



Equity Scholarship Scheme University of Newcastle (ESSUN)

Terms and Conditions

ESTABLISHMENT

The University of Newcastle has a proud history of supporting motivated and talented students in gaining university entry and thriving in their field of study, regardless of their background or individual circumstances.

The Equity Scholarships Scheme University of Newcastle (ESSUN) provides scholarships assistance to students who are experiencing financial challenges and who may be experiencing other personal circumstances impacting study, including:

- Carer responsibilities
- Long term medical condition/ disability or the ongoing effects of abuse
- Living in regional or remote Australia
- Sole parent responsibilities
- Additional attributes of being a First Nations person, Refugee and humanitarian status, Out-of-home care experience.

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

FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

This scholarship is funded by the demand driven Needs Based Funding program.

ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be enrolled in an undergraduate program (including honours and non-FEE-FREE Uni Ready diploma programs) or a postgraduate coursework program at the University of Newcastle.
- Be experiencing financial challenges, demonstrated through receipt of a centrelink means-tested income support payment or other assessment categories outlined in the [UAC Equity Scholarships](#) model.
- You *may* be experiencing other educational challenges, including carer responsibilities, long term medical condition/disability, ongoing effects of abuse, living in regional or remote Australia, sole parenting responsibilities, and/or attributes of First Nations Person, Refugee and humanitarian status, or Out-of-Home Care status.
- Be enrolled either full-time or part-time.
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Not hold another University of Newcastle scholarship for the same academic year.

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 what kinds of documents are required please see UAC's [equity scholarship categories and supporting documents page](#).

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 assessment of information provided in the application, and in accordance with the number of scholarships and funding available in each academic year. Applications are assessed and ranked primarily on the assessment of financial challenges, with other areas of educational challenge considered if required.

Selection will be made by the Scholarships Officer in accordance with funding available and with consideration to distribution between new and current University of Newcastle students. In considering distribution of scholarship support to all eligible students, Scholarships Office may consider your academic progress, any existing/concurrent scholarships you hold, and the number of times you have received this scholarship prior to the current offer year.

Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application. Successful notices will include a formal offer of the scholarship and instructions on how to accept the scholarship.

Meeting the scholarship criteria does not guarantee an offer of the scholarship. If you are unsuccessful, it does not mean that you are not in need; rather, it means that other applicants have been assessed as being in greater need. Your application will stay active for future offer rounds during the current scholarship offer year and you are encouraged to reapply in each year you study.

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.
- 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 choose to, or be asked to, repay this scholarship if you accept a different University of Newcastle Scholarship of equal or higher value in the same academic year.

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

BENEFIT

The scholarship provides a benefit of up to \$8,000 for one academic year of study and will be paid as:

- \$1,000 as an early payment following acceptance of the scholarship and enrolment at the University of Newcastle.
- The remaining up to \$7,000 following Semester 1/Trimester 1 and Semester 2/Trimester 3 census dates in the year of award.

Students enrolled part-time will receive a pro-rata payment of \$1,750 per eligible study period. Full-time eligibility will be reviewed based on a student's total enrolled load at the Semester 2 or Trimester 3 census date, allowing enrolment across the academic year to be considered, up to the maximum annual scholarship value.

The scholarship is tenable for one academic year and must be taken up in the year of award. Students are encouraged to reapply for each year of eligible study.

The scholarship value and number of awards are determined by available funding each year.

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.

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).

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 the Scholarships Officer in consultation with any other relevant areas of Student and Academic Administration.

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).

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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