

# Big Hike Scholarship



ST PETER'S  
COLLEGE



Years 7 to 9 for 2027



## The Big Hike Scholarship

The Big Hike Scholarship is open to a day student entering Years 7 to 9 in 2027 and provides remission of up to 90% of tuition fees, depending on the financial circumstances of the applicant and their family. The scholarship aims to assist a boy and their family with genuine financial need to attend St Peter's College. The scholarship is therefore means tested.

In 2025, Dr Matthew Hutchinson (YNG 1997) took his first steps to launch the Big Hike Scholarship. He hiked solo across the United States, from Mexico to Canada, on the treacherous Pacific Crest Trail. Carrying everything he needed to survive on his back, he trudged across deserts, mountains, glaciers and swollen rivers. The journey of 4,250 kilometres took 128 days to complete and presented many challenges.

Dr Hutchinson's hike was the foundation for significant fund-raising efforts. The Big Hike Scholarship is supported by a generous group of donors who share the Hutchinson family vision of creating a pathway for boys to attend St Peter's College who would otherwise not have the opportunity. The Hutchinson family provided significant seed funding for the scholarship.

Dr Hutchinson spent his formative years growing up on the Fleurieu Peninsula where he was home-schooled by his parents. He dreamed of becoming a surgeon, but his family circumstances and several childhood challenges made this improbable. Dr Hutchinson received a bursary to attend St Peter's College in 1996, allowing him to complete Years 11 and 12. He credits this scholarship with fundamentally changing the trajectory of his life.

Dr Hutchinson was not a standout student during his time at St Peter's College. He was a knockabout larrikin bereft of natural athletic ability and few prior opportunities to play sport. He never played in a first sporting team but gave his all captaining the Second XVIII and Third XI. His efforts always outshone his abilities on the sporting field. He was

a quiet achiever who worked hard at his studies and tried to take advantage of every opportunity the school gave him. He believes that whilst school lays important foundations for future endeavours, shining brightly early is not a pre-requisite for future success.

After graduating from school, Dr Hutchinson studied medicine and eventually became an orthopaedic surgeon. St Peter's College fostered in Dr Hutchinson a deep sense of gratitude and a desire to give back to his community. In recognition of his community work in Australia and overseas, he was named the Young Australian of the Year for South Australia in both 2004 and 2005. Dr Hutchinson and his family remain connected with the St Peter's College community and enjoy contributing through volunteerism.

## Benefits

### The Big Hike Scholarship

- Remission of up to 90% of tuition fees
- A 100% remission of application and enrolment fees normally payable once a formal offer of enrolment to St Peter's College has been made (value of \$2,700)

Families will be expected to pay all other costs including:

- IT and fixed charges are applicable
- Transport to and from school
- Recess and lunch
- School uniform (typically initial costs of approx. \$1,500)
- Books and stationery (approximately \$500 per annum)
- MacBook, required by all students (up to \$2,500)
- Optional music tuition and hire of instrument (up to \$1,250 per annum)

## Expectations

The family will be expected to participate in the school community, attending school activities and events. Volunteering within the School community is highly encouraged.

The scholarship recipient's family is encouraged to make a contribution, in time or otherwise, to the St Peter's College school community, for the duration of the scholarship and beyond.

The recipient will be expected to achieve excellent effort ratings from their teachers for the duration of the scholarship.

The recipient will be expected to provide feedback to the Donors about the impact of the scholarship on a regular basis during his schooling and, from time to time, as an old scholar. The family will be invited to participate in occasional events and activities that recognise and give thanks to the community of donors.

## Instructions

Please complete all sections of this application in full. Students who are shortlisted will be interviewed with their parents by a selection panel including the Headmaster.

Refer to the checklist on page 3 to ensure you have attached all documentation the School has requested and address your application to:

The Director of Enrolments  
St Peter's College  
St Peter's SA 5069

**Applications close at 4.30pm on Friday 7 August.**

### For more information:

Phone: +61 8 8404 0519  
Email: [enrolments@stpeters.sa.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@stpeters.sa.edu.au)



## Checklist

For the student to be considered for a scholarship, please ensure all the requested documents are supplied.

A covering letter written by the student, addressing the selection criteria and detailing his reasons for seeking the Big Hike Scholarship. ☐

A covering letter from the student's Parents/ Guardians, detailing their reasons for seeking the Big Hike Scholarship. ☐

A recent photo of the student. ☐

A copy of the student's most recent school report. ☐

A copy of NAPLAN results from Year 5 or Year 7. ☐

At least one letter of reference with a daytime telephone contact commenting on the student's personal attributes and character (ideally provided by a teacher or someone who is unrelated to the student and has known the student for many years). ☐

A copy of Australian Taxation Office (ATO) business and personal statements for the past three financial years. Information must include declarations on income, expenses, financial assets and liabilities as well as benefits or assistance received. ☐

A separate sheet identifying areas of strength and excellence and listing the student's interests and involvement in sport, music, church, community and other activities. ☐

Copies of any awards or certificates the student has received for academic, sporting, music, artistic, community or character achievements. ☐

Please confirm you meet the prerequisites for consideration for this scholarship opportunity.

The applicant is an Australian Citizen and/or Permanent Resident and is currently attending a school other than St Peter's College. ☐

The student will be in Years 7 to 9 in 2027 and be a day student (non-boarder). ☐

We understand this scholarship is subject to means-testing and the relevant documents have been provided. ☐

We understand the scholarship will cover up to 90% of tuition fees and 100% of application and enrolment fees. Families will be expected to pay all other costs. ☐

We also understand that if we accept the scholarship, we will endeavour to make a financial contribution to the Foundation at least once during our son's time at the School. ☐



# Big Hike Scholarship

## Student Details

Surname (please print)

Given names

Preferred name

Residential address

Postcode

Postal address

Postcode

Date of birth / / Country of origin

Nationality

Present school

Present year level

Student's area(s) of excellence

## Parent or Guardian Information

### Father or Guardian

Mr / Dr / Prof / Rev'd / Other

Surname

Given names

Preferred name

Relationship to the student

Address (if different from your son)

Home telephone

Business telephone

Mobile

Email

Occupation

Language spoken at home other than English

Old scholar Y / N Peer year House

### Mother or Guardian

Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / Prof / Rev'd / Other

Surname

Given names

Preferred name

Relationship to the student

Address (if different from your son)

Home telephone

Business telephone

Mobile

Email

Occupation

Language spoken at home other than English

## Close family connections of parents and/or relatives that are current or old scholars of the School

Name

Relationship to applicant

## Please sign below to acknowledge you have read and understood the scholarship application instructions

Parent/Guardian signature

Print name

Date

/

/





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