



## SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

---

## ESSENTIALS

The Vice-Chancellor's **Academic Excellence Scholarships Recognising Outstanding Performance in Undergraduate Studies** provide reward and recognition to high achieving undergraduate students across all faculties at the University of Newcastle.

If accepting an offer for this scholarship, you will:

- Maintain full time (minimum 40 units per semester) enrolment and academic progress with a GPA of 6.0 for the duration of the scholarship.
- Be encouraged to engage with the University as an ambassador for your degree(s).
- Be invited to remain actively connected via our Alumni contact list.
- Notify [scholarships@newcastle.edu.au](mailto: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.

This Scholarship is tenable for one (1) year and awarded once the prior study year's full grades are available.

---

## ESTABLISHMENT

In 2019, the Vice-Chancellor announced that 52 new undergraduate scholarships would be awarded across the University to high performing students progressing within their degrees from Semester 1, 2020. These Scholarships will be awarded via the five academic Faculties and Wollotuka, with two scholarships specifically recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high performers. The scholarships will be available to students progressing from year 1 to year 2, from year 2 to year 3, and from year 3 to year 4 in four-year degree programs. They will be awarded to domestic and international students on the basis of academic excellence and will be worth \$10,000 each.

These scholarships are distinct from current prizes and awards given their value and the selection criteria. They are also distinct from Faculty medals because they relate to academic performance and progression within degree programs.

The new scholarships recognise outstanding academic performance and provide students with the support they require to continue in their degrees and to identify with their degree programs as successful degree ambassadors, and as future graduates and alumni.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this scholarship, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in any undergraduate degree at the University of Newcastle;
- Be enrolled in at least 40 units each semester;
- Have maintained continuous fulltime enrolment in your program;
- Students going into their second year of study must have completed 80 units of full-time study and be continuing into the second year of the same program;
- Students going into the third year of study must have completed 160 units of full-time study and be continuing into the third year of their program;

- Students going into the fourth year of study must have completed 240 units of full-time study and be continuing into the fourth year of their program (consideration may be given to end-on Honours);
- Students must have achieved a minimum GPA of Distinction average to be considered for this Scholarship (does not apply to Medicine programs with ungraded pass grades);
- Students must not hold a concurrent scholarship with UON of equal or higher value.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- None

## SELECTION

- Selection is a competitive process, based on course outcomes and can take into account both cumulative GPA and/or course progress in any given prior year of study.
- No application process is required.
- Selection will be made by five Faculty sub-committees and a Wollotuka sub-committee for the two Scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The sub-committees will comprise of at least 3 members of staff nominated by the relevant Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty or Indigenous Strategy and Leadership).
- All sub-committees will make the selection on the basis of final grades after Semester 2 fully graded date.
- Shortlisted third year students going into their fourth year of study by means of an **end-on honours** program may be considered on a case-by-case basis. These students must have completed a relevant 240 unit (3 year) undergraduate degree in the year prior to their honours year and the scholarship offer would be conditional on acceptance to the end-on Honours program and subsequent enrolment.
- In the case of differential discipline protocols and grading systems, Faculties should devise comparable understandings of course and degree outcomes. (For instance, grading between STEM and non-STEM subjects as well as highest possible grades in different disciplines.). Faculties have discretion when considering the split of offers between Domestic and International students but **must award a minimum of two Scholarships to international students**.
- Students selected by the Wollotuka sub-committee must have their status established as Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in accordance with university [policy](#).
- Sub-committees will advise Student Central of the names of recipients and will include an additional **list of 5 or more** candidates who may receive an offer if the initial recipients are unable to take up the award.
- Formal letters will be sent to successful students by each sub-committee, signed by the PVC of the Faculty/Indigenous Strategy and Leadership immediately before a University announcement.
- Student Central will arrange for advice to students about payments and transcript notations.

## CONDITION OF AWARD

- The Scholarship is tenable for one (1) year.
- The scholarship offer must be taken up for the year of award and accepted within the timeframe outlined in the offer letter (14 days).
- Students cannot transfer out of their degree program and must be continuing in the same program for the duration of the academic year to retain the Scholarship awarded. If they choose to defer or transfer out of that program they must relinquish the Scholarship.
- Full-time enrolment must be maintained for the duration of the scholarship (minimum 40 units per semester).

- Scholars must maintain academic progress with a minimum GPA of a Distinction average for the duration of the scholarship. Where a program is ungraded, successful completion of all enrolled units with no failed courses is required.
- Scholars will be encouraged to engage with the University as ambassadors for their degree(s) and will be invited to remain actively connected via our Alumni contact list.

## **BENEFIT**

The scholarship provides a benefit of \$10,000, paid in two instalments of \$5000 after the semester 1 and 2 census dates.

## **PERIODS OF LEAVE**

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

## **TERMINATION**

A scholarship shall terminate before its due date of conclusion when the scholar:

- fails to fulfil any of the conditions of the scholarship; or
- relinquishes the scholarship; or
- ceases to be a student of the University, whichever first occurs.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION**

Where a scholar cannot continue to meet the conditions of the scholarship (such as full-time enrolment or required GPA) due to illness, injury or other extenuating circumstances, they may apply in writing to the Scholarships office for special consideration. Applications must be supported by appropriate documentary evidence and a decision will be made by Student Central in consultation with the relevant Faculty.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) may vary any of the provisions of these conditions, where it is satisfied that exceptional circumstances warrant variation.

## **PRIVACY**

The University of Newcastle will only disclose your personal information to the extent necessary for the purpose of the provision of this scholarship. For details regarding how the University of Newcastle manages the personal information of students please refer the University of Newcastle's Privacy Management Plan and Web Privacy Statement.

Established: 2019

Revised: