



2026 LORNA STIRLING FUND

GUIDELINES

Lorna Stirling was a Music Director in the Melbourne University Drama Club in the 1940s. On her death in 1956 she bequeathed funds to the University for the purpose of promoting international student relationships through the creation of scholarships for the exchange of students between the University of Melbourne and other universities (University Trust Record — UTR7.92).

1. ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1** Applicants must be enrolled students at the University of Melbourne at the time of application and for the period of the proposed exchange or project.
- 1.2** Applications must involve international travel for any of the following purposes:
- to assist the exchange of students between the University and universities or like institutions in other countries; or
 - for exchange scholarships; or
 - travelling scholarships; or
 - to support international meetings of students in which students or student organisations and the University have an interest.
- 1.3** The following types of applications are not eligible:
- applications involving coursework, research, or training overseas that will form part of a student's degree.
 - applications from previous winners.
 - retrospective applications. The project must be undertaken within the period of award (1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027).
- 1.4** Applications involving academic conference presentations relating to a student's degree are unlikely to be funded.

2. APPLICATIONS

- 2.1** The applicant must demonstrate previous and real interest in participating in matters which affect/benefit students' interests. Hence the application must include a **signed letter of support** from a relevant student organisation (such as UMSU or faculty/department-based group) indicating the project's value to the wider student community. Applicants should be actively involved in or hold positions within the relevant student group.
- 2.2** Applicants must explain whether the project would be able to go ahead if no grant were available.
- 2.3** Applicants must explain how the project is relevant to the interests of the wider

student community at the University of Melbourne; and/or explain how the project will enable mutual understanding to be established between students at the University of Melbourne and international universities.

3. FUNDING

- 3.1** The Committee distributes a total of approximately \$6,000 each year for the Lorna Stirling scholarships. Since the annual income of the Fund is small, only limited support can be given to student organisations to help defray the costs of running student conferences.
- 3.2** Where there is strong competition for grants from students wishing to attend international student meetings, preference will be given to official student representatives at this University.
- 3.3** Any unused scholarship funds must be returned to the Lorna Stirling Fund within 6 weeks of completing the project.
- 3.4** The Scholarship may be suspended or stopped, or recipients be required to return the funding, if they do not comply with the conditions of the Scholarship.

4. SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

- 4.1** Successful applicants are required to provide a detailed report on the outcome and benefits of the project within six weeks of its completion. The report must account for expenditure of funds and explain how recipients used and disseminated the information gained from their project when they returned. Successful applicants will be requested to give a brief oral presentation via zoom on their report to the Lorna Stirling Fund Committee at its annual meeting.

CLOSING DATE
5.00 pm
Monday 18 May 2026