



SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

RITA LEECH INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIP

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF KEY CONDITIONS

If accepting an offer of this scholarship, you will:

- Maintain your enrolment and academic progress with the University of Newcastle for the duration of the scholarship.
- Notify 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 within 2 weeks of accepting your offer, and
- Be available for a presentation ceremony during Scholars Week events (usually around September).

This scholarship is for the duration of your undergraduate degree up to a maximum of 5 years. The scholarship pays \$10,000 per annum.

ESTABLISHMENT

This scholarship was established by the trustees of the Trustees of the Rita Leech Aboriginal Education Trust, set up under Rita Leech's will.

Rita was born and bred in the Netherlands, coming from a large happy family. As a teenager she knew war and occupation, cold, fear and near starvation. She moved to Australia in the fifties. It was not always easy, but she became a real Aussie. With her quick mind she found suitable employment. She decided later in life to go to university, with majors in French and German and gained high distinctions and honours.

Rita was in the Central Coast Reconciliation Group; she hated discrimination and injustice, and she knew the importance of education. She put her beliefs into practice by making provision for an Indigenous Scholarship.

FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

This is a donor-funded scholarship from the Trustees of the Rita Leech Aboriginal Education Trust, set up under Rita Leech's will.

ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be enrolled any year of an undergraduate degree program with the University of Newcastle;
- Be studying at a Central Coast Campus;
- Be enrolled full time (min 30 units per semester or equivalent);
- Establish your Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity and heritage with the university as outlined [here](#);
- Demonstrate that your ability to study is affected, or will be affected experiencing financial hardship;
- Have a GPA of 4.0 or higher; and
- 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.
- 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** Selection Panel which will consist of a minimum of three members chosen by the Pro Vice-Chancellor – Indigenous Strategy and Leadership.

The Selection Panel 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.
- You agree to write a letter of thanks to the donor via email to Donor-Relations@newcastle.edu.au within 2 weeks of accepting your offer.
- You agree to be available if there is an opportunity to meet with the donor/s or donor representatives of this scholarship.

BENEFIT

The scholarship provides a total benefit of \$10,000 per annum for the remaining duration of your undergraduate degree up to a maximum of 5 years.

The scholarship will be paid as two lumps sums of \$5,000 after the relevant 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 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.

The Scholarships office 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 the 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/sponsor] 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. 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

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Revised: