



RUTH DIRCKS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION SHEET

Background

The Ruth Dircks Scholarship is an initiative designed to promote the attendance and participation of Australian teachers at CONASTA each year.

Ruth Dircks is a Life Member of the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA) and a Past President of ASTA. She has been a very strong supporter of the Association and still attends the annual conference of ASTA (CONASTA) regularly.

In 2002, Ruth was the inaugural winner of the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools and was awarded \$35,000. Ruth generously donated this money to ASTA for the provision of an annual scholarship to CONASTA. ASTA named this scholarship the Ruth Dircks ASTA Scholarships to CONASTA in her honour.

Each year a small number of teachers are supported to attend CONASTA, wherever it may be held in Australia. **The teachers' in-person registration costs are funded through this scholarship.**

Criteria for selection

Applicants must comply with the following criteria to be judged eligible for this award:

1. Reside outside the regional area in which CONASTA is being held that year (approximately 200km radius).
2. Have not attended more than two CONASTA's previously.
3. Be a financial member of a State or Territory Science Teachers Association.

Selection

Applicants must complete an Application Form (available at <https://asta.edu.au/programs/scholarships/ruth-dircks/>) and return it to asta@asta.edu.au by the closing date specified on the form. Applications will be assessed by a selection panel that includes Ruth Dircks, an ASTA Board member and a member of the CONASTA organising committee.

Applicants are assessed according to their answers to three key questions:

1. What involvement have you had, and what involvement do you currently have with your State/Territory Science Teachers Association, and/or other ASTA programs or initiatives?
2. How would you personally benefit from this CONASTA experience?
3. How would you use this experience to benefit your wider networks ie: colleagues, peers, students?

Closing date for applications: Please refer to the application form.

Conditions

The scholarship recipient is announced and presented at a plenary session of CONASTA. The winner is asked to write a brief article for an edition of the Teaching Science journal published after CONASTA each year on their experience of CONASTA and what they gained from attending. The scholarship is awarded only for the current year's CONASTA and will not be held over for the following year. Should CONASTA not go ahead due to any circumstance the scholarship recipient will be required to re-apply for any following CONASTA. The scholarship only covers the cost of an in-person teacher registration, all other costs such as social events, accommodation, travel is the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.

Questions

Any questions can be sent to asta@asta.edu.au or (02) 6282 9377.