

Federation of International Sports Chiropractic (FICS)

Master's Scholarships 2027

Application Criteria and Selection Rubric

"Intellectual excellence is obviously required, but not in isolation from other qualities... qualities of person which, in combination, offer the promise of effective service to the world in the decades ahead." - Cecil John Rhodes

Scholarship Purpose

The purpose of the FICS Master's Scholarship is to support a FICS member to advance their professional development through postgraduate study. The scholarship recognises candidates who demonstrate academic capability, commitment to service, athlete care, leadership potential, and a clear intention to contribute to the development of sports chiropractic locally, nationally, and internationally.

The FICS Selection Committee will review eligible applications against the criteria below. The process is designed to support fairness, consistency, and transparency, while also allowing the Committee to consider the specific requirements of each participating university or partner organisation. Scholarship selection below provides guidance on the scoring guide, with a strong focus on the overall strength, suitability, contribution, and potential impact of each candidate.

Timeline

Stage	Timing
Applications open	August / September
Applications close	30 September. Late applications will not be considered.
Review and shortlisting	30 September to 15 November
Interviews	15 November – 15 December
Announcement	Before 15 January of following year, through FICS communication channels.

The timeline above is provided as a guide and may vary depending on the number of applications received. The committee will generally wait until interviews, and final panel deliberations are complete before contacting remaining applicants, as the judging panel may revisit the shortlist during the final stages of review to ensure each application has been given full and fair consideration.

Key Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet the FICS requirements and the entry requirements of the relevant university programme before the scholarship can be confirmed.

- Hold a Doctor of Chiropractic qualification or equivalent chiropractic bachelor qualification recognised for entry into the relevant master's programme.
- Provide an undergraduate academic transcript, including GPA information where available.
- Be a FICS member in good standing and be registered with their National Chiropractic Sports Council (NCSC) or Regional Chiropractic Sports Council (RCSC), where applicable. Individual FICS membership may be considered where the applicant comes from a region without an NCSC.
- Demonstrate volunteering, service, or professional contribution through their NCSC, RCSC, FICS, and/or FICS-sanctioned events.
- Hold an International Certificate in Sports Chiropractic (ICSC)
- Confirm they have reviewed the university requirements and can meet the academic, enrolment, workload, and scholarship obligations.

Submitting your application

Applicants must consider and read the following to comply with the correct format. This is taken into account during the initial review of the applicants documents.

1. Submit the required materials using the correct document **naming format**. **STRICT File naming format:** LAST NAME First name_Scholarship name 2027 **Example:** BROWN Maree_ICSC Scholarship 2027
2. Written application materials should be combined into a single file where possible and submitted in either Word (.doc/.docx) or PDF format.
3. The video must be a Mp4 file and no more than 1 minute.

Check List

1. Chiropractic degree and undergraduate academic transcript meeting 2.5 GPA.
2. Curriculum Vitae or resume, current within the last three (3) years.
3. Essay - maximum 1,000 words. Refer section below.
4. Two letters of recommendation from any health care or athlete service professionals who can comment on the applicant's suitability, service, leadership, and contribution to sports chiropractic.
5. Short video introduction of yourself and reason for applying for the scholarship - maximum 1 minute.

Important: Applicants must remain within the stated word and time limits. Submissions that exceed the limits will lose ranking during assessment. Members of the FICS Selection Committee or Executive Council are not allowed to write letters of recommendation for scholarship applicants.

Scoring Rubric Process

The judging panel uses the rubric below to support a consistent review process and reduce personal bias. Scores provide guidance for discussion and shortlisting; they do not automatically determine the final recipient. This is provided to applicants to help guide their submission. Review the detailed rubric in the next section.

Assessment area	Value	What the panel considers
Chiropractic transcript	Eligibility check	Confirms the applicant meets scholarship GPA entry requirements.
Letters of recommendation	Eligibility check	Strength and relevance of the referees' observations in demonstrating the candidate's suitability for the scholarship.
Sports chiropractic participation	Eligibility check	Evidence of service and volunteerism within sports chiropractic.
Curriculum Vitae or resume (Current in last 3 years)	5 points	Education, professional experience, leadership, service, research, awards, athlete-care experience
Essay (Maximum 1,000 words)	10 points	Clarity of motivation, connection to the scholarship and wider sports chiropractic community.
Introduction Video (Maximum 1 minute)	10 points	Provide insight into who you are, what motivates you, and how this scholarship aligns with your professional goals and commitment to sports chiropractic.
Interview for finalists (Shortlisted Candidates)	10 points	Communication, motivation, readiness for postgraduate study, professional vision, understanding of the scholarship's importance, and potential to contribute to sports chiropractic nationally and internationally.

Guidance for Reviewing Application Materials

General Rating Guide

- Inadequate: 0-2 points
- Adequate: 3-6 points
- Exceptional: 7-10 points

For sections with fewer than 10 points available, judges should apply the same standard proportionally.

Eligibility Review – Chiropractic Transcript

Transcript review is used to confirm eligibility, and candidates meet the minimum requirement.

- The applicant chiropractic degree and academic transcript meet the GPA requirements and form an accredited University.
- The year the degree is noted against the scholarship chosen to ensure candidate is aware of any extended course work which may be required.
- Where the applicant studied outside the USA, information is provided back to the candidate about a NACES-approved course-by-course evaluation.

Letters of Recommendation Eligibility Review – 2 letters

Applicants must provide **two letters of recommendation** from individuals who are able to comment on their suitability for the scholarship. Referees should have direct knowledge of the applicant's professional, academic, or clinical experience and be able to provide informed observations regarding their suitability for the scholarship. FICS Executive Council or Scholarship judge are not eligible to be a referee.

Letters may be provided by any of the following:

- University faculty members
- Clinical supervisors
- Allied health mentors
- Sports chiropractic leaders
- Professional sporting managers or coaches
- Allied health professional colleagues

The eligibility review is not a qualitative assessment or scoring of the letters. It confirms that each letter contains sufficient information to support the applicant's eligibility for the scholarship. A letter will be considered eligible where it is provided by an eligible referee, demonstrates a direct and credible relationship with the applicant and contains sufficient evidence-based observations addressing the criteria below.

1. Relationship to the Applicant

The referee's role and qualifications; The nature of their relationship with the applicant; any specific examples demonstrating how the referee has worked with, supervised, mentored, or observed the applicant.

2. Duration of Relationship

The length of time the referee has known or worked with the applicant and the context in which the relationship occurred.

3. Evidence of Relevant Experience

Examples of the applicant's service, leadership, mentoring, athlete care, clinical practice, research, education, or volunteer contributions, where applicable.

4. Commitment to Sports Chiropractic

Evidence of the applicant's commitment to sports chiropractic, athlete care, professional development, or broader involvement within the profession.

5. Professional Attributes

Observations regarding the applicant's integrity, professionalism, reliability, collaboration, communication skills, and ability to represent FICS positively as a scholarship recipient.

3. Eligibility Review - 6 points

As part of the preparation of the application files for the judging panel, the FICS Administrator will complete the following preliminary assessment against the judging rubric.

1 point for each:

- Contribution as a FICS volunteer at FICS events
- NCSC/RCSC volunteer, mentor, committee member, or similar service role.
- Allocated to applicants actively working with athletes at local, national, or international levels for more than 3 years.

1 point for each

- Applicants with more than five years in practice where this experience demonstrates an established clinical foundation and readiness to contribute to sports chiropractic globally.
- FICS volunteer at FICS events for three or more years
- FICS volunteer commission member

Judging blind scoring

The blind scoring process supports a fair and impartial assessment by allowing judges to review each application independently against the published rubric, without being influenced by the thoughts, opinions, or rankings of other judges. This helps reduce unconscious bias and ensures that each candidate is assessed on the strength of their application, demonstrated experience, alignment with the scholarship criteria, and potential contribution to sports chiropractic.

Once the blind scoring process is complete, the judging panel will meet to review the rankings and discuss the shortlist. The scores are used as a guide; however, the overall ranking of candidates will be considered in greater detail during the judges' meeting as part of the final selection process for interviews.

The interview stage carries the highest weighting in the final decision-making process.

Curriculum Vitae or Resume (updated in last 3 years) - 5 points

The CV helps the panel understand the applicant's experience, timeline, achievements, and contributions beyond the essay. Strong applications show clear alignment between the CV, essay, recommendations, and stated goals. **One point is allocated for each of the following.**

- Education and postgraduate development
- Volunteer and community contribution
- Leadership activities
- Research, teaching, mentoring, or academic contribution
- Professional experience, athlete-care work, awards, honours, or special recognition

Essay - 10 points

Maximum 1,000 words / 1.5 line spacing / Your Full name in the header of the document.

Applicants are asked to explain why they wish to be considered for the FICS scholarship and how completing the Master's degree will benefit their professional development, the sports chiropractic community, and the athletes they support. A strong essay should be clear, reflective, easy to read, and grounded in realistic future contribution. Two points will be awarded for each of the criteria below.

Two points will be deducted from essays that exceed the 1,000-word limit.

- Connect the scholarship opportunity to the applicant's academic, professional, and personal growth goals.
- Explain how the applicant intends to apply the knowledge gained through the Master's degree.
- Demonstrate commitment to athlete wellbeing, collaboration, mentoring, leadership, and the advancement of sports chiropractic globally.
- Reflect on relevant FICS, NCSC/RCSC, volunteer, clinical, teaching, or community experiences.
- Present ideas clearly and reflectively, with a realistic plan for future contribution.

Introduction Video - 10 points

Submitted as a Mp4 or video file / up to 1 minute

Applicants are asked to submit a short video of up to 1 minute introducing themselves and explaining why they wish to be considered for the FICS Master's Scholarship. The video should give the Selection Committee a sense of your personality, motivation, communication style, and connection to the values of FICS.

Score	Criteria
0	Video exceeds the time limit, is difficult to understand, or does not clearly address the purpose of the scholarship.
1-4 points	Provides a basic introduction but gives limited insight into the applicant's motivation, or goals.
6-8 points	Clearly introduces the applicant and explains their interest in the scholarship, with some connection to professional development, athlete care, or contribution to the profession.
8 points	Strong and engaging introduction that clearly communicates motivation, personal values, professional goals, and alignment with FICS and sports chiropractic.
10 points	Authentic, concise, and compelling. The applicant clearly demonstrates passion, purpose, leadership potential, and a strong commitment to using the scholarship to contribute to athletes, FICS, and the wider sports chiropractic community.

Process for Finalists and Interviews

After the application deadline, the Selection Committee will review and grade all eligible applications. The panel will then meet to discuss the strongest candidates and determine who will be invited for interview. Up to three candidates may be invited to interview for each scholarship.

If a candidate applies for more than one FICS scholarship and is selected for interview, they will only be required to attend one interview, unless the panel determines that an additional interview is necessary.

Final interviews carry a weighting of 10 points and are used to help determine the most suitable scholarship recipient. Where possible, interviews will include a representative from the relevant university.

If the panel cannot reach a clear decision, the university faculty representative will hold the casting vote. The decision of the panel is final and will be judged against the publicly available rubric and the relevant university requirements.