

THE BRIAN MAY SCHOLARSHIP

Providing financial assistance to promising Australian film composers to study film scoring at a world leading education facility.

Master of Music Degree in Screen Scoring USC Thornton School of Music

2027 - 2028 Scholarship Application Form

Scholarship applications must be received by 5pm (AEST) on 27 November 2026
Late applications will not be accepted.

The Brian May Scholarship provides financial assistance to promising Australian film composers towards a Master of Music Degree in Screen Scoring at USC Thornton School of Music. The Brian May Scholarship is administered by the Trustees of the Brian May Trust.

Please read the following requirements carefully before completing your Scholarship application. Only properly completed applications on the current official application form will be considered.

If you do not include all required documentation to support your Scholarship application it will not be considered. Use the checklist provided to ensure that your application is complete.

In addition to this application, you must also apply **simultaneously and directly** to USC Thornton School of Music for admission to the course.

The successful applicant will be notified as soon as possible after advice from USC Thornton School of Music of their preferred candidate and confirmation by the Trustees. This is anticipated in March 2027.

Applicants should note that the Scholarship **will not fully cover** all tuition and other costs of attending and completing the course as set out in this Form.

Applicants need to ensure that they have or are able to obtain at their own cost appropriate technical equipment including hardware and software as required by the course. Applicants will also need to ensure that they have sufficient financial resources to meet all additional costs above the Scholarship contribution, including additional tuition, travel, accommodation in Los Angeles, California, day to day expenses, telephone calls, food, entertainment and medical insurance.

All applications will be dealt with in accordance with the Scholarship Terms and Conditions, the Brian May Trust Privacy Policy contained on the website and without discrimination or bias.

How to apply

Applicants should forward completed forms to:

Brian May Scholarship
PO Box 5452
GOLD COAST MC QLD 9726 AUSTRALIA
Tel: 0412 917 555
Email: brianmayscholarship@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.brianmayscholarship.org>

Application Requirements/Checklist

Please include the following with your application form and **tick** each box when each item has been completed. Please retain copies of all submitted materials **as they will not be returned to applicants** and may be destroyed in due course at the Trustees' discretion.

- A letter of application detailing:
 - (a) reasons for applying;
 - (b) your background in music and film/screen scoring;
 - (c) your aspirations in the film music/screen scoring industry;
 - (d) your particular interest in studying screen scoring at USC Thornton School of Music,
 - (e) how you believe the Scholarship will assist you to achieve significant development in film/screen scoring, and
 - (f) knowledge of the Trust's benefactor, Brian May, his music and his contribution to Australian film scoring.
- A comprehensive musical/professional and educational resume, giving details of your educational background, professional activities, awards, previous Scholarships (if any) and significant compositions or performances. Please include details of any musical instruments you play and details of membership of any professional society and/or association.
- A list of **all** tertiary qualifications including courses currently being undertaken.
- Certified copies of academic records, mark-sheets and/or transcripts must be attached. (You must provide full and complete details to ensure that an assessment of your qualifications can be readily made.) Incomplete records will result in your application not being considered.
- Three original signed** references attesting to your academic background, character, experience and ability. Applications not accompanied by three references will not be considered. Please also include any other relevant testimonials including letters of support from the music industry or academia. References must be signed and contain referees' contact details, otherwise your application will not be considered. The Trustees may contact your referees directly.
- Certified copy of your current Passport (including all visa entries).
- Certified documentary evidence of Citizenship or Permanent Residency status (if applicable).
- The signed, witnessed and dated declaration at the end of the application form.
- All materials and attachments clearly identified.
- A **copy** of your completed USC Thornton School of Music Application Form only (**not** accompanying materials).***
- A copy of the Letter of Authority you have provided to USC Thornton School of Music with your Application.

Please note that certified copies are copies of an original document signed by either a Justice of the Peace, Solicitor, Commissioner for Declarations or Notary Public certifying that they are true copies.

*****PLEASE NOTE: YOU must submit your completed USC Thornton School of Music Application Form and accompanying materials directly to USC Thornton School of Music by the closing date.**

1. Personal Details (use block letters)

Title: Mr: Ms: Mrs: Miss: Other:

Family Name:

Given Name(s): **Preferred Name**

Date of Birth: D: M: Y:

Place of Birth:

Gender: M: F: Other: (specify)

Residential Address:

Number and Street:

Suburb or Town:

State: Postcode:

Country:

Contact Numbers:

	Country Code	Area Code	Number
Home Telephone:			
Work Telephone:			
Mobile Telephone:			
Fax:			

Email:

Website:
(if applicable)

Postal Address:
(if different from above)

PO Box:

Suburb or Town:

State: Postcode:

Country:

2. Residency Details (use block letters)

Are you an Australian citizen?
(Please attach copy of citizenship certificate if appropriate.)

Yes: No:

Passport Number:

(Please attach **certified** copy of passport including all visa entries.)

Country of Issue:

If **not** an Australian citizen, do you have permanent residency status?

Yes: No:

If yes, please attach **certified** proof of residency status.

When did your permanent residency commence?

How long have you resided at your present residential address (if in Australia)?

If you have **not** resided at your present address for **5 years**, please provide your previous Australia residential addresses (and duration at each address) for the last 5 years. (If insufficient space, please attach additional information.) You must provide us with this information before your application will be considered.

From:	To:
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From:	To:
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From:	To:
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If you have resided overseas or been absent from Australian for any continuous periods exceeding **6 months** in the last 5 years, please provide the following details:

Place of overseas residence or the place at which you spent the most time?
(If insufficient space, please attach additional information.)

From:	To:
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From:	To:
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Reasons you were absent from Australia on each occasion.
(If insufficient space, please attach additional pages and **tick** this box)

If you are presently **absent from** Australia, please provide the following details:

Where do you presently reside? (give full address)

When did you leave Australia?

When will you return to Australia?

Reason for absence from Australia:

What evidence can you provide to show that you are ordinarily resident in Australia?

3. Tertiary Education Details (use block letters)

Please list all tertiary qualifications including those currently being undertaken. If you are undertaking a post-graduate degree, please include a letter of confirmation certified by the university and include details of your current enrolment and approximate completion date.

Degree/Qualification/Award	University/Institution	Country	Completion Date

Have you ever received another Scholarship? Please provide details:

Name of Scholarship:

Institution:

Course of Study:

Date & Duration:

Value:

Are you presently in receipt of any Scholarships or Awards?

Yes: No:
(If yes, please give details.)

Name of Scholarship:

Institution:

Course of Study:

Date & Duration:

Value:

4. Professional Work Experience for last Five Years (use block letters)

Please give details of relevant work you have done in the film music/screen scoring industry.
(If insufficient space, please attach additional information.)

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Are you presently employed? Please give details:

Current Employer:

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Position/Title:

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Commencement Date:

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Nature of Work:

(If insufficient space please attach additional information.)

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Current Relevant Projects/Engagements:

(If insufficient space, please attach additional pages and **tick** this box)

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5. Medical Information

You are required to provide us with some medical information. Any medical condition or disability is **not a consideration** in the selection of an awardee. However it is important that the Trustees are fully aware of any circumstances which may require special arrangements during the Scholarship period.

- (a) Are you generally in good health?
- (b) Do you suffer from any medical condition or disability which could potentially impair your ability to reside in Los Angeles, California, for the duration of the Course and complete the course of study offered at the University of Southern California within that timeframe?

If so, please provide details (general description only) including its effect, any current or proposed treatment and assistance required.

- (c) Would this medical condition or disability require particular services or facilities for travel, accommodation, study or otherwise? Please provide full details.

(If insufficient space please attach additional pages and **tick** this box)

Details:

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6. Other Relevant Information

You are invited to submit any further information which you believe is relevant to your eligibility or suitability for selection. Please attach a separate page if necessary and **tick** this box.

7. Use of Personal Information

- (a) **Privacy** – all personal information will be held in accordance with the *Privacy Policy* displayed on the Scholarship website. In no case will medical/health information be disclosed without the awardee’s consent except in the case of emergencies.
- (b) **Publicity** – the Trustees reserve the right to publicise the name, academic achievements and professional background of the successful awardee on the Scholarship website, USC Thornton School of Music website and news/social media by way of announcement.

8. How did you find out about the Scholarship?

Article/Advertisement in Newspaper or Magazine	<input type="checkbox"/>	(please give details)
Radio Promotion	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Television Promotion	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The Internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	
University Notice	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Previous Awardees	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px;"></div>	

Scholarship Application and Award Terms and Conditions

I acknowledge and accept the following terms and conditions by signing and submitting the application form:-

1. If successful I will acknowledge the support of the Brian May Trust wherever possible and encourage interest in the life and works of the late Brian May.
2. The Scholarship will contribute to the cost of tuition at USC Thornton School of Music for a Master of Music Degree in Screen Scoring (“**Course**”).
3. The value of the Scholarship for the 2027 - 2028 academic years (commencing fall semester 2025) will be AU\$98,500.
4. I agree to investigate and familiarise myself with the likely cost of travel, tuition, fees, equipment, books and materials, accommodation and living expenses for the two-semester duration of the Course at USC Thornton School of Music.
5. I will have access to sufficient funds in addition to the Scholarship amount to cover all of my necessary costs and expenses while undertaking the Course.
6. The Trustees will not be required to pay any part of the Scholarship funds directly to me if I am the successful applicant, and funds will only be payable to me at the discretion of the Trustees.
7. The Trustees have my authority to make enquiries and to obtain official records from any university, educational institution, employer or referee concerning any matter which, in their absolute discretion, they believe is necessary relating to this application for the Scholarship.
8. The Trustees reserve the right to vary or reverse any decision made on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information. If the application does not have the required documentation and materials it will not be considered
9. I must advise the Trustees immediately if there is any change to the information given in this application.
10. The Trustees acknowledge that I may wish to seek other, additional scholarship or grant funds and they will not object provided that I ensure that the Brian May Scholarship is always recognised as the principal benefactor. Failure to do so may lead to the reduction or withdrawal of the Brian May Scholarship and an obligation to repay moneys to the Brian May Trust in the absolute discretion of the Trustees.
11. If as the successful applicant I subsequently withdraw from studies, which in the sole opinion of the Trustees is without due cause, part or all of the amount provided under the Scholarship must be refunded to the Trust, in the absolute discretion of the Trustees.
12. If successful, I will supply academic progress reports to the Trustees as requested and will also authorise the USC Thornton School of Music to disclose my academic results and progress.
13. In addition I will supply a report to the Trustees in a prescribed format each semester dealing with my progress, experiences, opportunities and concerns relating to my study and stay in Los Angeles.
14. If:
 - (a) I do not achieve satisfactory academic performance as determined by the USC Thornton School of Music and the Trustees;
 - (b) I commit an offence under the laws of the United States of America, Australia or any other place;
 - (c) I behave in any way that the Trustees reasonably consider is or is likely to be substantially detrimental to the Trust and the Scholarship; and
 - (d) clause 33 below applies,

the Trustees may withdraw all further Scholarship funding and may require part or all of the moneys provided under the Scholarship to be refunded to the Trust, in the absolute discretion of the Trustees.

15. I will release the Trustees from any and all liability arising from loss or damage to my application and associated materials (if provided in hard copy format).
16. I understand that application materials will not be returned to me and may be destroyed in due course at the Trustees' discretion.
17. Selection of the successful applicant is in the absolute discretion of the Trustees based upon the recommendation of USC Thornton School of Music.
18. If my application is unsuccessful, the Trustees reserve the right not to discuss any matter relating to my application.
19. I understand that all decisions made are final and applications for review will not be considered.
20. I will release the Trustees from all claims I might otherwise have arising out of my application, the selection process and results or anything else related to the Scholarship and the Brian May Trust.
21. I consent to the information provided in this application being used by the Trustees for selection and administrative purposes and subject to the *Australian Privacy Principles*.
22. I am ordinarily resident in Australia, and:
 - (a) I have my permanent home in Australia and presently reside here; or
 - (b) Australia is my permanent home notwithstanding I may be presently absent from Australia.

[NB: To be considered to be ordinarily resident, applicants must show an overriding element of permanent residence in Australia, to be contrasted with a place where they stay only casually or intermittently.]
23. I may be deemed **not** to be ordinarily resident in Australia if I reside in Australia for a special or non-permanent purpose only.
24. The Trustees will decide in their absolute discretion whether I am deemed to be ordinarily resident in Australia based upon evidence provided by me.
25. If I am the successful applicant, I acknowledge that I will be required to immediately enrol in the Course at USC Thornton School of Music, and complete all immigration requirements.
26. I agree that the Trustees will have the right to publish my name, photograph and any other relevant background information in promotion of the Scholarship if I am successful.
27. I agree to provide the Trustees with a sample of my film music within a reasonable time after my graduation for publishing on the Brian May Scholarship website (with suitable acknowledgements).
28. I agree to give reasonable assistance to the Trustees from time to time after my graduation to publicise the Scholarship.
29. As a condition of applying for this Scholarship I acknowledge and declare that if I am successful I must provide written acceptance to the Trustees within 14 days, and will:
 - (a) be able to undertake and complete full time study in the United States in accordance with the relevant Course requirements;
 - (b) accept employment restrictions in accordance with the United States Department of Immigration;
 - (c) comply with all terms and conditions of the Scholarship;
 - (d) comply with the rules and regulations of USC Thornton School of Music;
 - (e) comply with all visa conditions;
 - (f) arrange my own accommodation;

- (g) be able to fund the shortfall in the cost of tuition, fees, books, equipment, living expenses, travel and others;
- (h) arrange and hold medical insurance (including urgent repatriation to Australia) for the duration of the course;
- (i) sign a direction to USC Thornton School of Music to provide transcripts and reports on my progress to the Trustees and release such other information as the Trustees may reasonably require.

30. **Other Conditions**

- (a) The Trustees do not accept any responsibility for any injury, accident, illness, loss of property or other contingency which may befall an awardee either before, during or after the period of the Scholarship.
- (b) I will diligently pursue the Course and conform to the rules of the University of Southern California.
- (c) I will dedicate myself to the Course and successfully complete the degree. I agree that the Trustees will not pay for any fees associated with repeating failed subjects, re-sitting exams or resubmitting work.
- (d) I will complete and return all requests for information from the Trustees during the Course within a reasonable time and failure to do so will be a breach of the terms of the Scholarship.
- (e) I will consider myself an ambassador for the Brian May Scholarship and Australia while in the USA and I acknowledge that my actions and conduct will have an impact on the reputation of both.
- (f) I will not engage in political or other activities which may be unlawful, of a disreputable nature or result in removal from the United States. Failure to act in accordance with the above may result in a withdrawal of the Scholarship.

31. **Social Media**

- (a) I will adhere to usual rules and conventions of good practice when using social media platforms.
- (b) I will engage in polite and constructive discourse and must not post comments or material that:
 - (i) contain abusive, obscene, indecent or offensive language;
 - (ii) may be abusive, offensive, threatening or harassing to any individual;
 - (iii) constitutes spam or promotes or advertises products except where it is restricted to information sharing and the offering of expertise relating to a particular subject of discussion;
 - (iv) which may reflect poorly on the Brian May Scholarship, the Trustees, the University of Southern California, faculty staff and students or which otherwise might tend to bring any of the above into disrepute; or
 - (v) may result in removal from the United States.

32. **Termination of Scholarship**

- (a) The Trustees will be entitled to terminate the Scholarship at any time by immediate notice to me in the event of:
 - (i) misconduct by me, whether in connection with the Course or otherwise;
 - (ii) failure to make satisfactory progress in the Course (as certified by USC Thornton School of Music);
 - (iii) circumstances arising that may render it impossible for me to complete the Course satisfactorily;
 - (iv) dismissal for any reason from USC Thornton School of Music;
 - (v) breach of any local US laws and regulations or failure to comply with clause 31(f) above;

- (vi) conviction of any criminal offence;
 - (vii) failure to comply with all of my Visa conditions;
 - (viii) submission of documentation or information to the Trustees or the University of Southern California which can be shown to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading.
- (b) In the event of termination, the Trustees will have no further obligation to me and I shall be bound to repay all moneys previously paid under the Scholarship unless:
- (i) the termination is a result of my ill health as certified by a registered medical practitioner; or
 - (ii) the Trustees have exercised their discretion to exempt me from this condition.

Declaration and Signature

1. This application contains 14 printed pages and attached pages.
2. All materials and attachments are clearly identified and marked with my name.
3. I declare that the information submitted with this application is true and correct.
4. I agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Scholarship.

Signature

Date

Witness Signature

Date

Witness Name:

Witness Address:

Letter of Authority

To:

Director of Screen Scoring
USC Thornton School of Music

This letter confirms that I am an applicant for the Brian May Scholarship for 2027 - 2028.

You are hereby authorised to communicate with the Trustees of the Brian May Scholarship about my application, admission, student status and academic progress (if I am awarded the Scholarship).

Yours faithfully

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Signature

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Print name

.....
Date