



VICTOR & ADELE BEAR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF KEY CONDITIONS

This scholarship was established to encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the Joint medical Program.

If accepting an offer of this scholarship, you will:

- Maintain full-time or part-time enrolment and academic progress with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of **4.0** 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 tenable for up to four (4) years and currently provides a benefit of \$5,000 each year.

ESTABLISHMENT

This scholarship was established by Victor and Adele Bear to encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the Bachelor of Medicine. Victor Bear was an Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon in Sydney. He also travelled to Aboriginal communities in Western NSW and the Northern Territory bringing regular ENT clinics to them. As he came to understand that locally based practitioners were vital to maintaining healthy ears, he also taught Aboriginal health workers how to check for problems before they became chronic. Two of Victor and Adele Bear's daughters, Susan and Deidre continue to support the scholarships to honour their parent's legacy.

A maximum of (1) scholarship will be offered at any one time.

FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

This is a donor-funded scholarship from Victor, Adele, Susan and Deidre Bear.

ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be enrolled in the 2nd year of the Joint Medical Program with University of Newcastle;
- Be enrolled full time or part-time;
- Demonstrate satisfactory progression through your degree with no failed units;
- Identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and be recognised as such your community;
- Not have previously received this scholarship;
- 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 written statement demonstrating/outlining your academic achievements to date, career aspirations in the relevant area of study/research and how this scholarship would assist you
- Confirmation of Aboriginality (Common Seal) and a written reference made by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community member who knows you in the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community. Please see list of accepted documents [here](#).

Any applicant that does not submit the required documentation, including documentary evidence, will not be considered for selection.

Other examples of supporting documents may include CV, evidence of sporting achievements, evidence of community involvement, essay/proposal, driver's licence, health care card etc.

SELECTION

Selection is a competitive process and will be based on assessment of the scholarship application and any required supporting documents. Applications will be ranked against the eligibility criteria and documentation provided and sent to the nominated University staff member (and any other person(s) nominated) for selection and sign off.

Selection will be made by the Wollotuka Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will consist of a minimum of three members chosen by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Education and Research).

Where there are no eligible applicants after a maximum of two rounds per year then the scholarship will not be offered for that year.

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

- The scholarship is tenable for up to four (4) years. The scholarship must be taken up in the year for which it was awarded, unless otherwise specified.
- The scholar shall continue to meet all eligibility criteria specified in these conditions and any other specified requirements for the duration of the scholarship unless special consideration is approved (see special consideration section below).
- This scholarship is subject to semester review. Continuation of the scholarship and payment of the scholarship benefit are subject to the scholar maintaining satisfactory academic progress, that is, a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4 or higher, and continuing to meet the eligibility criteria of the scholarship. Documentary evidence may be requested to confirm ongoing eligibility.
- The scholar shall not be required by the donor or the University to undertake employment as a condition of award of the scholarship.
- The scholar will make themselves available for an official presentation ceremony and meeting with the scholarship donor in Scholars week.

BENEFIT

The scholarship currently provides a total maximum benefit of \$20,000 for 4 years of study. This will be paid in two annual installments of \$2,500 made after the Semester one and Semester two census dates.

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.

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, a return to home country for family or cultural reasons, 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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Established:

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