



## **The Big Brother Scholarship: Terms and Conditions**



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## The Big Brother Scholarship – Terms and Conditions

### Overview:

The goal of The Big Brother Scholarship is to provide support for a student who is in need of some form of mentorship in their lives. This support will include a \$500 stipend, in addition to monthly mentoring sessions, to help students with either their personal or professional lives. These monthly mentoring sessions will broadly be focused around goal setting activities, in addition to developing the skills to establish a strong professional and/or personal network so that students can achieve their goals. The mentoring sessions will also help the mentor and mentee determine what professional/personal development opportunity will be best suited for the use of the \$500 stipend.

The eligibility criteria for the scholarship is multifaceted, to ensure that a large number of students who believe that they will benefit from the mentoring sessions and the money can apply. Applicants will need to demonstrate a need for being mentored, in addition to a willingness to commit time to the scholarship program (outside of the monthly mentoring sessions) to pursue established goals that have been discussed through mentoring sessions. These goals will be focused on fostering the professional and/or personal development of the mentee. Students in years 10-12 will be encouraged to apply.

The Big Brother Scholarship also aims to provide all prospective applicants with an opportunity to gain experience with key elements of an application process. Prospective applicants will gain experience with writing a personal statement, creating a resume, getting a document certified, reaching out to potential referees and responding to written application questions. The process of applying for The Big Brother Scholarship will provide prospective applicants with valuable feedback and insights, which will help facilitate their professional development.

### Justification and Conceptualisation of The Big Brother Scholarship:

The founder of The Big Brother Scholarship, Mr Ananthan Ambikairajah, is an old boy of Sydney Technical High School. Ananthan is a neuroscientist, educator and professional speaker who has taught in both high school and university environments. He has had extensive experience in mentoring, motivating and engaging students. Ananthan has been accepted into a PhD program at the Australian National University in Canberra and has been awarded an Australian Government Research Training Program (AG RTP) stipend scholarship, to pursue research in the field of neuroscience. As a result of this, he has decided to use some of this money to make a positive impact. This has led to the conceptualisation of The Big Brother Scholarship.



### Funding:

The scholarship includes a stipend of \$500.

### Financial Arrangements:

The \$500 stipend will be paid to the successful applicant upon the completion of the 12-month mentoring program.

**Note:** The payment schedule for The Big Brother Scholarship may be flexible in certain circumstances where the applicant provides sufficient reasoning and justification for an alteration to the previously outlined payment schedule.

### Duration of the Scholarship:

1 year.

### Eligibility Criteria:

Students from Sydney Technical High School who are in Years 10-12 are eligible to apply for The Big Brother Scholarship.

### Application Submission Deadline:

5pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021.

### Contact Information:

All inquiries to be directed to:

[thebigbrotherscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:thebigbrotherscholarship@gmail.com)

Website:

<https://ananthanambikairajah.com>



## Application Process:

### Parent/Guardian Consent

Prior to commencing their application, prospective applicants are required to obtain written consent from their parents or guardian, to apply for the scholarship and engage in regular mentoring sessions, should their application be successful. Parents/guardians will be contacted to discuss their son's application further. This form should be included in the application.

### Referees

Applicants are required to approach 2 school teachers and request that the teacher be their referee for the application. As a referee, the teacher is required to have either taught the applicant within the last year or is currently teaching the applicant. Referees are required to sign a form to confirm that they agree to speak on behalf of the applicant. This referee form will need to be scanned and sent directly to [thebigbrotherscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:thebigbrotherscholarship@gmail.com). During the application review process, referees will be contacted via phone/email and will need to answer questions relating to the applicant.

### Resume

Applicants will be required to include a resume for their application (2 page maximum).

### Report Card

Applicants will be required to include a copy of their most recent school report card, which has been certified by the principal.

### Application Questions

1. Write a personal statement (1000 words maximum), which allows you to describe yourself, your ambitions, your skills and experience. The purpose of the personal statement is for The Big Brother Scholarship review team to understand more about you as a person.
2. What are some goals that you are hoping to achieve in your professional or personal life? Explain why you want to pursue these goals.
3. Why do you want mentoring sessions and in what ways do you think you will benefit from regular mentoring sessions?
4. What is a professional/personal development initiative that you would potentially like to use the \$500 stipend for?
5. Imagine a world, where no one knows the answer to the question "how many tennis balls, on average, do individuals living in New South Wales

own?” You are tasked with finding an approximate answer to this question. Please include the justification to your reasoning in your answer below.



### Interview Format

The interviews for all of the prospective applicants will be conducted face-to-face, at Sydney Technical High School. All interviews will be video recorded. The top applicants will have their video interviews distributed for feedback, to specific staff members at Sydney Technical High School who are interested in participating in The Big Brother Scholarship process.

### Video Recording:

Parental consent will be required for the interviews to be recorded via video. The videos will be used for the purposes of evaluating the applicants, in addition to providing the applicants with feedback on their interview performance, so that they can improve in future. Applicants will need to gain parental consent **PRIOR** to the interview. The Parent/Guardian Interview Consent Form will be sent directly to applicants who are successful with their written application, for their Parent/Guardian to sign. This form will need to be completed and emailed to [thebigbrotherscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:thebigbrotherscholarship@gmail.com).

Upon the completion of The Big Brother Scholarship interviews, video copies of the interviews will be kept by the founder of The Big Brother Scholarship (Mr Ananthan Ambikairajah), to be used for educational purposes only, with no rights for public distribution, without further consent provided.

### Mentoring Organisation:

Applicants will be mentored on a monthly basis for one year, with the possibility for continuation in certain circumstances. These mentoring sessions will be conducted either face-to-face, via Skype or phone. The mentoring sessions will be tailored to the students' individual needs, initially based on their application.