



LGBTQIA+ Shaping Futures Scholarship

Terms and Conditions

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF KEY CONDITIONS

LGBTQIA+ Shaping Futures Scholarships provide financial assistance to full-time undergraduate students who identify as LGBTQIA+ and are overcoming 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 – which 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, following the instructions in your scholarship offer letter.
- Be available for a presentation ceremony during Scholars Week (usually around August/September).

The total value of this scholarship is \$5,000 for a term of one year. All applicants, including those who receive an offer, are encouraged to reapply for this scholarship each year.

ESTABLISHMENT

The Shaping Futures Scholarship Fund was established in 2011, with the aim of helping those students who are most in need and continues to grow each year as one of our largest equity scholarship programs.

Shaping Futures Scholarships support students who are managing their academic progress alongside complex personal circumstances such as:

- Carer or sole parent responsibilities
- Financial hardship
- Long term medical condition/disability or the ongoing effects of abuse
- Regional or remote disadvantage
- Other equity attributes such as being an Indigenous Australian, having Refugee status, or placement with an Out-of-Home-Care (OOHC) provider.

It is hoped that the LGBTQIA+ Shaping Futures Scholarship will provide much-needed support for students to continue to overcome disadvantages and maintain their achievements.

FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

These scholarships are funded entirely by generous donations from alumni, donors, staff, businesses and the community, with funds continually sought via the Shaping Futures Appeal.

ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be enrolled in any year of an undergraduate program with University of Newcastle;
- Be intending to study on a full-time basis (minimum 60 units per year);
- Have a GPA of 4.0 or higher if you are a continuing student, or ATAR (or equivalent) required for entry to your program if a new student;
- Identify as LGBTQIA+;
- Demonstrate the impact of educational disadvantage such as carer or sole parent responsibilities, financial hardship, a long-term medical condition/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;
- Be an Australian citizen or an Australian permanent resident (including holders of a permanent humanitarian visa and New Zealand citizens with permanent residency);
- 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 to support your educational disadvantage claims. These will be identified when you apply based on your individual application responses, but to get an idea of the kinds of documents required please see UAC's [equity scholarship categories and supporting documents](#) page.
- The application for this scholarship will ask for a Yes/No answer to the question: "Do you identify as LGBTQIA+?".

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 for this scholarship does not require review by a selection panel. The Scholarships Office will aim to make offers to students assessed as being most in need of support based on a thorough assessment of each application and required supporting documents, considering both the eligibility criteria and the applicant's demonstrated educational disadvantage.

The Scholarships Office will assess applications in the following order of priority:

- Fulfillment of all eligibility criteria
- Evidence of educational disadvantage
- Academic merit may be considered where relevant.

Once a recipient is selected, the Scholarships Office will recommend the awardee to the Office of Alumni and Philanthropy for endorsement.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome via email within six weeks of the scholarship application closing date.

For applicants who do not receive an offer, this does not mean you have been assessed as ineligible. The number of applications often far exceeds the number of scholarships available so it may mean that other applicants have been assessed as being in greater need of support at this time. Do not let an unsuccessful outcome deter you from applying for other scholarships or reapplying for the LGBTQIA+ Shaping Futures Scholarship every year you study.

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.
- The scholarship is tenable for 1 year and must be taken up in the year for which it was awarded, unless otherwise specified.
- 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.
- 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

This scholarship provides a total benefit of \$5,000 paid as a lump sum in Semester 1.

Payment is typically received 2–3 weeks after the Semester 1 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

This scholarship does not provide for a period of leave or deferral.

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.

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 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 the Scholarships Office 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

Student and Academic Administration
University of Newcastle
University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308 Australia

Phone: +61 2 4921 5000
Email: scholarships@newcastle.edu.au

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