

Key Changes

- Applications will only ask for information needed at each decision point to save schools and students time and effort.
- Stage one – Contact details, cover letter and do you meet the criteria by 4th May. This is automated so it will unlock stage two. Don't delay starting stage two.
- Stage two – Student photo, letter of support from the school, academic transcripts, school reports, future study plans, start financial declaration process by 21st May. Shortlisting.
- Stage three – Video Interviews with First Foundation by mid-June. Shortlisting.
- Stage four – Matching with Scholarship Partners
- Stage five – Final decisions

Key Dates

Applications open: Late March	Applications:	Indicative dates
Stage One - Applications	Contact information, student cover letter, criteria checklist	26 March – 4 th May
Stage One - Shortlist	Applicants will be informed via email by	By 11 th May
Stage Two – Additional Information	Shortlisted applicants complete application form. Requires letter of support from school, academic transcripts, student photo, financial declaration from parents/caregivers	By 21 st May
Stage Two shortlist	Applicants will be informed via email	By last week of May
Stage Three - Online interview	Applicants will be informed via email and will complete interview	Last week of May to mid-June
Stage Three – shortlist	Applicants and Schools will be informed	Late June
Stage Four – Interview with Scholarship Partner	Meet potential Scholarship partners	July school holidays
Stage -Five -Decision		September

Priorities

- Year 12
- First in Family
- Scholars meeting the household income threshold
- Endorsed merit or excellent at level one (or equivalent)

Q. Do we have more chances of having a successful application if I put more people forward?

A. No. We will make decisions based on merit. A smaller number of high quality applications is the best approach. We do seek to balance scholarships across New Zealand. Ultimately our scholarship partners make the final choice. We often come back to schools to get them to help our decision making process. We see this as a partnership.

Q. I have a large number of great students wanting to study medicine. Do they have a good chance?

A. To date we have a small number of scholarship partners supporting health related studies. In 2020 we had 65 applicants for 3 health related scholarship places.

Q. Do you have a scholarship for year 13 students.

A. First Foundation aims to support scholars from their decision-making year to the first three years of degree study. Year 13 applications will not progress unless we have scholarship partners requesting a year 13. In 2020 we had one scholarship partner wanting a Y13 student going into engineering. We ran a separate application process to fill that spot, we'll email you.

Q. Am I guaranteed a scholarship for my school?

A. No. Last year we had two scholarship partners who specified schools, otherwise it is based on merit.

Q. Do they need to meet the house income criteria?

A. Yes. As a guide, a household with 1-2 dependents will have a household income of less than \$75k, and 3 or more less than \$90k. We do have some discretion but we weight household income in our decision making process. In stage one, students need to indicate broad household income bands. In stage two we will ask parents/caregivers to complete a financial declaration

Q. What if a students has a sibling at University?

A. We prioritise students who are the first in their family to go to University. We weight our decisions based on that.

Q. What if we don't offer a qualification at level 1?

A. We have an option to tick 'no qualification offered at level 1.

Q. What if we don't offer external assessments?

A. This is a tough one. Please let us know if this is the case. We'll need to work closely with you.

Our experience is that students who successfully complete external assessments are better placed for Tertiary life. We do factor that into our decision making as a general rule.

Q. I have a student who, for circumstances beyond their control, didn't do well last year. We think they're who you are looking for and we back them.

A. We'd love to hear from you. Life isn't always black and white and we have some great examples of scholars going on and flying. We value your recommendations.

Q. Do you get many applications?

A. Yes. Last year we had over 400 applications for 51 scholarships. We carefully review each application several times to meet scholarship partners' needs. This takes time and is why we have long lead times before the final decision.

Q. Can I support my student making the application?

A. Yes. At the beginning of the application, your student can add you as a collaborator. You can explain terminology, check spelling, grammar and later add a letter of support.

Q. Can the student partially complete the application and then return to the application?

A. Yes. The student can save and exit, then return to the application. It is important that they remember the email address they used and their password.

Q. We have had an issue with the online application, who can we contact?

A. You can either email first@firstfoundation.org.nz or call 09 522 4140

Q. Can I share the application link with students that do not attend my school but meet the criteria?

A. Yes, you may pass the link onto any students studying in New Zealand that meet New Zealand citizenship and permanent residency criteria.

Q. When students get to the online interview stage, can they complete the interview at school?

A. Yes. We encourage you to support their application. The school would have the equipment and space to allow for a good interview.

Q. Will the school be updated on the students' progress?

A. Yes. Please see key dates on the first page of this document. We will communicate with the support person nominated by the student during the application process. This will happen if students progress to stage three otherwise, we will communicate directly with the applicant who will inform you of their progress.