



NSW GOVERNMENT Office for Veterans Affairs

2026 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship Student Application Guidelines

**Student application
opening time and date:**

9:00 am, 2 February 2026

**Student application
closing time and date:**

5:00 pm, 9 March 2026

Administering Entity:

NSW Government Office for Veterans Affairs

Enquiries:

**If you have enquiries, please contact the NSW Office
for Veterans Affairs during business hours.**

Email: PremierScholarship@veterans.nsw.gov.au



1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information relating to:

- a. the process for selecting NSW high school students for the 2026 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship
- b. the eligibility criteria and conditions to apply for a 2026 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship.

Applicants and their parents/guardians must read these guidelines before completing an application.

2. About the Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship (PAMS)

Managed and delivered by the NSW Government [Office for Veterans Affairs](#) (OVA), the Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship gives selected high school History students the opportunity to travel on a study tour to develop their knowledge and understanding of the history of Australians at war. The Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship program was established by the NSW Government in 2008, and recipients have travelled to locations across Europe, Asia and Australia. The OVA delivers the tour in partnership with a specialist education tour operator and in consultation with the Department of Education and the History Teachers' Association of NSW.

In 2026, up to 18 scholarships are available to eligible high school students. The scholarship is a fully funded* position on a prestigious study tour accompanied by a military historian, including meals, activities, travel, accommodation, and uniform. Additional support may be available for scholarship recipients experiencing financial difficulty, such as for travel to and from the Pre-Tour Meeting, and travel to and from Sydney for the study tour. Scholarship recipients may be invited to participate in media interviews and will appear on official NSW Government websites.

The tour will take place in the 2026 Term 3 school holidays, departing on **Saturday, 26 September** and returning to Sydney on **Thursday, 8 October 2026**. The itinerary of the study tour is planned to include significant places in Greece, including the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Phaleron, the Hellenic War Museum and the battlefields of Thermopylae and Thebes, to better understand the history of Australians serving during the Greek Campaign in 1941. In Crete the tour will include key sites such as the 6th Australian Division Memorial at Stavromenos, the battlefields of Rethymno, the Melame Memorial and the Souda Bay War Cemetery. The full itinerary will be shared closer to the dates of the tour and will be subject to change, depending on circumstances, up to the point of departure and/or during the tour.

The key attributes required of Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholars are set out on page 8. These include having a strong interest in history, respect for Australian defence service and being a positive contributor to the community. The study tour is a challenging experience, with long days and multiple activities throughout the day and into the evening (see example of a typical tour day on page 9). Although scholars meet prior to the tour, travelling and sharing accommodation with new acquaintances may be stressful. The busy itinerary, limited downtime and the nature of group travel mean the tour can be physically, socially, and emotionally demanding. Because of this, it is essential that scholars are resilient, adaptable, and capable of successfully completing the program.

****Some additional costs are covered by families such as passport application fees and travel to and from Sydney for the Pre-Tour Meeting and to and from Sydney for the Study Tour.***

Further information on the Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship is available on the [Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship webpage](#).

3. Eligibility criteria

To be considered for the 2026 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship, students applying must:

- a. be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia
- b. be enrolled in Year 10 or 11 at a NSW high school in 2026
- c. be at least 16 years old by 31 December 2026
- d. be studying History or Modern History at a NSW high school in 2026**
- e. have a current passport that will be valid for six months beyond the duration of the tour or agree to obtain a passport that will be valid for six months beyond the duration of the tour, if awarded a scholarship
- f. be available to attend a full day Pre-Tour Meeting at the **Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park Sydney on Monday, 6 July 2026**
- g. be available to attend the tour in the Term 3 school holidays from **Saturday, 26 September to Thursday, 8 October 2026**
- h. provide an original multimedia presentation responding to the question in Section 5 – Multimedia Presentation – Set Question and Instructions
- i. provide a letter of recommendation from their school Principal and History teacher
- j. provide a signed parental/guardian consent form to apply and participate in the program
- k. attend an online interview if shortlisted for the Scholarship
- l. agree to produce a piece of work as part of the program, such as a research task and speech to be presented on the study tour

***The Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship is designed for and is most beneficial to students studying Modern History. Students who are **only** studying Ancient History in 2026 are ineligible to apply.*

4. How to apply for a scholarship

The 2026 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship application is a three-stage process.

Stage 1: Online application form in SmartyGrants, with required documentation.

After reading this document (the Student Application Guidelines), eligible students begin the application process by creating an OVA SmartyGrants account via <https://veteransaffairs.smartygrants.com.au>. Students must have registered in SmartyGrants and started filling out their application form by **5pm on Friday, 6 March 2026**, in order to receive their SharePoint link for Stage 2. Within 1-2 business days of commencing the application, applicants will receive a link from SmartyGrants to a personalised SharePoint folder.

A SmartyGrants Help Guide is available at <http://applicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au/help-guide-for-applicants/>.

The application form collects personal applicant details and requires the following documentation to be uploaded:

1. *A letter of recommendation from the applicant's school Principal and History teacher.*
The letter should provide a detailed description of why the applicant is deserving of the Scholarship and how they meet the selection standards. The letter must be clearly dated and signed by the applicant's Principal and their History teacher and must follow the template provided on the OVA website [here](#).
2. *A signed parental/guardian consent form.*
The form provides the applicant permission to apply and participate in the tour, if selected. The form is available on the OVA website [here](#).

Please note:

- As noted above, students must have registered in SmartyGrants and started filling out their application form by **5pm on Friday, 6 March 2026** to receive their SharePoint link for Stage 2.
- The application form must be completed and submitted and required documents uploaded by **5pm on Monday, 9 March 2026**.
- Uploading incomplete forms may impact the success of an application. The letter of recommendation and parental consent form must be clearly dated and include the full names and signatures of the signatories. The letter of recommendation and parental consent form should be signed by hand or with an electronic signature.

Stage 2: Upload Multimedia presentation and reference list to SharePoint.

Once students have registered in SmartyGrants and started filling out their application form they will be sent a personalised SharePoint link to a folder where they can upload their multimedia presentation (refer to Section 6 for instructions on uploading your multimedia presentation to SharePoint). Students must upload their multimedia presentation and reference list to SharePoint by **5pm on 9 March 2026**.

Stage 3: Online interview for shortlisted applicants.

An expert panel will assess all applications and create a shortlist of applicants. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a panel interview. The interviews will be held online via Microsoft Teams in the April school holidays and will be approximately 20 minutes in duration.

5. Multimedia Presentation – Set Question and Instructions

Applicants need to create and submit an original multimedia presentation in response to the question below.

Context

2026 marks the 85th anniversary of the Greek Campaign of 1941. Australians who served during this campaign are commemorated both in Greece and in Australia, including at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney.

A striking feature of the Memorial is the Hall of Service, which contains soil samples from 100 sites of military significance worldwide. Places where Australians have served, died, or worked for peace. These include locations from Türkiye to the Western Front, Afghanistan, and Australia, as well as lesser-known sites in Greece and Crete, such as Cape Spada, Vevi Pass, Tempe Gorge, and Retimo. These soils create a tangible link to Australia's story of service and sacrifice.

As a student in New South Wales, you are familiar with ways in which our nation commemorates service and sacrifice, for example, through days of remembrance, ceremonies, memorials, museums, and art. Have you considered how your local community commemorates the Second World War?

Question

Using primary and secondary sources, create a 5-minute multimedia presentation that investigates the following topics:

- 1. The significance of Australia's contribution to the defence of Greece in 1941 against Axis forces.**
- 2. How this service is represented and commemorated today, beyond the Anzac Memorial.**

Your presentation should:

- Describe the nature of warfare during the Greek campaign of 1941 and Australia's contribution to the defence of Greece.
- Reflect on the experiences of Australian service personnel who served in the Greek campaign of 1941.
- Integrate relevant primary and secondary sources to support your investigation.
- Provide a clear and insightful explanation of how Australia's service in Greece is represented and commemorated today beyond the Anzac Memorial.
- Make effective connections to local, national, or community commemorations of Second World War service (examples may include ceremonies, memorials, museums or art).
- Be highly engaging and original, making effective and creative use of audio-visual material that enhance the presentation.

Your presentation must include:

- **Student narration** (both voice-over audio and speaking to-camera).
- **Images and video.**
- **References** to sources that can be accessed from websites such as the Australian War Memorial collection, National Archives of Australia and Trove. Your reference list may be integrated into your presentation (not included in the 5-minute time limit) or uploaded to SharePoint as a separate document.

Your presentation can be submitted as either an MP4 or .MOV file.

To note:

- a) Presentations must not be shorter than 4.5 minutes or longer than 5.5 minutes duration (not including references).
- b) The two topics will be given equal weighting in the assessment.
- c) Do not submit work that is not your own such as work that has been generated with Artificial Intelligence (AI) or has been written by someone else.
- d) Any referencing style is acceptable as long as it's used consistently.
- e) For more information on how marks are awarded, read Section 7 (Assessment process and selection standards), Appendix 1: Advice for Applicants and Appendix 2: Assessment Criteria and Scoring Matrix.

6. Uploading your Multimedia Presentation to SharePoint

When uploading your multimedia presentation, please ensure you use the correct file name (see example below). The link to the folder will expire at **5pm on Friday, 9 March 2026**.

File	File name
1 Multimedia presentation	PAMSID_ MULTI_FIRSTNAME_LASTNAME e.g PAMS002000_MULTI_ALEX_JOHNSON
2 Reference List	PAMSID_ REFLIST_FIRSTNAME_LASTNAME e.g PAMS002000_REFLIST_ALEX_JOHNSON [if you are submitting your reference list as a separate document]

The following pages provide step-by-step instructions for uploading your multimedia presentation to SharePoint.

Step 1 – You will receive an email from SmartyGrants titled ‘PAMS 2026 Application – SharePoint Folder.’

From: The Office for Veterans Affairs Programs <noreply@smartygrants.com.au>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:00:00 AM
To: Alex Johnson <alex.johnson@emailaddress.com.au>
Subject: PAMS 2026 Application - SharePoint Folder

Dear Alex

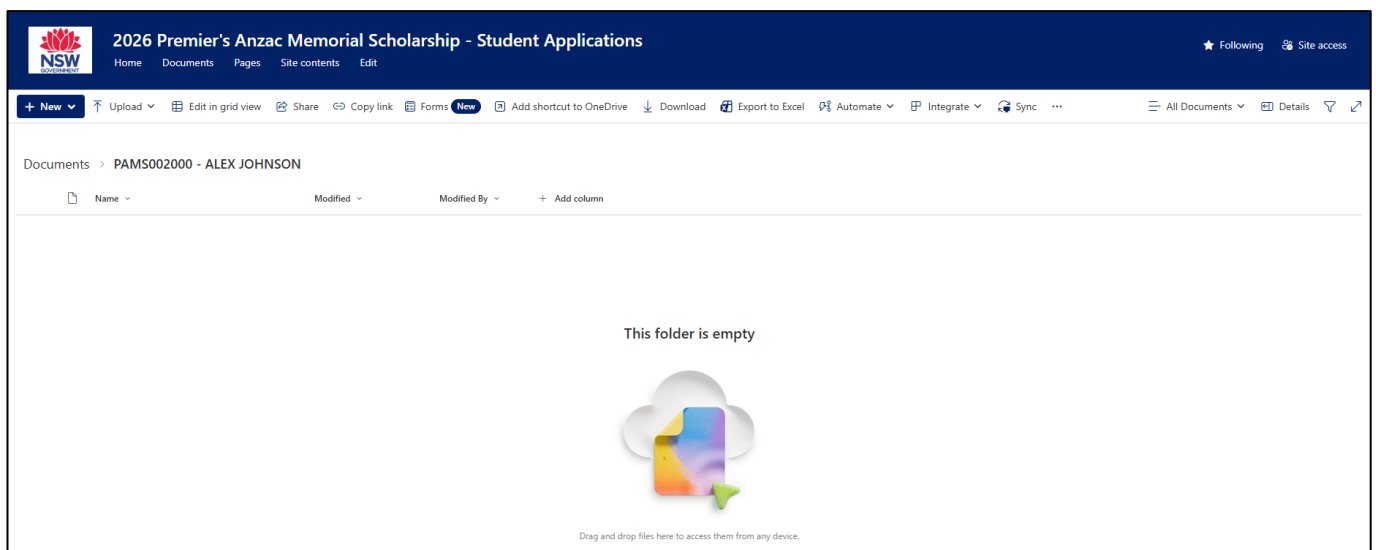
Thank you for commencing your PAMS 2026 application. Your personalised SharePoint folder can be accessed by clicking on this link: [PAMS002000 – ALEX JOHNSON](#)

Please ensure you upload your multimedia presentation by **5pm on Friday, 9 March 2026**.

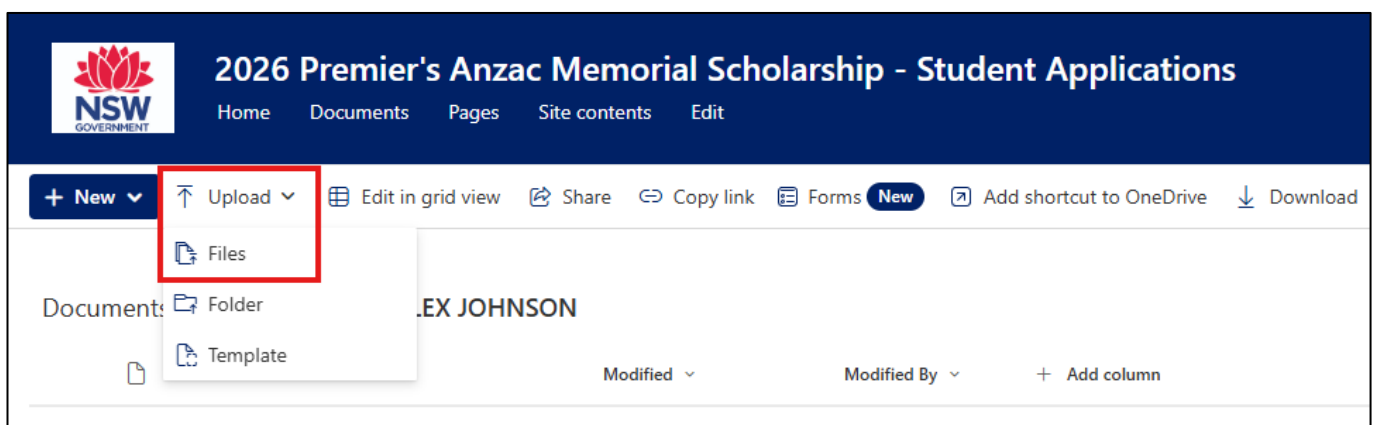
Sincerely,

The NSW Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA)

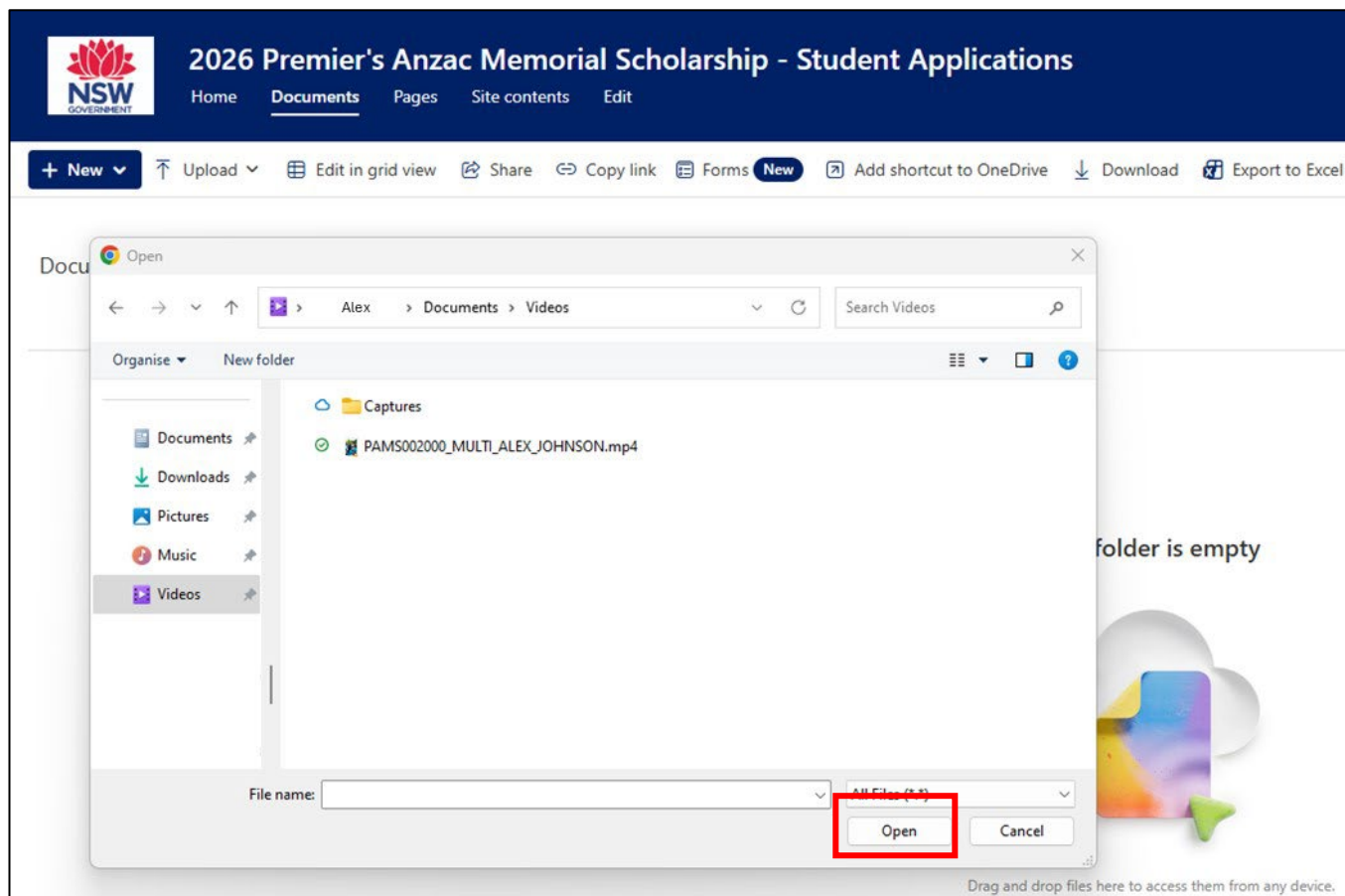
Step 2 – Click on the link to your personalised SharePoint Folder. You will be re-directed to the 2026 Premier’s Anzac Memorial Scholarship – Student Applications SharePoint page.



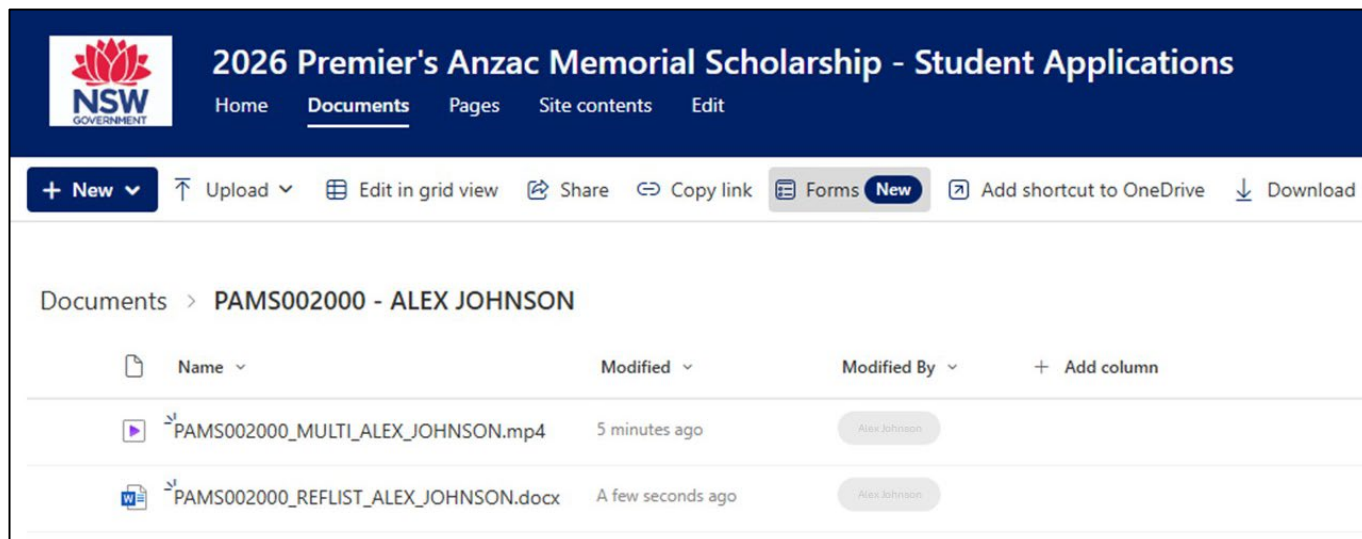
Step 3 – Click on Upload and Files to upload your multimedia presentation.



Step 4 – Select your multimedia presentation from your device and click Open, ensuring you use the correct file name e.g. PAMS002000_MULTI_ALEX_JOHNSON.



Step 5 – If you are submitting your reference list as a separate document, repeat steps 3 and 4 to upload your reference list per below.



Please allow plenty of time for uploading the files. While the OVA is not able to provide technical assistance, if you're having serious difficulties please email PremierScholarship@veterans.nsw.gov.au.

7. Assessment process and selection standards

An expert panel of History teachers will assess the multimedia presentations and accompanying documentation against set criteria, which are provided at Appendix 2.

Assessors will be looking for demonstration of the following key attributes in both the multimedia presentation and the letter of recommendation from the school Principal and History teacher:

- genuine interest in history, particularly Australian history and the role that war has played in the development of Australia
- sincere respect for the service and sacrifice of Australians in times of war and peacekeeping operations
- excellent communication skills
- civic mindedness and positive contributions to the community, including their school community
- being able to follow very high standards of behaviour, dress, and protocol
- resilience, adaptability, independence, and trustworthiness
- ability to complete tasks by specified deadlines
- physical and emotional capacity to participate in the tour activities and meet the challenges of group travel, with unfamiliar students and teachers.

Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to attend a panel interview with representatives from the OVA, the History Teachers' Association of NSW and a past PAMS teacher.

The interviews will be held via Microsoft Teams and will be offered across various dates in the April school holidays. Shortlisted applicants will be required to book an interview time from a selection of available dates and time slots. The interviews will be approximately 20 minutes in duration and will include both seen (provided to you on the morning of your interview) and unseen questions. Applicants will be required to respond to the interview questions independently.

Up to 18 scholarship positions will be awarded to successful applicants. A proportional system will be used to ensure equitable representation from Independent/Catholic, NSW Government, regional and metropolitan schools. Applications from students at schools that have not previously sent a student on the PAMS tour may be given special consideration when applicants are shortlisted. The OVA will contact the schools of shortlisted applicants to conduct a reference check before a scholarship position is offered.

8. What to expect if you are awarded a scholarship

If you are offered a scholarship, you will receive an email notification followed by an official letter congratulating you on your selection. You will also receive a Welcome Booklet containing detailed information to help you prepare including forms that need to be completed and returned to the OVA.

Before the tour, scholars will meet each other and the tour staff during the Pre-Tour Meeting, which will take place at the Anzac Memorial on **Monday, 6 July 2026**. In-person attendance of the Pre-Tour Meeting is mandatory for all PAMS scholars. A range of important activities occur on this day, including uniform fittings; meeting and getting to know fellow scholars and accompanying teachers prior to the tour; participating in important learning activities; and key tour preparation.

Scholars will complete and submit a research and presentation task ahead of the tour with support from tour staff. The presentation tasks are submitted to the OVA prior to tour departure and delivered to the rest of the group throughout the course of the tour.

The tour will depart from and return to Sydney International Airport. During the tour, scholars will take part in a dynamic program of group activities, including visits to museums, war memorials, and significant historical and cultural sites. Travel arrangements will include flights, coach transportation, shared accommodation with at least one other student, and set menus at local restaurants.

OVA will inform airlines and restaurants of any dietary requirements and request appropriate meal options; however, it is very difficult for OVA to guarantee that dietary requirements will be catered for exactly by the external organisations engaged in foreign countries. It is also extremely difficult to guarantee there has been no cross-contamination, particularly when dining at local establishments. OVA needs to be fully informed of all dietary requirements so that Scholars with a history of severe food allergies or a risk of anaphylaxis can be appropriately supported. Those with dietary preferences such as vegetarian, or vegan options must inform OVA and will be expected to self-manage their meals while on tour. Although there will be some opportunities for free-choice meals, most meals will consist of pre-determined group menus or set lunches and dinners.

Below is an example of a typical day on the tour:

0800 Breakfast in hotel
 0900 Coach transfer to a museum
 1130 Visit to a memorial
 1215 Lunch
 1300 Walking tour
 1430 Visit to a historical site
 1530 Cultural immersion activity
 1700 Walk back to hotel
 1830 Debrief and learning activity
 1915 Dinner
 2200 All students in own rooms and lights out

9. Key dates



Applications for the 2026 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship must be completed and submitted online via SmartyGrants with required files to be uploaded to SharePoint prior to the closing date. Please monitor the [Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship webpage](#) for updates.

Activity	Timeframe
Student applications open	9:00am, 2 February 2026
Students must have begun their SmartyGrants application	5:00pm, 6 March 2026
Student applications close	5:00pm, 9 March 2026
Student applications are assessed and shortlisted	March 2026
Online interviews with shortlisted students are conducted and reference checks are carried out with schools.	Term 2 school holidays – April 2026
Selections are finalised and the NSW Minister for Veterans is notified about selection outcomes. Successful and unsuccessful applicants are notified about the outcome of their application.	May 2026
Scholars are announced and their details published on the Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship webpage .	June 2026
Compulsory Pre-Tour Meeting at the Anzac Memorial in Sydney, which must be attended by all scholars and at least one of their parents/guardians.	6 July 2026
Scholars must prepare a research task and presentation for the tour	Due 18 September 2026
Scholars undertake the study tour	26 September – 8 October 2026

10. Staff contact

The NSW Office for Veterans Affairs can be contacted during business hours to discuss the Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship by emailing PremierScholarship@veterans.nsw.gov.au.

Appendix 1: Advice for Applicants

	
<p>Before getting started, carefully read the program guidelines (especially Section 4: How to apply for a scholarship, Section 7: Assessment process and selection standards and Appendix 2: Assessment Criteria and Scoring Matrix) and the application form on SmartyGrants.</p>	<p>Do not submit your application without all the required elements completed and do not stray from the requested format.</p>
<p>Create your multimedia presentation with originality, creativity, and accuracy. A thoughtful and reflective response will help to demonstrate your genuine interest in history and the program.</p>	<p>Avoid using cliché, misattributed quotes, and inaccurate information. For example, avoid overused and commonly misattributed phrases such as “Those who do not understand history are doomed to repeat it”.</p>
<p>Submit your multimedia presentation in the requested format. Use narration, images and video.</p>	<p>While creativity is encouraged, ensure you adhere to the requested format.</p>
<p>Use specific examples in your presentation to demonstrate your knowledge, experience and understanding. It is your opportunity to show your individuality and why you are a great candidate for the scholarship. Examples should be detailed, relevant and appropriately referenced.</p>	<p>Avoid vague language, general statements and superficial descriptions.</p>
<p>Use language that is correct and an appropriate tone. Refer to sources to ensure that any terms used in your presentation are accurate, such as military terminology. The tone of your presentation should be a balance of formal, mature, confident and sincere.</p>	<p>Do not use the acronym ANZAC incorrectly such as in the name of the Anzac Memorial. For information on the terms ‘ANZAC’ and ‘Anzac’ visit the Anzac Memorial’s website here.</p>
<p>Check that all supporting documents are complete and signed where needed.</p>	<p>Do not upload documents which are incomplete. For example, if a supporting document requires a signature, ensure that it is named, dated, and signed either by hand or with an electronic signature.</p>
<p>Submit work that is your own.</p>	<p>Do not submit work that is not your own such as work that has been generated with Artificial Intelligence (AI) or has been written by someone else.</p>
<p>Start your application as early as possible and submit your application well ahead of the deadline.</p>	<p>Do not leave your application to the last minute. Once the deadline for submissions passes, the application round will lock and no longer accept applications.</p>

Appendix 2: Assessment Criteria and Scoring Matrix

/45 marks	Excellent (10-8 marks)	Satisfactory (7-5 marks)	Unsatisfactory (4-1 marks)
Topic 1 – Greek campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates a thorough and accurate understanding of Australia's contribution to the defence of Greece in 1941. Using examples, clearly explains the significance of Australia's involvement (examples include the nature of warfare and the experiences of Australian service personnel who served during the campaign). Effectively integrates relevant primary and secondary sources to support the investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates some understanding of Australia's contribution to the defence of Greece in 1941. The content lacks depth or detail. Some reference to the significance of Australia's contribution is made, with fewer examples (examples of the nature of warfare or the experiences of Australian service personnel who served during the campaign are limited or not included). Uses some primary and or secondary sources, though links to the investigation may not always be clear or well developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates limited or inaccurate understanding of Australia's contribution to the defence of Greece in 1941. Little or no explanation of the significance of Australia's involvement. Limited or no reference to the nature of warfare and the experiences of Australian service personnel who served during the campaign. Limited or inaccurate use of primary and secondary sources, resulting in a partial or insufficient investigation.
Topic 2 – Commemoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a clear and insightful explanation of how Australia's service in Greece is represented and commemorated today beyond the Anzac Memorial. Makes effective connections to local, national, or community commemorations of Second World War service (examples may include ceremonies, memorials, museums or art). Uses relevant sources to support the investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a basic explanation of how Australia's service in Greece is commemorated today. Some examples of commemoration of Second World War service are included but lacks depth or detail (examples may include ceremonies, memorials, museums or art). Sources are used but may be limited or not fully integrated into the explanation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows limited understanding of how Australia's service in Greece is commemorated today. Examples of commemoration of Second World War service are minimal, unclear, or inaccurate. Little or no use of relevant sources. Explanation lacks clarity or relevance to the task.
Multimedia elements (i.e. images, video, narration, creativity, originality) and references.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation is highly engaging and original, making effective and creative use of multimedia elements, including images and video with student narration or voice-over (audio AND speaking to camera). Demonstrates thoughtful design choices that enhance understanding of the Greek campaign and commemoration. Narration is clear, confident, and well-paced. A comprehensive reference list of sources is included. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation shows some creativity and makes appropriate use of multimedia elements, including images and video with student narration or voice-over (audio and/or speaking to camera). Design and structure are functional and provide a basic understanding of the Greek campaign and commemoration. Narration is mostly clear but may vary in confidence, pacing, or quality. A satisfactory reference list of sources is included. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation shows little creativity or originality. Limited or insufficient use of multimedia elements and does not speak to camera. Poor structure or design that fails to develop an understanding of the Greek campaign and commemoration. Narration is unclear, incomplete, or missing. A limited reference list, or no reference list, is included.
Timing /5	Presentations between 4.5 minutes to 5.5 minutes (excluding references) = 5 marks		Presentations less than 4.5 mins or more than to 5.5 mins (excluding references) = 0 marks
Letter of Endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates all the key attributes of an outstanding PAMS scholar. Refer to Section 7 of Student Application Guidelines. Provides clear examples of applicant's interest in history. Positive and selfless contributor to the school community and wider community. Provides multiple examples of the applicant's resilience, independence, and trustworthiness. Provides detailed examples of how the applicant demonstrates respect for Australian Defence service within the school and wider community. Summary of the applicant's school report provides an indication of an excellent PAMS scholar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates some attributes of an outstanding PAMS scholar. Refer to Section 7 of Student Application Guidelines. Provides sufficient example(s) of applicant's interest in history. Provides some good example(s) of service to the applicant's school community and the wider community. Provides some examples of the applicant's resilience, independence, and trustworthiness. Provides sufficient examples of how the applicant demonstrates respect for Australian Defence service within the school and wider community. Summary of the applicant's school report provides an indication of a good PAMS scholar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates little to no evidence of attributes associated with an outstanding PAMS scholar. Refer to Section 7 of Student Application Guidelines. Provides insufficient evidence to determine the applicant's interest in history. Provides limited examples of service to the applicant's school community and the wider community. Provides limited evidence of the applicant's resilience, independence, and trustworthiness. Provides limited examples of how the applicant demonstrates respect for Australian Defence service within the school and wider community. Summary of the applicant's school report does not provide an indication of a good PAMS scholar. Letter has not been personalised to the applicant.