follow the Dream Program in Mount Lawley SHS that I felt as though I belonged, and that the missing part of me was found. The coordinators of the program helped organise events and excursions for Indigenous students to help educate us about our culture. Through this I found my own community with the friends I made within the program and gained confidence in expressing myself.



Not only did Follow the Dream assist me in connecting to my culture, throughout high school I often found myself struggling academically. Follow the Dream found tutors for me that would help with my academics, allowing me to achieve higher grades in each one of my classes so I didn't fall so far behind compared to my peers.

The Follow the Dream coordinators also noticed my skills in the Visual Arts and nurtured this. I was given opportunities, such as designing the Indigenous footy jumpers for the Mount Lawley SHS Girl's Footy Team.

This scholarship will assist me with my Bachelor of Design course as it will allow me to invest in professional equipment that is used in the design industry, such as computing equipment and graphic design supplies. It will also alleviate travelling and other material costs that are needed to create my artworks and designs - allowing me to designate more time in promoting myself and my artworks. Self promotion will help in gaining a clientele so that I have the best start to creating my own business upon completion of my degree. Within my own business I hope to create Indigenous designs for companies and small businesses who may commission me and sell other designs that I create commercially.



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Archer Key

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

University of Western Australia

In 2025 I will be continuing my studies at The University of Western Australia in both semester 1 and 2, studying a Bachelor of Engineering [Honours] majoring in Software Engineering.

I chose to study software engineering as technology and programming have been lifelong interests of mine. As a child I dreamed of working with computers to make my own games and today I dream of using my skills to build programs and technology to help people. I love software engineering as I get to watch as a project comes together piece by piece as I solve problems one step at a time. One day I hope to work in the health industry, working on devices and programs to improve peoples lives.

Without Follow the Dream I would not have discovered many of the scholarship opportunities that I now am grateful to benefit from today, and I would not have known about the Rob Riley top ATAR student award which was a great honour to receive in 2023.



Even now Follow the Dream continues to provide me with new opportunities such as their tutoring program which allows me to give back and help more Follow the Dream students through their schooling.

Already receiving this scholarship has helped to develop my education. Last year, receiving the scholarship provided me with the opportunity to purchase a new computer which I used to run Linux as that is the standard environment used in all of my programming classes. Since then my familiarity with the operating system has not only improved my software engineering skills greatly, but has also deepened my passion for software engineering which has now become something I do in my free time, not just a degree.

Furthermore, receiving the scholarship will likely improve my career prospects through providing me with opportunities to meet people from Motorola, and being something that can add to an application that will hopefully make me more appealing to interviewers.



Daenah Blackley

Pre-Science and Engineering
Curtin University

I have been enrolled into the Indigenous Pre-Science and Engineering course at Curtin University for semesters one and two.

I have been part of Follow the Dream (FTD) for five years attending tutoring, camps, and excursions.

Recently I was also a tutor at Fremantle College which helped me get experience working.

With the help of FTD I was assisted in choosing a career in engineering and the pathways I need to take to be able to achieve this.



One of the main things FTD helped me with was introducing me to the Curtin Indigenous Australian Engineering School which solidified my choice of doing engineering and also paved the way for me to do work experience with STANTEC engineering. FTD not only provided support for my studies they actively gave me information about programs, camps, and even internships I could do to build a better understanding of what I can be.

I intend to use the FTD Alumni Motorola Scholarship to help pay for accommodation and any course-related expenditures like books or lab equipment. The course that I am enrolled in will help me to achieve the required prerequisites allowing me to study an engineering degree where I hope to get a job in civil engineering.



I am interested in civil engineering as there is a wide variety of jobs available, but mostly because I have always had an interest in how structures are formed and the blueprints of projects. As to where I would want to work I am unsure, but I do have companies such as Worley, Woodside, and Rio Tinto which offer internships that I am interested in.

Tyreece Smith

Pre-Science and Engineering
Curtin University

I'm currently studying at Curtin University in a science and engineering enrolment to proceed into civil engineering.

Follow the Dream helped me apply for my current university course and has helped me ever since I was in year 6 and all through my years of high school.

Follow the Dream also helped me obtain my white card and my certificate II in engineering, which at the time was the path I wanted to get into as I wanted to be a boilermaker. But as I was going through my certification II in engineering I realised how much I enjoy designing and then building things which is why I chose to go into civil engineering. This is something I thought I would not be able to do as none of my siblings or other family members have gone to university, or have even graduated from high school! But thanks to my Follow the Dream program coordinator Jennet (pictured to the right with me at my year 12 graduation) I have been able to go to university.



Jennet not only gave me the support to go to University, she has taught all the students at Follow the Dream that whatever they want to be is possible, and she will give you all the support you need to get there.

Follow the Dream also assisted me to gain employment at BG&E, which is an engineering company, who will help me to get closer to my dream and teach me more about the job I want.

This scholarship will be a big help to get me through university and I will be able to buy important study materials, including a laptop.



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Rhys Barrett

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Curtin University

I am currently pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Engineering (Hons), majoring in Mechatronics. I expect to graduate by mid-year. Following this, I plan to continue my academic journey, with a strong interest in pursuing a Ph.D. I believe I am well-positioned to complete a Ph.D.

Joining the Follow the Dream program was one of the most beneficial things I did during my school years. The help I got was really good and assisted me in a lot of ways, but also allowed me a space to grow into the person I am today.

For instance, they helped me stay on top of my homework. Whenever I got stuck or needed some help, there was always someone there to support me and keep me going. I also struggled with English and needed help sometimes to re-read my work and give me feedback. The program was really helpful in improving my writing skills.

One of the best things about the program was the connections it helped me make with universities and other university programs. They gave me guidance and information about different courses and career paths, which opened up new opportunities for me. These connections made the idea of going to university feel possible and exciting.

The funds from this scholarship will be a big help in letting me follow my passion for engineering. They will allow me to focus more on my studies by helping with living costs. Additionally, the support will let me work on my passion projects in robotics, with a focus on low cost autonomous drones.



Brodie O'Breza

Bachelor of Science (Coastal & Marine Science & Environmental Management)

Curtin University

As a past recipient of the Motorola Scholarship, I am very grateful to Motorola for their support for my studies so far which has allowed me to take opportunities I would have never thought of doing! Through Motorola, I have undertaken programs such as the Sea Women Great Barrier Reef Program, which focused on marine conservation through research and Indigenous community engagement. I also embarked on an international study abroad program in Fiji, where I deepened my understanding of marine conservation in the Pacific. I also participated in the Discover Eden Marine Science Program in South Africa, which offered hands-on experience in animal rehabilitation, endangered species management, and free-diving research. I also participated in a STEM Sustainability Study Tour in Nepal, where I worked on sustainable development and environmental management projects.



Follow the Dream allowed me to realise I could attend higher education and supported me through ATAR. It also created a fantastic study environment and built personal connections with other FTD students. Becoming an alumni in the Polly Farmer Foundation has been an amazing experience for me, providing multiple opportunities to build connections in both my personal and professional life.

Motorola's funding will allow me to continue building my professional development through volunteering and internships while supporting me financially. As this is my last year of university, Motorola Solutions will support me in my transition to Queensland to undertake my master's by research at James Cook University, Townsville. I am also planning to upgrade my laptop in preparation for me completing my Postgraduate studies.



This year, I am planning to commence a studentship with CSIRO alongside my studies with renowned research scientists, which will prepare me for undertaking Postgraduate studies by research at JCU. As this studentship will commence alongside my studies this year, Motorola's support will allow me to focus and excel in both aspects.



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Mitchell Uren

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Curtin University

I will be attending Curtin University as an engineering student heading into semester one of my third year, my major is in 'Industrial and Systems Engineering'. I chose Engineering as I tried labour focused work and decided I wanted to work with my brain not my body, I chose Industrial Engineering as it has a broad applicable scope and I am still unsure of exactly where I would like my studies to take me.

I was lucky enough to be a part of the Academic Excellence Program (AEP) at Mount Lawley during middle school before moving into the FTD program in high school, the biggest take away for myself was the ongoing tutoring this provided, this allowed me to focus on my studies and achieve better results than I would have otherwise. The program also provided a strong network within the school to support me both in education and personally as required.

The funds will go directly towards Uni fees, transport to Uni, and Uni books, also the laptop I am currently using for Uni is rapidly falling apart and will probably need replacing before I finish my studies.

This scholarship will allow me to better focus on my studies, it will mean working less part time hours, 1-2 days rather than 3-4 days, per week, this financial relief will mean more hours studying and less hours working leading to better results during my time at Uni. Hopefully I will get a chance to reach out and network with Motorola and those involved with the scholarship.



Motorola Solutions and subsidiary Barrett Communications representatives were invited to attend the 2024 Polly Farmer Foundation Careers Expo, attended by over 400 Follow the Dream secondary students during August.

[Click here to view a short video of the event.](#)



PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Khan John

Bachelor of Science - Engineering (Graduated)

Curtin University

Graduate Production Engineer with Woodside Energy

"The scholarship gave me the unique opportunity to commit myself completely to my university studies, as I did not have to work. This in turn allowed me to succeed in my studies to the best of my ability as it gave me the time needed to study".

Khan John



Chantelle Gilbert

Bachelor of Engineering (Graduated)

Murdoch University

Instrumental and Control Systems Engineer with Woodside

"Derek Bantam, Senior Field Engineer at Motorola WA, was an outstanding mentor to have, his knowledge about so many different topics is second to none, where we could talk for hours. He was able to talk me through many queries I had about the electrical industry, he helped me gain a better understanding of where I can see my career progressing". **Chantelle Gilbert**

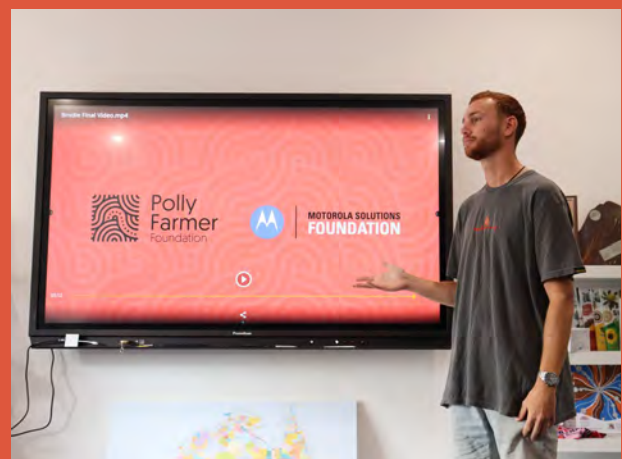
Amos Smith

Bachelor of Conservation Biology (Graduated)

University of Western Australia

Junior Ranger with Balanggarra Rangers in Northern Kimberley, WA

"The scholarship helped immensely and I was able to achieve distinctions and high distinctions with the financial support. I was able to do volunteer work such as with Birdlife Australia where I worked on scientific research. Outside of my studies I was also able to gain spatial mapping qualifications specialising in drone mapping which is the area I wish to work in the future". **Amos Smith**





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