

Terms of Reference

The 2025 Marianna Boza Legacy Scholarship

Applications open 3rd of June and close 18th of July, 2025

1. Background and Rationale

The Marianna Boza Legacy Scholarship is an initiative led by the Australia-Colombia Business Council (ACBC) to honor the life, legacy, and impactful contributions of Marianna Boza Morón within Colombia's mining sector. Marianna was a passionate advocate for sustainable mining and gender equality. This scholarship is established in her memory to support the professional development of talented Colombian women in the mining and extractive industries. Through this initiative, ACBC reinforces its commitment to fostering closer bilateral ties between Colombia and Australia, particularly in education, sustainable mining practices, and gender equity.

2. About the ACBC

The Australia-Colombia Business Council (ACBC) is a non-profit organization that promotes trade, investment, and knowledge exchange between Australia and Colombia. ACBC acts as a platform for collaboration across sectors such as mining, energy, education, and innovation. The Council is committed to driving opportunities that contribute to sustainable development and inclusive growth. Learn more [here](#).

3. Scholarship Objectives

- Honor Marianna Boza Morón by recognizing her legacy and leadership in mining
- Support a young Colombian woman in the mining sector through access to a high-quality training program in Australia.
- Empower women, promote sustainable practices, and highlight ACBC's commitment to mining sector development.

4. Scholarship Overview

- **Duration:** 3-month professional development program.
- **Location:** Melbourne, Victoria (Australia).
- **Education Partner:** Holmesglen Institute and the Victorian Tunnelling Centre.
- **Confirmed Sponsors:** Relianz and Orica.

- **Collaborators:** Women in Mining Colombia (WIM), Fenalcarbón, Asociación.
- Colombiana de Minería (ACM), Blue Studies, The Ideas Factory (TIF), and Study Melbourne, Government of Victoria, Australia.
- **Total scholarship value:** AUD \$30,000 | Approx \$80'000.0000.

About the Education Partner: Holmesglen Institute

Holmesglen Institute is one of Australia's leading providers of vocational and higher education. Renowned for its strong industry connections and commitment to excellence, Holmesglen offers hands-on, practical training across a wide range of disciplines, tailored to meet the evolving needs of the workforce.

Its Victorian Tunnelling Centre (VTC) is a one-of-a-kind facility in Australia, offering cutting-edge simulation training using advanced technologies such as Virtual Reality (VR), Mixed Reality (MR), and industry-grade simulators. The VTC supports the upskilling of professionals working in tunnelling, major projects, and mining operations by providing real-world training experiences that replicate actual work environments, ensuring graduates are well-equipped to meet industry demands.

Holmesglen Institute has also established itself as a leader in delivering high-quality Transnational Education (TNE) programs, leveraging Australia's vocational education standards to support the development of a skilled, globally competent workforce. Holmesglen's TNE model combines academic quality with local relevance. Programs are delivered jointly by partner institutions to ensure that students receive education that meets both local and international standards, thereby fostering a skilled workforce capable of contributing to various industries worldwide.

Program Structure

A 3-month training program focused on occupational health and safety, with a specialization in tunnelling and major projects. The VTC simulation center utilizes simulators, Virtual Reality (VR), and Mixed Reality (MR) to deliver training in operating long drill rigs, cable bolters, and excavators. The program involves a strong practical component, exposing candidates to real

industry challenges and projects, helping them build and complement their technical knowledge.

Scholarship Inclusions

- Return airfare Bogotá–Melbourne–Bogotá.
- Visitor visa application fee and processing.
- Accommodation in a purpose-built student residential facility for three months.
- Stipend for board and transport for three months.
- Health and travel insurance for the duration of the program.
- Full tuition covered by Holmesglen Institute.

5. Candidate Profile and Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible applicants must:
- Be a Colombian citizen and a female professional currently working in the mining or extractive industries in Colombia.
- Hold a degree in Earth Sciences or Applied Earth Sciences. Priority will be given to candidates with undergraduate qualifications in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, hydrogeology, mining, mining engineering, metallurgy, or engineering geology.
- Have a minimum of two (2) years of relevant professional experience.
- Demonstrate at least B1 level of English proficiency (e.g., IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge).
- Alternatively, applicants may provide proof of English language proficiency through prior study in an English-speaking country or an international school.
- Hold a valid Colombian passport.
- Be available to travel between September and December 2025.
- Submit a Colombian police background check.
- Demonstrate the capacity to document and share their experience (e.g., blog posts, photographs, short videos).

Ideal candidates will show:

- A strong commitment to sustainable mining practices.
- Leadership potential and desire to be an agent of change.

- Passion for empowering women in the mining sector.
- Motivation to apply the knowledge gained in Australia within their communities or organizations.

6. Application Requirements

Applicants must complete the Online Application Form [here](#)

Submit via Application Form:

- Updated CV
- Personal Statement (addressing selection criteria)
- Proof of English level (if applicable)
- Copy of valid passport (or confirmation of application in progress)
- Colombian Police Check (Pasado Judicial)
- Two professional references

Personal Statement Guidance

Applicants should use their statement to demonstrate why they are the ideal candidate for the scholarship. The essay should address:

- Their professional background and motivations.
- How this scholarship aligns with their career goals.
- Commitment to sustainable mining practices.
- Potential to inspire or support other women in the sector.
- How they plan to apply the knowledge gained in Australia back in Colombia.

Please refer to the [Personal Statement Guide](#) for further information and tips on how to write the essay.

Selection Criteria (Essay and Interview)

- Clarity of motivation and alignment with scholarship goals.
- Communication and English proficiency.
- Leadership potential.
- Relevance of professional background.
- Commitment to sharing learnings and contributing to the mining sector.

7. Selection Process

The selection process will be transparent and merit-based:

1. Pre-selection:
 - a. Review of applications for eligibility by ACBC Education Committee.
2. Evaluation:
 - a. Assessment of personal statements, qualifications, and professional experience
 - b. Five (5) finalists will be shortlisted.
3. Final Interview:
 - a. Interviews will be conducted in English.
 - b. The panel includes 3 ACBC members and 2 Holmesglen Institute representatives

8. Timelines

Milestone	Date
Application Launch	3 June 2025
Application Deadline	18 July 2025
Selection Period	21 July - 8 August 2025
Notification to Candidate	12 August 2025
Reception Event (Bogotá)	15 August 2025