



## SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

# DR BILL JONAS SCHOLARSHIP

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## BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF KEY CONDITIONS

The intent of this scholarship is to honor the memory of Dr Bill Jonas by supporting Indigenous students studying at the University of Newcastle.

If accepting an offer of this scholarship, you will:

- Maintain your part time or full-time enrolment and academic progress with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of **4.0 or higher** for the duration of the scholarship.
- 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.
- Agree to write a message of thanks to the donor via email to [Donor-Relations@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Donor-Relations@newcastle.edu.au) within 2 weeks of accepting your offer, and
- Be available for a presentation ceremony during Scholars Week events (usually around September) or other events as requested.

This scholarship is for a term of one year provided ongoing eligibility.

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## ESTABLISHMENT

This scholarship has been established by donations made to the Dr Bill Jonas Memorial Indigenous Fund. The fund was established with donations from the Wollotuka Institute, friends, family and community members who wished to honour Dr Bill Jonas's significant contribution to Wollotuka and the University of Newcastle.

Dr Jonas, a proud Worimi man, is widely regarded as a pioneer of Indigenous rights. Dr Jonas' list of impressive achievements includes contributions as an academic, activist and administrator. Dr Jonas, the first Aboriginal Australian to be awarded a PhD and the nation's second Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, died on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Bill studied Geography at the University of Newcastle's predecessor, Newcastle University College, graduating with honours in 1963 and completing a Diploma in Education the following year. He taught at Maitland Boys High School (1964-1967) and took postgraduate studies in Geography at the University of Newcastle. He took up a lectureship at the University of Papua New Guinea (1969-1973), where he earned his PhD, the first awarded to an Aboriginal person. He returned to Australia to teach at the University of Newcastle (1974-1991), establishing perhaps the first university geography course on Aboriginal Australia in the early 1980s.

Bill contributed to ground-breaking studies of Aboriginal needs in NSW. He led important innovations in Aboriginal studies at Newcastle and supported the influential Newcastle Awabakal Aboriginal Cooperative before his appointment as a Royal Commissioner on the Inquiry into the British Nuclear Tests in Australia (1984-85) – the Maralinga Inquiry led by Diamond Jim McClelland.

Bill subsequently led work in Aboriginal heritage protection, for which he was honoured with an Order of Australia Medal for services to protection and preservation of Aboriginal heritage and culture (1993). He was Principal of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (1991-1996), Director of the National Museum of Australia (1996-1999) and Social Justice Commissioner and Acting Race Relations Commissioner (1999-2004). After his retirement Bill continued as a member of the University of Newcastle Council, Director of the NSW Aboriginal Health College and commentator on issues of human rights, social justice and Indigenous recognition.

Bill's importance as a public intellectual was widely recognised by his peers and he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Newcastle in 1998 and the Institute of Australian Geographers' Professional Service Medal in 1999.

## FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

This is a donor-funded scholarship from the Dr Bill Jonas Memorial Indigenous Fund.

## ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be enrolled in any year of an undergraduate or postgraduate degree at the University of Newcastle;
- Be enrolled full time or part time;
- Demonstrate academic progress either by the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) or equivalent required for entry for commencing students, or a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0 for continuing students;
- Identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and be recognised as such by your community;
- Demonstrate that your ability to study is affected, or will be affected, by areas of educational disadvantage. These include being a carer and/or sole parent, experiencing financial hardship, a long term medical condition/disability, ongoing effects of abuse, regional or remote disadvantage, or English language difficulty. It also includes attributes of being an Indigenous Australian;
- Not hold another University of Newcastle donor-funded or sponsored scholarship concurrently.

## 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.
- Confirmation of Aboriginality Documents for establishing Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status with University of Newcastle. Please see list of accepted documents [here](#).
- You will also have the option to provide up to 3 documents which show your commitment to leadership within your community, such as a reference, proof of volunteering and community activities, leadership committee or club membership, articles or publications.
- 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 you can get an idea of what kinds of documents are required [here](#).

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 a competitive process and will be based on assessment of the scholarship application and any required supporting documents, with reference to the eligibility criteria.

Selection will be made by the Indigenous Scholarship Selection Committee which will consist of a minimum of three members chosen by the Pro Vice-Chancellor – Indigenous Strategy and Leadership.

The Selection Committee will communicate the details of successful recipients to the delegated Scholarships Officer, and all applicants will be notified of an outcome via email. This will occur within 6 weeks of the scholarship application closing date.

## 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](mailto:scholarships@newcastle.edu.au).
- You agree to write a letter of thanks to the donor via email to [Donor-Relations@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Donor-Relations@newcastle.edu.au) within 2 weeks of accepting your offer. You may also provide contact details and permission for them to contact you regarding the industry opportunities associated with this scholarship.
- You will be available to attend a presentation ceremony during Scholars Week (usually around September) where you may have opportunity to meet with donors and/or their representatives.

## BENEFIT

The scholarship provides a total benefit of **\$5,000** for one year and must be taken up in the year for which it is awarded.

The scholarship will be paid as two lump sums of \$2,500 after the relevant semester census dates (usually in April and September).

The scholarship benefit and number of scholarships awarded may vary and will be determined by the funding available each year.

## PERIODS OF LEAVE

You may apply in writing to [scholarships@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@newcastle.edu.au) for consideration to reserve your scholarship if you are unable to study due to illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstances. An application must be supported by documentary evidence.

Periods of approved leave for the scholarship:

- must not exceed two consecutive semesters of study; and
- will not be counted towards the term of the scholarship.

## 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).

If the scholarship is terminated early, the Office of Alumni and Philanthropy will be advised and the donor notified.

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

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](mailto:scholarships@newcastle.edu.au). Please provide appropriate documentary evidence to support your request.

A decision will be made by Student Central Scholarships staff in consultation with the Office of Alumni & Philanthropy.

## **PRIVACY AND COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

If applying for a donor-funded scholarship, the application or a summary of information provided with the application may be provided to an external donor and/or their representative. This is for the purpose of scholarship selection and otherwise to inform the donor that the terms of the donation are met.

You may be asked by the Scholarships Officer if you give permission for any short articles or newsletter items to be published. You may have the option to provide a photo, quote and or short paragraph about yourself for this.

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 OFFICER**

Student Services Centre  
University of Newcastle  
University Drive  
CALLAGHAN NSW 2308

Phone: +61 2 4921 5000  
Fax: +61 2 4921 5759  
Email: [scholarships@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@newcastle.edu.au)

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Revised: