

TUCKWELL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2026 Application Guide



Australian
National
University



This guide provides an overview of the application process to commence study at the Australian National University (ANU) on a Tuckwell Scholarship in 2026. It is designed to support both Candidates and Referees.

Please note that this guide may be updated from time to time, so you may wish to make sure that you have read the latest version before submitting your application or lodging an enquiry.

Contents

1	Overview
2	What we offer
3	Scholarship eligibility
3	Candidacy requirements
4	Key dates
5	How to apply
5	ANU Direct Applications
5	Tuckwell Scholarship Application Process Overview
6	Tuckwell Scholarship Application
6	Stage 1
7	Stage 2
8	Stage 3
9	Attributes of a Tuckwell Scholar
10	Contact us

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program

Overview

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program is like no other undergraduate scholarship program in Australia.

Founded in 2013 by philanthropists Dr Graham Tuckwell AO and Dr Louise Tuckwell AO, the Tuckwell Scholarship is funded by the largest ever contribution from an Australian to an Australian university. With their gift, Louise and Graham have become pioneers in the support of education in Australia.

The Scholarship is so much more than a stipend; it is a life-changing opportunity that enables exceptional young people to realise their potential and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Scholars are selected on the basis not only of academic excellence, but also of character, leadership and commitment to Australia. The Scholarship builds on these qualities through our community of Scholars who engage in events, workshops, and discussions at Scholars House.

ANU awards 25 Scholarships each year and offers talented and motivated students the opportunity to realise their potential by providing financial support, personal enrichment and development opportunities. Most importantly, Tuckwell Scholars can connect with and learn from one another within our home on campus, Scholars House.

What we offer

Financial support

Financial support offered to you as a Tuckwell Scholar is intended to help you through your university journey, giving you the freedom to focus on what is important.

Scholars receive:

- \$26,000 per annum (2024 rate) (increasing with inflation) each year for the length of your undergraduate degree program (studying full-time), to cover on-campus residential costs, books and general living expenses.
- An allowance to assist with your move to Canberra and to support two annual return journeys (e.g. airfares) between your home and the University for each year of your degree.
- An allowance to help cover the transport costs for your parents to attend Commencement Weekend at the start of the program, and
- An ANU Sport membership.

Mentoring and support

Scholars are supported by team of experienced staff who help them to find opportunities, build networks and achieve their personal and professional goals through mentoring, events and workshops.

Scholars will:

- Participate in orientation events that will help with the transition to university and Scholar life.
- Receive 1:1 mentoring from an experienced Tuckwell Fellow. Receive support and advice from the Head of Scholars House and Program Staff.
- Learn from senior Scholars who can help you to transition successfully to ANU.
- Connect with members of our global alumni network and alumni events.

Leadership development and enrichment

Scholars have the opportunity to fulfill their potential and develop leadership skills that will help them to make a positive contribution to ANU, their local community and to Australia.

Scholars will be able to:

- Attend seminars and workshops to develop essential skills, knowledge and behaviours.
- Learn from and be mentored by senior Scholars.
- Attend an orientation and camp.
- Attend Academic Dinners and connect with ANU academics.
- Attend networking events and connect with Scholars in specific subject areas.
- Contribute to the annual Interview Weekend and other program events.

Health and wellbeing

Scholars are funded and encouraged to pursue activities that promote and sustain health and wellness.

Scholars can:

- Receive a free ANU Fitness Centre membership (worth \$530 per annum) for the duration of the Scholarship OR funding up to \$450 per annum for external health and wellbeing activities.

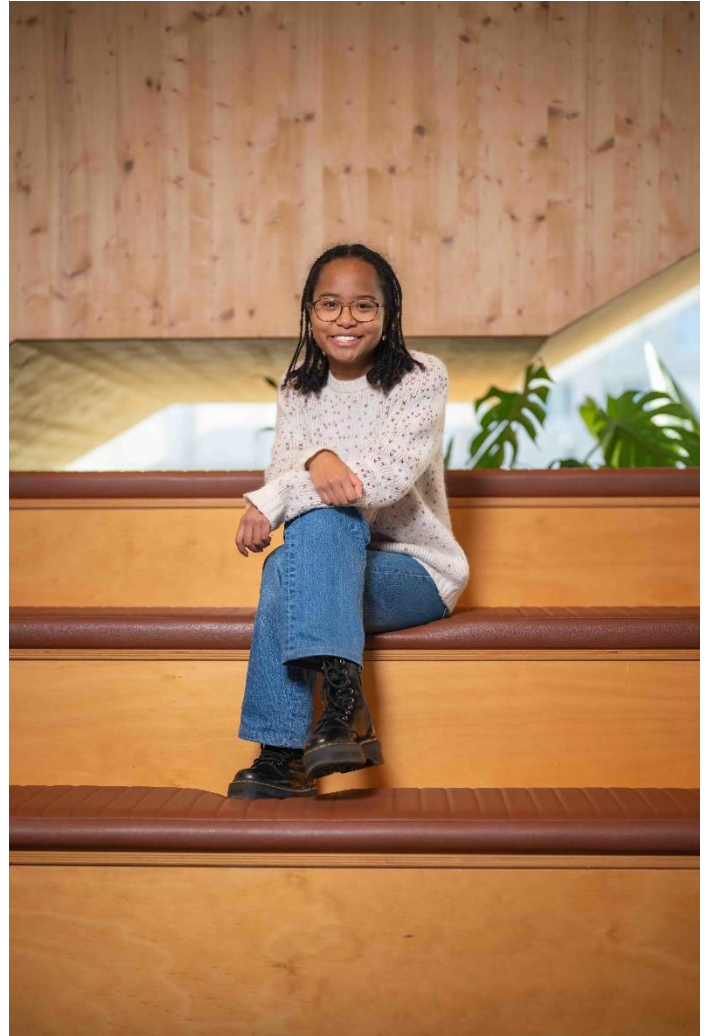
Scholars House

All Scholars are given exclusive access to Scholars House, a common room located centrally on campus. Referred to as Scholars' by current scholars, the building plays host to a range of Tuckwell gatherings and events.

Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible for a Tuckwell Scholarship for study at the Australia National University commencing in 2026, the applicants must:

- Be eligible to apply to study at ANU in 2026 via the ANU Direct Application system.
- Commence and complete year 12 full-time in 2025, at a school located in Australia.
- Be 17, 18 or 19 years old on 17 February 2026 (born on or between 17 February 2007 and 17 February 2009), being commencement of Semester 1, 2026.
- Be an Australian citizen, Australian Permanent Resident or the holder of an Australian humanitarian visa, and be in possession of the relevant Birth Certificate, Citizenship Certificate or Visa by 23 May 2025, being the closing date for Stage 2 applications this year.
- Be predicted by their school to achieve an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) of 95 or higher.
- Applicants who are eligible for consideration under the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) may apply for a Tuckwell Scholarship if they are predicted by their school to achieve an ATAR of 90 or higher.
- Have undertaken:
 - A minimum of one high school English course/unit in at least one semester during Year 11 or Year 12; and
 - A minimum of one high school Maths course/unit in at least one semester during Year 11 or Year 12.



Scholars must adhere to the Tuckwell Scholarship Conditions of Award, as amended from time to time, for the full duration of their Scholarship.

Candidacy Requirements

Scholars must commence an undergraduate program at ANU in Semester 1, 2026.

Key Dates

Early March 2025 (Date TBC)

- ANU Direct Applications open
- Tuckwell Stage 1 Applications open

10 April 2025

- Applicants submit their ANU Direct Application

14 April 2025

- Tuckwell Stage 1 Applications close

29 April - 7 May 2025

- Head of Year reference will be sought

14 May 2025

- Tuckwell Stage 2 Applications open

23 May 2025

- Tuckwell Stage 2 Applications close

11-13 July 2025

- Tuckwell Stage 3 Interview Weekend

14 July 2025

- Tuckwell Stage 3 Candidates Notified
- Scholarships awarded

How to apply

The Tuckwell Scholarship Application Form will need to be completed in addition to completing an ANU Direct Application.

ANU Direct Application

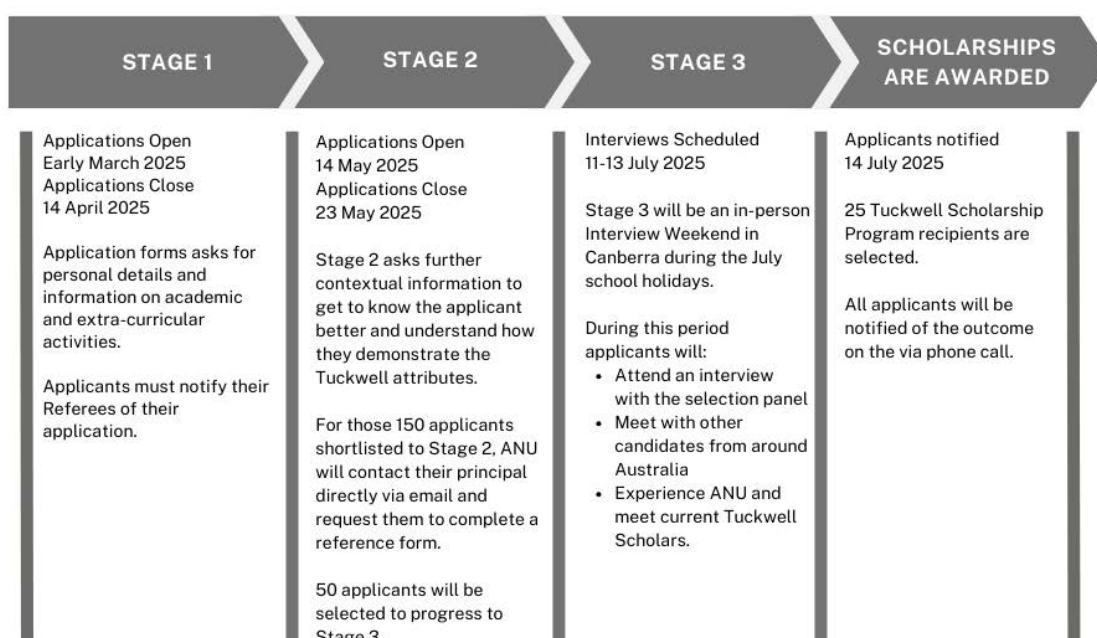
Applicants must complete their [ANU Direct Application Form](#) before they can begin their Tuckwell Application. After completing the Direct Application, applicants who have selected to apply for the Tuckwell Scholarship will be sent a link to the Stage 1 Tuckwell Scholarship Application Form.

The link will be sent to the nominated email address from your ANU Direct Application within 3-5 business days. Do not share your link with others as this link is unique and can only be used once to apply.

Be aware of the application deadlines, and ensure you leave enough time to complete the Tuckwell Application and obtain necessary documentation.

Tuckwell Scholarship Application Process Overview

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program application process consists of three stages:



Tuckwell Scholarship Application

Applicants must complete their [ANU Direct Application Form](#) before they can begin their Tuckwell Scholarship Application. After completing the Direct Application Form, applicants who have selected to apply for the Tuckwell Scholarship will be sent a link to the Stage 1 Tuckwell Scholarship Application Form. The link will be sent to the nominated non-school email address from your ANU Direct Application within 3-5 business days.

STAGE 1

Please allocate two hours to complete the Stage 1 Application Form.

The Application Form can be saved and re-visited (using the same link) before being submitted. For this stage applicants will need:

- To have completed the ANU Direct Application Form, selected 'apply for Tuckwell Scholarship' and have received their personal application link.
- To contact a referee from their School (Head of Year, Head Teacher) and provide their details,
- To provide Academic transcripts with results from Year 10, Year 11 and 12 subjects completed,

PERSONAL DETAILS

The Application Form will ask for some basic personal information, including information about personal home circumstances. These questions include parents/guardians, siblings, languages spoken at home and how long it takes to travel to and from school each day.

During this stage, applicants may also provide information whether they intend to apply or have applied for any Equity Access Scheme adjustments.

EDUCATION HISTORY

Applicants will need to provide details to outline their academic results.

SUBJECTS

Applicants will need to list the Year 11 and 12 subjects they have already completed into a chart, entering their overall score for the subject, not individual results. Results may be entered as grade scores (A+, B), percentages or grading scales (for IB students). If a subject was dropped part way through the year, for example, it must also be included in the table and entered as 'X'.

Academic results must be entered in one of the following formats. Please enter the overall score for each subject, not individual assessment results.

5	A	A+, A-	80 - 100%	EA	VHA	VH to O
4	B	B+, B-	70 - 79%	HA	HA	H
3	C	C+, C-	60 - 69%	CA	SA	M
2	D	D+, D-	50 - 59%	SA	LA	L
1	E	E+, E-	0 - 49%	PA	VLA	VL

NB: A grading scale of 1 -7 is accepted for IB students only.

Applicants must upload a PDF of their school reports during this stage.

If these have been provided as semester-based reports, they will need to be combined into one PDF to upload.

POSITION WITHIN YEAR LEVEL

Applicants must provide their rank within their year level in each subject. If this information is not already provided by their school, they will need to request it from their Head of Year or Teacher. If an applicant's school does not provide this information, applicants will need to estimate their rank themselves.

MATHS AND ENGLISH

For Years 11 and 12, applicants must list at what level Maths and English (standard, advanced, Extension 1 or 2) they have studied.

ACCELERATED SUBJECTS

Some schools allow students to take subjects early as accelerated subjects. For instance, student may take a Year 12 subject in Year 11. Applicants must enter the number of accelerated subjects for each of Years 10, 11 and 12 and the subject names. If you did not accelerate any subjects, the answer to the number of accelerated subjects will be 0.

For students of the Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE), please include pre-tertiary (level 3C) courses they took in Year 11 as Year 11 courses rather than as "accelerated" Year 12 courses.

STAGE 2

All candidates will be notified of the outcome of their Stage 1 application by email by 14 May 2025. Stage 2 of the application will request further contextual information. It will include longer answer questions so the panel can get to know each applicant, and how they think.

This stage explores how each applicant demonstrates the [Tuckwell attributes](#).

PRINCIPAL REFERENCE

During Stage 2 of the application process, the school principal will be contacted by the ANU directly to complete an online reference form.

It is the Selection Panel's strong preference for the applicant's school Principal to complete the Principal Reference, however, if your Principal is unable to complete the reference (e.g. because they are ill, on leave, or have a conflict of interest), it is the applicant's responsibility to make arrangements for their Deputy Principal to complete the Principal Reference.

STAGE 3

All Stage 2 candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application by email by 13 June, 2025. Stage 3 consists of an Interview Weekend in Canberra on July 11 -13, 2025.

All shortlisted applicants are required to attend in person at ANU. We strongly encourage all candidates to confirm their ability to travel for the Interview Weekend before submitting their Stage 1 application and not plan any travel or other commitments for the full duration of the Interview Weekend.

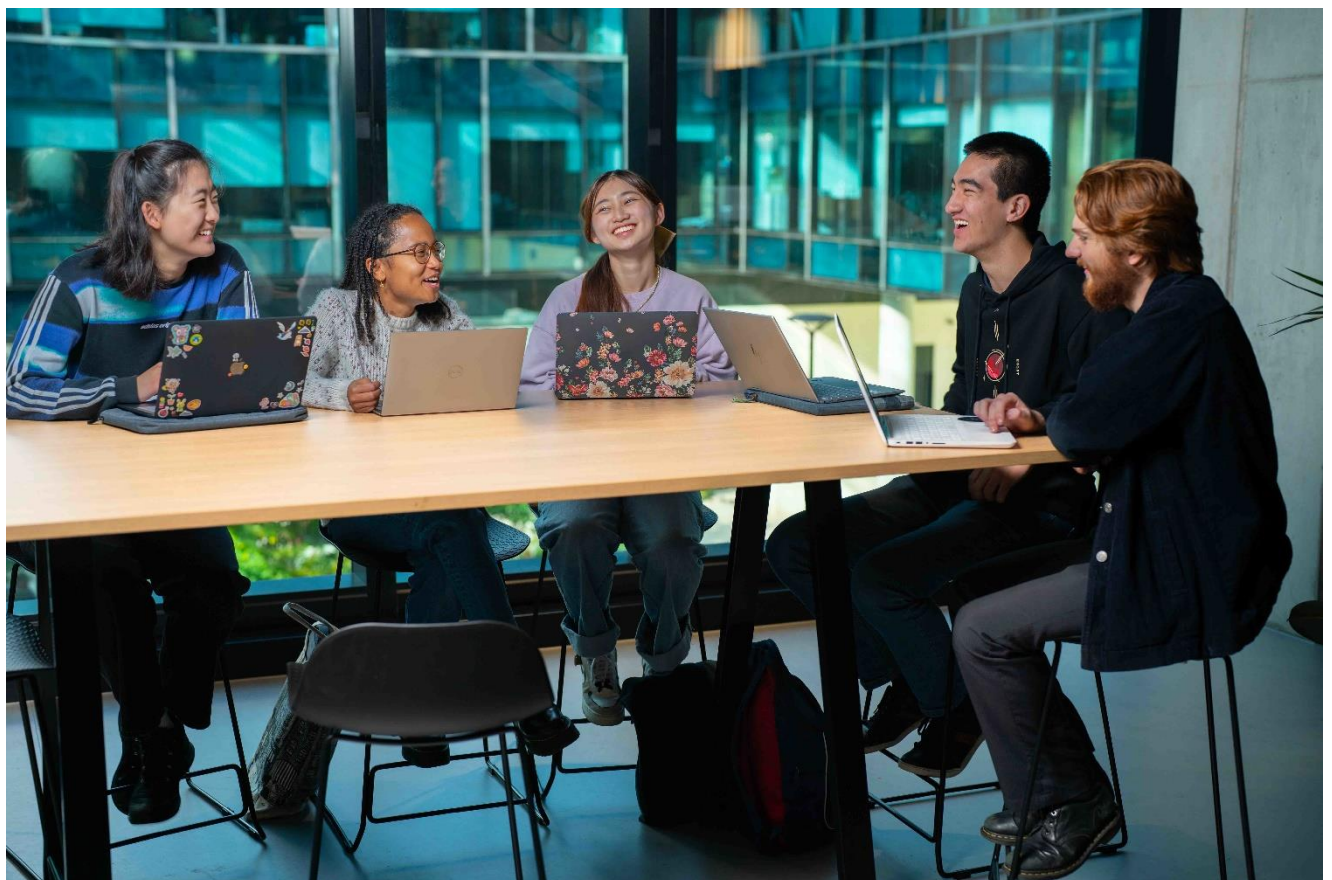
Interview Weekend travel arrangements for applicants within Australia (travel, accommodation and meals) will be arranged and paid for by the program.

The Interview Weekend has three aims:

- To facilitate interviews for the Tuckwell Scholarship and allow the panel to meet candidates face-to-face;
- To give applicants the opportunity to meet with other outstanding candidates from around Australia;
- To give applicants an opportunity to see and experience the ANU, hear about the student Experiences from current students (both Tuckwell Scholars and others) and get excited about life after Year 12.

For the Interview Weekend, candidates must arrive by Friday morning, 11 July. Interview sessions will be scheduled on Saturday 12 July or Sunday 13 July, with tours and activities scheduled throughout the weekend. Candidates will depart on Sunday afternoon. Candidates will have their interviews arranged such that they can complete their return journey to a reasonable schedule.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of Stage 3 on the afternoon/evening 14 July 2025.



Attributes of a Tuckwell Scholar

As a Tuckwell Scholar, applicants will demonstrate a broad range of [attributes](#) that will stand them in good stead to fulfil the Tuckwell vision. We do not expect applicants to have each and every one of these attributes, however, they will be measured against them throughout the application process.

SMART AND LATERAL THINKER

Innately smart, creative and able to look at situations from different perspectives.

SELF-DISCIPLINED

They apply themselves to their work and can resist distractions. Having worked hard means they have probably chosen not to do things they'd like to do because of things they've had to do.

WILLING TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF

They're curious and like to stretch themselves by exploring beyond the limits of what they already know. They're not fazed by change or ambiguity, seeing these as opportunities to learn more.

A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR

They appreciate humour and see the funny side of things. When they use humour, it is well-intentioned and they engage and motivate others. Most importantly, they can laugh at themselves.

SELFLESS

Self-interest is not their principal motive. They are happy for others to achieve, will help them to do so and rejoice in their success – even if they are in competition.

HUMBLE

They don't measure themselves by their achievements, but when they do succeed they recognise the contribution of others. They prefer not to seek attention or accolades.

RESILIENT

They are able to handle knock-backs with equanimity and can maintain focus. They look for the positive even in challenging situations.

INNATELY DRIVEN AND DETERMINED

They've a bit of fire in their belly! They have an energy that enthuses and motivates others. They have ambition – but don't trample on others to fulfil it.

EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT

They're aware of their impact on others and can anticipate the effects of your words and actions. They can articulate their passions without overwhelming people.

CONSTANT

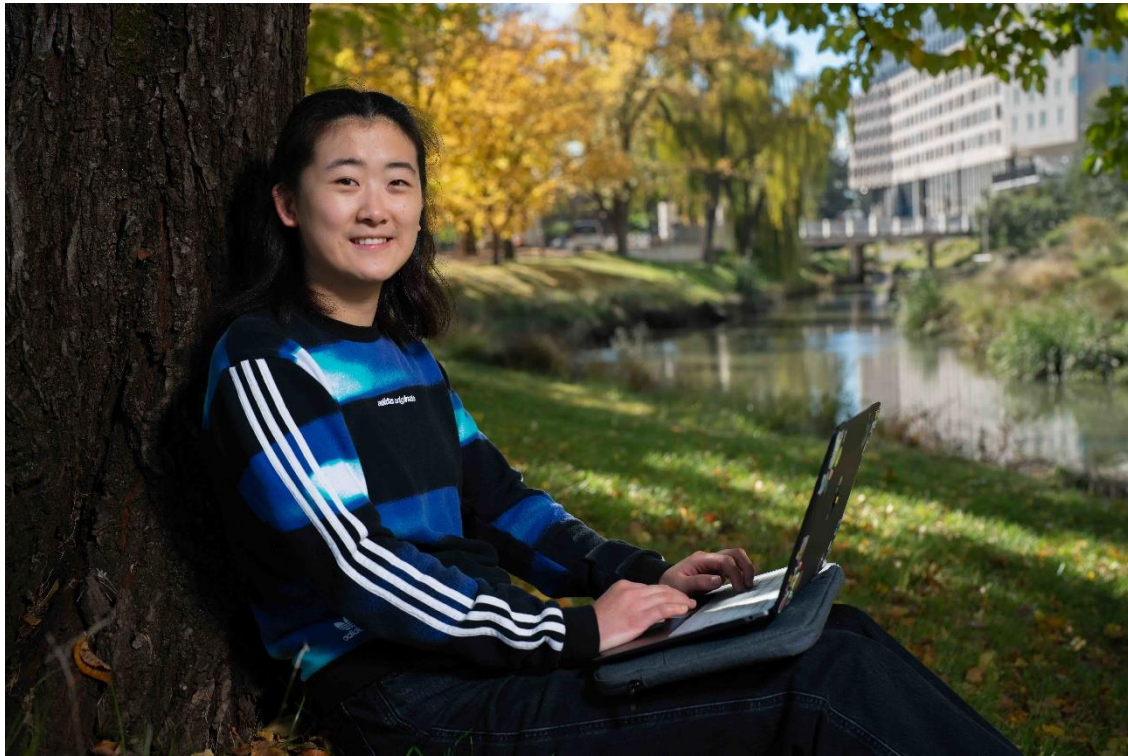
They're not fickle. Their reliability earns people's trust and they like their consistency because it reassures. Others know where they stand with them.

REFRESHINGLY DIFFERENT

Whether you're the quiet and shy type, a bit of a geek, or the life and soul of the party, they will have talents that make them unique. A position of leadership doesn't make them a candidate for a Scholarship – but it won't bar them from it either.

OPEN

There are no hidden agendas with them. They are straight and honest with people and trusted because of it. Your broad-mindedness enables them to value difference even when this does not sit well with their own views.



Contact us

To find out more about our scholars, what they're studying and where they're from please visit our [Scholar directory](#).

For enquiries about life as a Tuckwell Scholar please contact: tuckwell@anu.edu.au or visit our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

For assistance with the Tuckwell application form, please contact: tuckwell.applications@anu.edu.au

Please note that, due to privacy reasons, we will not discuss the content of an application with parents, teachers or principals without the written consent of the candidate.

We strongly encourage candidates to make all enquiries themselves.



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