



BERNARD J LUSTIG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

HISTORY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP



The late Bernard Julius Lustig

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GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1956 in honour of Bernard J Lustig, this scholarship seeks to support outstanding tertiary students in the achievement of their potential as scholars and as leaders in our community.

The \$2,500 scholarship is now offered in two separate categories:

- A. A research grant to master's and doctoral thesis candidates, and
- B. A travel grant to outstanding student leaders at university level, to fund overseas travel to participate in leadership development programs.

Depending on our income each year, we are occasionally able to provide partial support to a worthwhile applicant who was not awarded the scholarship, or who didn't require a grant of that size.

Supporting research or allocating travel grants to university student leaders to enrol in a course overseas are the conventional ways in which this scholarship has operated. Very occasionally, however, we receive an application that doesn't quite fit the usual parameters, from someone who was thinking outside the square. The trustees are not rigid and hidebound by tradition and can think outside the square, too (or at least, we like to think so). If you consider that you can meet the below criteria, but your situation is a little unconventional, don't be deterred and please submit an application.

The detailed guidelines that follow are intended to provide applicants with explicit advice about the information that the Trustees require to allow them to reach an informed decision.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING APPLICATIONS.

Four criteria are considered in determining scholarship winners:

1. **Academic ability** - as evidenced by the provision of copies of academic results eg your academic transcript
2. **Leadership ability** - this is a crucial criterion for travel grant applications, and less crucial but still important for research applications. In order to fulfil this criterion, do not simply list the roles undertaken, but evidence of leadership capacity; what did you achieve while in that role and what difference did you make?
3. **Involvement in the life of the Jewish and wider community** – evidence of a personal commitment to belonging to, and sharing the values of, the community is requested. That can of course be demonstrated in many ways. B'nai B'rith is an inclusive organisation and the trustees have a broad view of what can make a valuable contribution to Jewish and wider community life.
4. **Financial need** – while our decisions are based primarily on the three preceding criteria, we also have a responsibility to ensure that our limited funds go to people who really need them, so if you have the means to pay for your study expenses, perhaps you should not apply. If you wish to, feel free to tell us (in confidence) about your financial situation.

POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH APPLICANTS.

The post-graduate research category of the scholarship is intended for students pursuing a doctorate or a master's degree by **thesis**. Students taking a master's degree purely by course work are excluded from consideration. There is a grey area in between where a master's course-work program may include a substantial minor research project. Consideration will be given to these applications.

Some details of the nature of your intended research are required, including a statement from a supervisor that the research plan has been approved. Should you not be at this stage just yet, please consider delaying your application until you have received approval.

As the cost of enrolling for a higher degree course is far greater than the value of this scholarship, we request that applicants illustrate how the scholarship funds would be utilised, for example the purchase of a piece of equipment, participation in a relevant conference etc Support for enrolment fees or living expenses are unlikely to be successful.

TRAVEL GRANT APPLICANTS

The value of the scholarship covers the cost of air fares to most parts of the world. Whilst visiting overseas countries can certainly be a life-enriching experience, in order to be successful, applicants are expected to have a very specific purpose in mind. Professional development courses, conferences, semester programs/exchange at an overseas university or college are common examples of specific purposes.

Bearing in mind that travel grants are given to outstanding student leaders, we also request some explanation of how the intended program might be expected to enhance your leadership skills.

We also look for details of how far your planning has progressed. If your application is highly regarded but you are still awaiting a response from an overseas institution, we may be prepared to wait for a reasonable time before announcing our decision.

Importantly, before transferring any funds to you, we require relevant documentary evidence (e.g. an invoice from a travel agent, or a copy of an e-ticket).

REFEREES

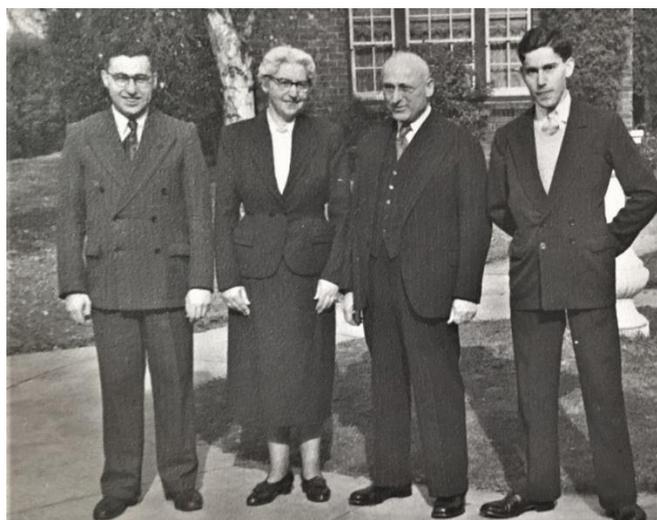
Contact details of a minimum of two referees is required as part of your application. Please ensure that at least one of your referees is someone who can provide us with an assessment of your capability to pursue your chosen research project, or (if you are applying for a travel grant) to benefit from the program you have chosen. If your application is short-listed we will make contact with your referees.

If you meet the above criteria and have all the information required, please [click here](#) or scan the QR Code to submit your application online. If you require any additional information or would like to discuss the scholarship before applying, you can contact the B'nai B'rith Victoria Office on 03 9523 0888 or admin@bbvic.org.au



HISTORY OF THE BERNARD J LUSTIG SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship is a memorial to Bernard Julius Lustig, the older son of Adolf and Kate Lustig. The family migrated from Nazi Germany to Australia just prior to the outbreak of World War II. Bernard attended Melbourne High School. A brilliant student, he matriculated with four first-class honours, was Dux in History and obtained two Exhibitions. He won a Senior Government Scholarship and a Queen's College Resident Scholarship and proceeded to study law at The University of Melbourne, thus following in the footsteps of his father, whose legal career was cut short by the rise of Nazism. Bernard's intellectual capabilities were further demonstrated at university. He was awarded honours in every subject and in 1951 he won the Law School's Supreme Court Prize as the outstanding student of his year. (The prize has a long history. It was first awarded in 1864 and its winners have included such eminent people as Robert Menzies, Zelman Cowen and Rupert Hamer.) After graduating, Bernard began to practise law as a barrister.



Adolf and Kate Lustig, with their sons Bernard and Lewis

Bernard's father Adolf had been a member of B'nai B'rith in Munich, Germany. He and his wife and three young children fled Nazism in 1938 and emigrated to Melbourne. He co-operated with other immigrants who had been members in Europe to establish the first B'nai B'rith lodge in Melbourne in 1945. It was Adolf, no doubt utilising his professional skills as a lawyer, who wrote the lodge's constitution. (His young daughter Ruth, later Ruth King-Smith, typed the document. Ruth became a member of the scholarship's Patrons Circle; she died in the US in 2018.)

Seven years later, the lodge encouraged a group of young adults, mostly the sons and daughters of lodge members, to found a youth group, B'nai B'rith Youth Melbourne. Michael Cohen was the founding president. Bernard joined the committee and in 1953 was Michael's successor as president of the group. The two young men had not known each other at university but became close friends through their membership in BBY. Bernard displayed outstanding gifts of leadership: he was a warm-hearted and modest young man who demonstrated intense devotion to the ideals of B'nai B'rith.

On January 5th 1955, Bernard, together with a friend and the friend's wife, was travelling along the Hume Highway on their way to Sydney. The road was just a two-lane country road then, not the motorway it is today. The exact details are not known, but the car swerved off the road and hit a tree. Bernard and his friend were killed.

At a subsequent meeting of the BBY Melbourne committee, one member, Pauline Richter (later to become Pauline Glass, and since deceased) proposed that the youth group establish a scholarship as a memorial to their late president. The BBY committee debated the proposal and some members thought it was beyond the capacity of the group to sustain. Pauline, however, was renowned for her persistence and the committee eventually accepted the idea. A Scholarship committee was formed, consisting of the President of BBY as chairman, the President (or delegate) of the B'nai B'rith Melbourne lodge and a third member with expertise in the field of education. This committee would in later years be replaced by a more permanent group of trustees. The earliest copy of the rules specified that BBY Melbourne, B'nai B'rith Melbourne Lodge and B'nai B'rith Ladies Auxiliary would each contribute £20, with the budget supplemented by whatever could be raised by donations. The first scholarships, worth £50, were awarded in 1956 to support senior secondary school students who were proceeding to university.



Pauline Richter
(later, Glass) 1934-2006

B'nai B'rith Victoria (BBVic) grew from a single lodge to a substantial organisation consisting of several lodges, women's chapters, two young adults groups (renamed B'nai B'rith Young Adults) and three teenage groups (AZA). The name of one of the BBYA groups honoured Bernard Lustig.

A roof body, the Victorian B'nai B'rith Council was formed as the peak body of the organisation at state level. It took over the administration of the scholarship and appointed trustees to run the scholarship, raise funds and determine the annual winners. The Bernard Lustig Memorial Scholarship is BBVic's longest running project and it is also the longest running scholarship in the Victorian Jewish community.

In its early years the Scholarship provided assistance to secondary school students. As other more generously funded community scholarships became available, the Trustees decided to change its purpose. The Scholarship is now offered in two categories: as a postgraduate research scholarship, and as a travel grant for outstanding student leaders to develop their experience overseas. Increased funding in recent years has allowed grants to be made in both categories.

Funding. The scholarship is funded from three sources:

- Interest on a capital investment administered by the B'nai B'rith Charitable Trust. The estate of the late Kate Lustig (Bernard's mother) provided the initial impetus for this fund.
- In 2017, the trustees established a Patrons Circle, consisting of individuals and various B'nai B'rith entities that contribute \$1000 to the capital fund.
- Donations from members and friends of the Lustig family, from past scholarship winners and B'nai B'rith groups.

Patron. In 2016, Dr Lewis Lustig, the late Bernard's younger brother was appointed as the Founding Patron of the Scholarship. Dr Lustig had previously served as a trustee of the Scholarship for decades, and he and his extended family have been major donors. Dr Lustig passed away, aged 87, in January 2020. In his will, he left a generous bequest for the scholarship's fund. Mr Michael Cohen OAM, the founding president of B'nai B'rith Youth Melbourne and a close personal friend of Bernard Lustig, was subsequently appointed as Patron.

Trustees. The trustees are all members of B'nai B'rith. The current Chair of trustees is Dr Paul Gardner AM, who has held this position since 1982. The remaining Trustees are: Danny Lustig, a son of Dr Lewis Lustig, Dr Gilah Leder AM, Rebecca Forgasz, Andrew Markus AO and most recently Philip Zajac

Annual timetable. Applications close at the end of April each year. Consultation by the trustees occurs during May/June. The evaluation process usually allows a decision to be reached within a month or two, followed by the presentation of the scholarship at a B'nai B'rith function in the latter half of the year.