Equity Scholarship Scheme University of Newcastle (ESSUN)

Terms and Conditions

Establishment

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.

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, regional 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 an Australian citizen or an Australian 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 a 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.

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.

Ongoing Conditions of Your Scholarship

Eligibility

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

- Accept and take up the scholarship in the year for which it was awarded, unless otherwise specified.
- Continue to meet the eligibility criteria outlined above for the duration of the scholarship, unless special consideration is approved (see below).
- Notify scholarships@newcastle.edu.au if your circumstances change in a way that may impact your eligibility (for example, a change in study load, withdrawal from units after the census date, program transfer, leave of absence, discontinuation of study).
- 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 scholarships taxable? " tool on the ATO website.
- Maintain a GPA of 4.0 and satisfactory academic progress for the duration of the scholarship.
- You will be asked to repay the initial payment of $1000 if you withdraw from courses before census date.
- You may be asked to complete a short survey to assist with evaluation of this scholarship program.

Scholarship Reviews and Payment

- This scholarship is subject to semester review.
- Continuation of the scholarship and payment of the scholarship funds are subject to ongoing eligibility and satisfactory academic progress being maintained.
- 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.
- If you have units with Incomplete (I), Special Consideration (S), or Incomplete Placement (IP) grades your payment may be put hold until these are resolved and your ongoing eligibility for the scholarship can be confirmed.

Payment

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

- An early payment of $1,000, payable from January 2027 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.

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

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.

Leave and Special Consideration

If illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstances have affected your ability to study for a term or meet the ongoing conditions of your scholarship you may contact the Scholarships Office to discuss available support options. This may include requesting that your scholarship be placed on hold (if applicable) or applying for special consideration.

Deferral and Leave

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

Special Consideration

If you have not met the ongoing conditions of your scholarship (including GPA or study load requirements) due to illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstances you may apply for special consideration to continue your scholarship.

Requests for special consideration must be submitted to the Scholarships Office at scholarships@newcastle.edu.au and include the following:

- a statement explaining your circumstances and how these affected your ability to meet the ongoing conditions of your scholarship; and
- appropriate supporting documentation

A decision will be made by the Scholarships Officer in consultation with any other relevant areas of Student and Academic Administration.

Termination

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

The scholarship may be suspended or terminated if:

- the scholarship conditions are no longer met;
- you discontinue or complete your studies;
- you cease to be a student at the University of Newcastle; or
- serious misconduct has occurred in accordance with University policies and rules.

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

If false or misleading information has been provided, and as a result the scholarship was awarded or continued incorrectly, the scholarship may be terminated, and repayment of any ineligible scholarship payments may be required.

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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Revised: November 2026

Scholarship Code: ESSUN_3000