

# How to improve your chances of winning a **UCFB Scholarship Award**



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# UCFB Scholarships

UCFB scholarships are designed to encourage students from all backgrounds and abilities to make the most of their time at UCFB and to graduate with more than just a university degree.

## HOW ARE SCHOLARSHIPS ASSESSED?

Scholarship applications are a written process that invites students to share their skills, experience, and motivation. Your written responses form the basis of the assessment, so it is important to take time to think carefully about your answers.

Each question is carefully written to assess specific qualities or experiences, such as leadership, commitment to inclusion or community engagement. Before you begin writing, read the question slowly and identify exactly what it is asking you to demonstrate.

### Ask yourself:

- **What skills or behaviours is this question testing?**
- **What experiences do I have that clearly show these qualities?**

To support a high-quality application, we recommend following the **STAR** method.

## WHAT IS THE STAR METHOD?

The **STAR** method is a structured approach which can be used to answer behavioural questions to showcase your skills and experience of the application form. It helps you provide clear, concise, and relevant examples for the assessment panel.

In the context of a sports scholarship application, it's a powerful tool to demonstrate your achievements, leadership qualities, and passion for sports.

# STAR Method

## S - Situation

Introduce the situation and set the context.

Begin by outlining the situation. What was the specific event, project, or challenge you were involved in? Be specific and provide enough detail so the reader understands the background. Keep it brief – the focus should be on your actions and the results.

**Example:** "Growing up, I attended an under-resourced school where opportunities in sport and business were limited, and very few students pursued higher education. Despite this, I developed a strong interest in the sports industry, but I lacked access to mentors, networks, and clear guidance on how to turn that interest into a career."

## T - Task

What was your objective? What needed to be achieved?

Clearly define the **task** at hand. What were you responsible for? What goals were you trying to achieve within that situation? This clarifies your role and sets the stage for your actions. Your personal involvement should be clear.

**Example:** "I set myself the goal of overcoming these barriers by creating opportunities where none existed. I wanted not only to progress academically but also to gain real-world experience that would prepare me for a future in the sports sector."

## A - Action

Explain what you did, and how you did it.

This is the most important part. Describe the actions you took to address the situation and accomplish the task. Focus on your individual contributions. Use action verbs and be specific about the steps you took, the strategies you employed, and the decisions you made. Don't just say what the team did; emphasize your role.

**Example:** "I took initiative by independently researching pathways into sports business and reaching out to local clubs for volunteering opportunities. Despite initial rejections, I persisted and eventually secured a role assisting with event organisation at Higher End Community Sports Club. Alongside this, I balanced my studies with part-time work to support myself financially, while actively improving my academic performance. I also sought out online courses and industry talks to broaden my knowledge beyond what was available in my school environment."

## R - Result

End with the results of your efforts, including accomplishments, rewards, and impact.

Conclude with the results of your actions. What was the outcome? Did you achieve your goal? What did you learn? Quantify your achievements where possible (e.g., increased sales by X%, reduced errors by Y%). Even if the outcome wasn't entirely successful, focus on what you learned from the experience and how it has made you a better candidate.

**Example:** "Through these efforts, I developed resilience, adaptability, and strong communication skills. My academic results improved significantly, and I gained practical experience that strengthened my understanding of the sports industry by arranging a community charity event. More importantly, I proved to myself that my background does not define my potential. These experiences have shaped me into a motivated and aspirational student, ready to contribute to and benefit from UCFB's diverse and opportunity-rich environment."

# Tips for Success

## Tailor Your Answers

Carefully review the scholarship criteria and tailor your STAR examples to match the qualities and skills the scholarship committee is looking for. Do they mention leadership, teamwork or resilience?

## Use Clear, Specific Examples

To answer the questions and demonstrate what makes you the best candidate for the scholarship. Detailed examples of how you meet the qualities or experiences are far more persuasive than broad statements about being “passionate”, “hard-working”, or “motivated”.

## Write Independently and Clearly

While there are many tools and resources that can help with spelling or clarity, applications generated through AI tools such as ChatGPT often lack the depth, authenticity, and personality we are looking for.

Your scholarship application should reflect your own experiences, thoughts, and values. The strongest applications are written independently and are grounded in personal reflection and lived experience.

## Show Passion and Enthusiasm

Let your passion for sports shine through in your answers. Your enthusiasm will be contagious and make your application more memorable.

## Proofread Carefully

Ensure your application is free of grammatical errors and typos. Pay particular attention to the minimum and maximum character limits. A polished application demonstrates attention to detail and professionalism.

**GOOD LUCK!**

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