



# Academic Excellence Scholarships Recognising Outstanding Performance in Undergraduate Studies

## Terms and Conditions

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### 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 based on 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.

### FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

This is a University of Newcastle funded scholarship.

### ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be enrolled in the second, third or fourth year of any undergraduate program at the University of Newcastle;
- Be continuously enrolled in your program (without breaks) with an academic load of 80 units in the year prior to scholarship award.
- To ensure fair comparison, academic consistency, and a demonstrated full-time commitment, this scholarship includes a progression by year requirement. You must be at the correct point in your studies and have completed the expected number of units for full-time progression:
  - Going into 2nd year: must have completed 80 units in the previous academic year and be continuing in the same program.
  - Going into 3rd year: must have completed 160 units and be continuing in the same program.
  - Going into 4th year: must have completed 240 units and be continuing in the same program.
  - Note: If you're entering an end-on Honours year, that may also be considered.
  - Note: A change of program is generally permissible if it was an internal transfer to a combined or advanced version of your degree.
- Have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 6.0 (Distinction average), unless enrolled in the Joint Medical Program which uses ungraded pass.
- Recipients must not hold a concurrent scholarship with University of Newcastle of equal or higher value, unless this is an International student fee-waiver scholarship.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

No documentation is required for this scholarship.

## SELECTION

**No application is required for this scholarship.**

- 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 the Pro 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 [procedure](#).
- Sub-committees will advise Scholarships staff within Student and Academic Administration 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.
- Notification will be sent to successful students by Scholarships staff via email.
- Student and Academic Administration will arrange for advice to students about payments and transcript notation.

## CONDITIONS OF AWARD

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

- 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).
- Scholars can receive an offer again in subsequent years, provided they still meet the eligibility criteria for award.
- Scholars generally cannot transfer out of their program and must continue in the same program for the duration of the academic year to retain the scholarship awarded. Some exceptions may be considered, such as transfer into a Combined or Advanced version of their program. If you choose to defer or transfer out of your program, you must contact [scholarships@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@newcastle.edu.au) to discuss relinquishing the scholarship.
- Full-time enrolment must be maintained for the duration of the scholarship (minimum of 80 units in the academic year). This can be across a combination of Semester 1, Winter, and Semester 2 terms.

- 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 usually after the semester 1 and 2 census dates.

The scholarship must be taken up in the award year.

## **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.

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

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) may vary any of the provisions of these conditions, where 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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