



Joblink Plus New Beginnings Scholarship

Terms and Conditions

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF KEY CONDITIONS

The intention of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance to a student who has or is experiencing educational disadvantage.

If accepting an offer of this scholarship, you will:

- Notify scholarships@newcastle.edu.au of any changes to your circumstances - such as reduced study load, change in program, or withdrawal from study - that may impact your eligibility for this scholarship.
- Agree to send a thank-you message to the scholarship donor within two weeks of accepting your offer (as per the instructions in your offer email);
- Be available for a presentation ceremony during Scholars Week (usually around August/September).

The total value of this scholarship is \$8,000 for a term of one year.

ESTABLISHMENT

Joblink Plus is a for-purpose, not-for-profit organisation providing employment services and vocational training. We deliver to a range of communities across rural and regional NSW, covering around 70% of the state. Joblink Plus places approximately 11,000 people into employment annually. We support communities through direct contributions, social enterprise, and volunteering. We partner with a diverse range of organisations with shared values, including health initiatives as well as various youth and Indigenous programs. Our purpose is to believe in and provide support to all people, connecting them to the dignity and fulfilment made possible through education and meaningful work.

This scholarship is dedicated to Christine Shewry. Christine Shewry dedicated her 50-year career in Recruitment, Vocational Training & Human Resource to connecting people with purpose. Before joining Joblink Plus as the CEO in 2013, Christine held international executive roles in Australia, the United States, and UK where she worked with Morgan & Banks, Adecco, Corporate Services Group, IAG, and The University of Sydney. Christine has served on the Board and worked closely with a number of not-for-profit organisations.

Christine advocates for marginalised people at every opportunity, celebrating the strengths and achievements of those who have overcome significant barriers to move into education and employment. As CEO of Joblink Plus Christine established her reputation as a leader who speaks up and challenges those in power to do better. Through Christine's leadership Joblink Plus is a trauma-informed organisation and has pioneered ongoing research into the efficacy of trauma informed practice in employment services. Through her advocacy for people experiencing trauma and disadvantage Joblink Plus established a generous scholarship program with the University of Newcastle, now extended to include the Joblink Plus 'New Beginnings' Scholarships for people impacted by domestic violence, whether as a child, young person or adult.

"A scholarship represents food and housing, childcare and security. It is also proof that 'someone believes in me, someone is backing me to succeed'. I personally know the power of that support when trauma has impacted your life. While education can open doors, for some having the support of a scholarship is the only way they can walk through. I believe that through the Joblink Plus New Beginnings Scholarships, lives and communities will be changed - for good." Christine Shewry CEO, Joblink Plus.

FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

This is a donor funded scholarship from Joblink Plus.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this scholarship, you will need to:

- Be enrolled or enrolling in any year of an enabling, undergraduate, or postgraduate program at the University of Newcastle.
- Have accessed higher education as part of a process for surviving domestic violence.
- Demonstrate academic progress by the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) or equivalent required for entry for commencing students, or a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0 for continuing students.
- Demonstrate that your ability to study is affected, or will be affected, by educational disadvantage such as carer or sole parent responsibilities, financial hardship, a long-term medical condition or disability, the ongoing effects of abuse, regional/remote disadvantage or applicant attributes such as being an Indigenous Australian, having a Refugee background, or placement with an Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) provider. More information about the circumstances you can claim and the associated documentation requirements is available on UAC's [equity scholarship categories and supporting documents](#) page. To view the process for establishing your Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status visit the Wollotuka Institute's [study with us](#) page;
- Not hold another University of Newcastle donor-funded or sponsored scholarship concurrently.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

As part of your application, you will need to prepare:

- A personal statement (approx. 1 A4 page) outlining your academic achievements, career aspirations in the relevant area of study, and how this scholarship would assist you. This statement will cover all scholarships you are applying for.
- You may be required to provide documents supporting your educational disadvantage claim(s) – document requirements (if any) will be identified when you apply based on your scholarships application responses, but to get an idea of what kinds of documents are required please see UAC's [equity scholarship categories and supporting documents page](#).
- You will be asked the question 'Are you accessing higher education as part of your process for surviving domestic violence?' which requires a yes/no response.
- A Letter of Support completed by a responsible person who can comment on the educational impact of your circumstances and/or condition. This may be completed by a responsible person or UON staff member from Counselling Service, Medical Centre, Tutor, Campus Care, or CEEHE. You may also use your Medical and/or Educational Impact Statements here if applying for other equity scholarships for ongoing effects of abuse.

Any applicant that does not submit the required documentation, including documentary evidence, will not be considered for selection.

As part of your application, you will need to agree to the terms and conditions regarding privacy and collection of personal information set out in the Declaration and Authority at the start of your application.

SELECTION

Selection is a competitive process and will be based on assessment of the scholarship application and any required supporting documents, with reference to the eligibility criteria.

Selection will be made by the Multi-College Selection Panel which will consist of a minimum of three members chosen by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

Preference will be given to students who have completed an enabling program (Open Foundation, Yapug) or Diploma at the University of Newcastle.

The Selection Panel will communicate the details of successful recipients to the Scholarships Office, and all applicants will be notified of an outcome via email within 6 weeks of the scholarship application closing date. Where there is only one eligible applicant for a scholarship, the Scholarships Office may award without referral to a selection panel, in consultation with the Office of Alumni and Philanthropy.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

If accepting this scholarship, you agree to the following conditions:

- You will continue to meet all relevant criteria in the [Eligibility section](#) above for the duration of the scholarship, unless [special consideration](#) (see below) is approved.
- If your circumstances change in a way that impacts your eligibility (e.g., change in study load or withdrawal from study), you will notify scholarships@newcastle.edu.au.
- The scholarship is tenable for 1 year and must be taken up in the year for which it was awarded, unless otherwise specified.
- This scholarship is subject to semester review. Continuation of the scholarship and payment of the scholarship benefit are subject to the scholar maintaining satisfactory academic progress, that is, GPA of 4.0, and continuing to meet the eligibility criteria of the scholarship.
- Agree to send a thank-you message to the scholarship donor within two weeks of accepting your offer, following the instructions in your scholarship offer letter.
- You will be available to attend a presentation ceremony during Scholars Week (usually around August/September) where you may have opportunity to meet with the donors and/or their representatives.

BENEFIT

The scholarship provides a total benefit of \$8,000, paid as two equal payments of \$4,000 in Semester 1 and 2.

Payments are typically received 2–3 weeks after the semester census date, or 2–3 weeks after you accept your offer if the census date has already passed.

The scholarship benefit and number of scholarships awarded may vary and will be determined by the funding available each year.

PERIODS OF LEAVE

You may apply in writing to scholarships@newcastle.edu.au for consideration to reserve your scholarship if you are unable to study due to illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstances. An application must be supported by documentary evidence.

Periods of approved leave for the scholarship:

- must not exceed two consecutive semesters of study; and
- will not be counted towards the term of the scholarship.

TERMINATION

Unless terminated earlier, the scholarship will end when the term has expired, and the total benefit has been paid.

The Scholarships Office may terminate the scholarship before the term has expired if:

- The scholarship conditions are not met, including relevant eligibility criteria being maintained.
- The scholar completes study and/or ceases to be a student with the University of Newcastle; or

- The scholar has committed serious misconduct (as determined in accordance with the University's relevant policies and rules).

If the scholarship is terminated early, the Office of Alumni and Philanthropy will be advised and the donor notified.

Ongoing scholarships will not be paid out in full in instances where the recipient completes or discontinues study before the full scholarship term has expired.

If you have provided false or misleading information and as a result you were awarded or continued to receive the scholarship, the scholarship may be stopped, and you may be required to repay any scholarship benefits to which you are not entitled to within 14 days of being requested to do so by the University.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

As a scholarship recipient, if you are unable to meet the conditions of the scholarship due to illness, injury or other extenuating circumstances, you may apply for special consideration. Please apply by writing to the Scholarships Office via email to scholarships@newcastle.edu.au. Please provide appropriate documentary evidence to support your request.

A decision will be made by Scholarships staff in consultation with the Office of Alumni & Philanthropy.

PRIVACY AND COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

If applying for a donor-funded scholarship, the application or a summary of information provided with the application may be provided to an external donor and/or their representative. This is for the purpose of scholarship selection and otherwise to inform the donor that the terms of the donation are met.

You may be asked by Scholarships staff if you give permission for any short articles or newsletter items to be published. You may have the option to provide a photo, quote or short paragraph about yourself for this.

The University of Newcastle is committed to the protection of your personal information and privacy. The University will only disclose your personal information to the extent necessary for the purpose of the provision of this scholarship (including scholarship selection and assessing ongoing eligibility requirements).

When applying, please review the Declaration and Authority at the start of your application which includes additional information in relation to privacy and the collection of personal information and links to the University of Newcastle [Privacy Management Plan](#), [Web Privacy Statement](#), and [UAC Privacy Policy](#).

The University reserves the right to make amendments to these terms and conditions without prior notice.

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFICE

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Established: October 2025

Scholarship Code: EXT_372