

## **Department of Communities Fully Funded Scholarships Ignition 2019 Background and Eligibility**

The Department of Communities recognises the vital role that women play in making a difference for local communities.

Promoting women's economic independence is a priority for Western Australia. The Department of Communities fosters and encourages women to explore new and enhanced avenues of income generation. Innovation and entrepreneurship are important pathways to women's economic independence.

The Department of Communities supports Curtin Ignition through funding for a number of scholarship places for women. The scholarships support women entrepreneurs who face financial barriers that may restrict their ability to participate in this program. Women whose business idea is in a STEM (science, technology, engineering or maths) field will be given priority but the scholarship is available to business ideas and innovations across all industries. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply for these scholarships.,

Ignition is an intensive 5½-day education program for aspiring entrepreneurs, academics and corporate innovators to trial and prepare their business ideas for the commercial environment.

Ignition is open to anyone with a business idea, research project or early stage business venture that could become a high growth business. Applications from new and aspiring entrepreneurs, with limited experience of starting a business, are encouraged. Passion and ambition to take ideas forward and 'make it happen' are highly important attributes for success at Ignition.

The Department of Communities scholarships are for WA residents only.

Applicants must be prepared to commit 5.5 days of their time to an intensive and results-focused program. Fluency in spoken and written English is essential.

The Department of Communities Scholarship Applications are judged on their individual merit based on the following eligibility criteria:

- A need for the scholarship (i.e – you cannot fund the registration fee yourself),
- The novelty of your business/idea/innovation,
- The likelihood of your business sustainability (market potential and uniqueness of your proposal),
- The preparation and action you have taken to progress your business/idea/innovation,
- Your idea or business is in a STEM (science, technology, engineering or maths) field (encouraged but not essential).

Award of scholarship places will be made by the Curtin Ignition team and the Department of Communities. Their decision will be based on the written information provided in the application form.

It is a condition of acceptance of your scholarship that you must participate in any surveys assigned by the Department of Communities and/or Curtin Ignition.

Apply online at: **[www.ignition.curtin.edu.au](http://www.ignition.curtin.edu.au)** - closing date is **July 5th 2019**.

Scholarships are limited to one per business, and terms and conditions apply.