



## SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

# HELEN MASLEN SCHOLARSHIP

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### BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF KEY CONDITIONS

This scholarship was established by Helen Maslen to support students who are survivors of domestic violence, empowering them to achieve their education ambitions and independence.

If accepting an offer of this scholarship, you will:

- Maintain your enrolment and academic progress with University of Newcastle 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 representative of 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).

This scholarship is for a term of one year with a total benefit of \$5000.

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### ESTABLISHMENT

This scholarship was established by Helen Maslen to support students who are survivors of domestic violence, empowering them to achieve their education ambitions and independence.

Helen grew up in Sydney and married young. In the ensuing twenty years she had five children and was the victim of repeated domestic violence at the hands of her husband. With no support, no finances and five children to care for, Helen had no-where to go in a time when domestic violence was very much swept under the carpet and authorities had no power to intervene.

Helen vowed, should she ever come into money, she would use it to help others who have also been traumatised by domestic violence. Helen hopes that her scholarship will empower survivors by providing opportunity through education – giving domestic violence survivors strength, independence, and the ability to achieve their dreams.

The impacts of domestic violence can be felt many years post violence and may affect the survivor's ability to study. Research data shows that significant recovery can occur when the survivor has access to social, educational, or financial support such as this scholarship. Some survivors may describe their experiences as being both negative and positive in terms of the strength and empowerment gained in the survival process. Accessing higher education and support available can contribute to this important positive sense of surviving.

### FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

This is a donor-funded scholarship from Helen Maslen.

## ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be enrolled in any year of an enabling, undergraduate, or postgraduate degree program at the University of Newcastle.
- Be enrolled part-time or full time.
- Demonstrate that the ability to study is affected, or will be affected, by financial hardship.
- Have accessed higher education as part of a process for surviving domestic violence.
- Demonstrate sound academic performance either by ATAR (or equivalent) required for entry to your program or satisfactory progression through your degree and/or enabling subjects.
- Not hold another University of Newcastle donor-funded or sponsored scholarship concurrently.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

There is an option to provide details of ongoing effects of trauma and abuse under the Medical section of your online scholarship application. Please note that we acknowledge that this may be distressing for applicants. It is not a requirement for this scholarship. However, you may wish to complete assessment under medical impact as it may be taken into account for other equity scholarships. If you need support in your consideration of this, please use the contacts listed at the bottom of the application page for practical and emotional support.

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 will be asked the question ***Are you accessing higher education as part of your process for surviving domestic violence?*** which requires a yes/no response.
- A **Letter of Support** completed by a responsible person who can comment on the educational impact of your circumstances and/or condition. This may be completed by a responsible person or UON staff member from Counselling Service, Medical Centre, Tutor, Campus Care, or CEEHE. You may also use your Medical and/or Educational Impact Statements here if applying for other equity scholarships for ongoing effects of abuse.
- You **may** be required to provide documents to support your **financial hardship** and any other educational disadvantage claims, although a centrelink reference number may be sufficient. If any additional documents are required, they will be identified based on your individual application responses and detailed in the 'Documents' section of your application. 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 Multi-Faculty Selection Panel which will consist of a minimum of three members chosen by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic.

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 representative via email to [Donor-Relations@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Donor-Relations@newcastle.edu.au) within 2 weeks of accepting your offer.
- 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. There will be an option to do this privately, should you not want any public acknowledgement of your award.

## BENEFIT

This scholarship is for a term of one year and must be taken up in the year for which it is awarded.

The scholarship provides a total benefit of **\$5000 to be paid as \$2500 after the semester 1 and 2 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/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](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 and Academic Administration  
Student Central  
University of Newcastle  
University Drive  
CALLAGHAN NSW 2308  
Phone: +61 2 4921 5000  
Email: [scholarships@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@newcastle.edu.au)

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