



SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE (ESSUN)

ESTABLISHMENT

UON has a proud history of supporting motivated and talented students to both gain entry to university and to thrive in their field of study, regardless of their background and individual circumstances.

The ESSUN Equity Scholarship aids students who are experiencing financial and other educational disadvantages, supporting students to study as they manage the complexities of disadvantage/s, including:

- Carer responsibilities
- English language difficulty
- Financial hardship
- Long term medical condition/ disability or ongoing effects of abuse
- Regional or remote disadvantage
- Sole parent responsibilities
- Additional attributes such as Indigenous Australian or having Refugee status.

Definitions of types of disadvantage and documents required to demonstrate these are available on the UAC ES web page [here](#).

FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

This is a university-funded equity scholarship scheme.

ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be enrolled in any undergraduate or enabling program with University of Newcastle;
- Be experiencing financial hardship. This may mean that you receive – or expect to receive - a centrelink means-tested income support payment this year, or that you are able to demonstrate financial hardship based on a comprehensive assessment;
- May be experiencing other types of educational disadvantage, including carer responsibilities, English language difficulty, long term medical condition / Disability, ongoing effects of abuse, regional or remote disadvantage, sole parenting responsibilities, or additional attributes such as being an Indigenous Australian or having Refugee status;
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- Not hold a concurrent Indigenous Accommodation or Indigenous Education Scholarship;
- Not have previously received an ongoing equity scholarship for the standard duration of a degree program with University of Newcastle.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

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

- 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 you can get an idea of what kinds of documents are required [here](#).

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 based on the information provided in the UAC Equity Scholarship or University of Newcastle Scholarship application and the assessment conducted by UAC. During scholarship offer rounds, University of Newcastle will rank applications based on financial hardship and prioritize award of scholarships to students who experience severe and/or additional educational disadvantages. University of Newcastle may consider the number, duration and severity of disadvantages, previous scholarships received, and your academic progress when awarding scholarships.

Meeting the scholarship criteria does not guarantee an offer as the number of applicants often exceeds available scholarships. If you do not receive an offer, it does not mean that you are not considered as being in need, only that there were students considered to have a greater need of support at that time. Do not let this deter you from applying for other opportunities or reapplying in subsequent offer years.

Scholarship offers will be made in accordance with the number of scholarships and funding available in each academic year. Your application will stay active for the duration of the Equity Scholarship offer period.

Your offer of this scholarship does not preclude you from applying for other University of Newcastle scholarships, however may be taken into account when selecting equity scholarships of similar value (such as the Shaping Futures Scholarships) in the interest of ensuring scholarships support is reaching as many eligible students as possible.

Selections will be communicated to UAC by the delegated Scholarships Officer. University of Newcastle will also send an email to successful applicants with advice on how to accept the offer in MyHub.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

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

- You will continue to meet relevant eligibility criteria (see the section titled “Eligibility” above) for the duration of the scholarship, unless special consideration is approved (see below).
- If your circumstances change in a way that impacts your eligibility (eg, change in study load or withdrawal from study), you agree to notify scholarships@newcastle.edu.au.
- You can receive this scholarship for full or part-time study, however the ATO may not consider this payment tax free if you are not studying full time. For more information on this, please visit the interactive “[Is my scholarship taxable?](#)” tool on the ATO website.
- If applying for an additional payment for compulsory prac or placement, you agree to provide documents detailing the length and location of placement and for scholarships staff to consult with [Student Support](#) as to the appropriate amount to be paid. You will not be entitled to additional financial support for this course, such as a financial hardship grant or student loan, and can receive this only once for your current scholarship.
- Your scholarship is subject to semester review. You will need to maintain satisfactory academic progress equivalent to a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0 or higher in each semester for the duration of the scholarship.
- If you are unable to meet any of the conditions in any term of study, you may wish to apply for special consideration.
- You will be asked to repay the initial payment of \$500 if you withdraw from your courses before census date.
- Withdrawal from studies after census date in any semester may affect your eligibility for scholarship payment in the following semester. It may also impact eligibility for future scholarship offers. If you are unable to continue study and would like to repay any amount of your scholarship, this can be arranged via email to scholarships@newcastle.edu.au.

- You may be asked to complete a short survey to assist with evaluation of this scholarship program.

BENEFIT

The scholarship provides a benefit between \$2500 - \$4250 each year depending on your semester of offer, study load, and if you have a compulsory placement during the academic year:

- **Initial Payment:** you will receive an initial payment of \$500 following acceptance of your scholarship offer and enrolment with UON.
- **Semester review:** your study load will be reviewed each semester census date and will take into account any courses undertaken in winter, summer, or trimester terms. You will receive **\$1500** for semesters in which you study a full time load (30 units or more), or **\$750** for semesters with a part-time load (20 units or less).
- **Placement Grant:** An additional lump sum between \$500 and \$750 may be approved for students undertaking compulsory placement within the academic year. You would need to apply for this additional amount in writing to scholarships@newcastle.edu.au and provide evidence showing the length and location of your placement. The amount paid will be determined in consultation with Student Support.
- **Midyear (July) applicants** will receive the initial payment of \$500 and subsequent payment for semester 2 census date only. You will need to reapply to be considered for a scholarship in semester 1 of the following academic year.

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

The scholarship is tenable for one year only (6 months for midyear applicants) and must be taken up in the year of award. You are encouraged to reapply each year that you study with the university.

PERIODS OF LEAVE

This scholarship does not provide 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.

Student Central Scholarships staff 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 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 faculty funding the scholarship will be notified.

Ongoing scholarships will not be paid out in full in instances where the recipient completes 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 Officer via email to scholarships@newcastle.edu.au. Please provide appropriate documentary evidence to support your request.

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

PRIVACY AND COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

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).

If this scholarship requires an application, 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 OFFICER

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