



SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

ESTABLISHMENT

In 2019, the Vice-Chancellor announced the **Academic Excellence Scholarships Recognising Outstanding Performance in Undergraduate Studies**. These scholarships are awarded annually to high performing students via the three academic Colleges and The Wollotuka Institute, with two scholarships specifically recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high performers. The scholarships are 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 are awarded to domestic and international students on the basis of academic excellence and are worth \$10,000 each.

These scholarships complement our commencing student high performance scholarship programs, recognising outstanding academic performance amongst our continuing students. The financial benefit and recognition provides 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 6.0 (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 University of Newcastle of equal or higher value.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- None

SELECTION

- No application is required for this scholarship.
- Selection is a competitive process, based on course outcomes and can consider both cumulative GPA and/or course progress in any given prior year of study.
- Selection will be made by three College sub-committees and an Office of thePro Vice-Chancellor - Indigenous Strategy and Leadership 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 (College or Indigenous Strategy and Leadership).

- All sub-committees will make the selection based on final grades after Semester 2 fully graded date of the year prior to offer.
- 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, Colleges 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). Colleges have discretion when considering the split of offers across academic study years, and between domestic and international students, however **must award a minimum of two scholarships to international students**.
- Students selected by the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Leadership sub-committee must have established their Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity and heritage in accordance with the University of Newcastle [policy](#).
- Sub-committees will advise Student Central of the names of recipients and will include an additional **list of 5 or more reserve** 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 College/Indigenous Strategy and Leadership immediately before a University announcement.
- Student Central will arrange for advice to students about payments and transcript notation.

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 contact scholarships@newcastle.edu.au to discuss relinquishing 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 6.0 (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.

The scholarship must be taken up in the year of award.

PERIODS OF LEAVE

This scholarship does not provide a period of leave or deferral unless approved under special consideration provisions.

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).

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

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 scholarships@newcastle.edu.au for special consideration. Applications must be supported by documentary evidence and a decision will be made by Student Central in consultation with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

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

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).

Please review 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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