

Vice-Chancellor's International Academic Merit Scholarship

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1.0 ESTABLISHMENT

The Vice-Chancellor's International Academic Merit Scholarship has been established to attract academically gifted students to study at the University of Newcastle. This scholarship acknowledges applicants with a strong academic background and provides an ongoing incentive for continued academic achievement. Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who receive an offer to study in an eligible program and who commence study with the University in Trimester 1, 2027 and beyond.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 "Census Date" means the date of each term on which a student enrolled in a program of study is deemed to be financially liable for that program.

"Eligible program" means an undergraduate or postgraduate coursework degree program delivered at an Australian campus, other than those specified in Appendix 1.

"Internal transfer students" means current University students wishing to transfer to an alternative program of study prior to completion of their original program as indicated in their letter of offer.

"International Student" means a student who is not an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or a holder of an Australia Permanent Residency Visa (or dual citizenship holders of either Australia or New Zealand). This includes students enrolled at onshore campuses who have a student visa, provisional residency, temporary residency, or bridging visa with study permission.

"Letter of Offer" means the written offer provided to the applicant by the University of Newcastle's International Admissions Team, which outlines the duration, cost, location, and associated terms for the applicant's chosen program of study.

"Offshore campuses" means programs delivered by the University at campuses located outside of Australia and its territories.

"Program" means the program of study listed in the recipient's letter of offer that corresponds with their scholarship letter.

"Recipient" means a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Academic Merit Scholarship.

"Scholarship" means the Vice-Chancellor's Academic Merit Scholarship.

"University" means University of Newcastle.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 The successful scholar must:

- 3.1.1 Be an international full fee-paying student.
- 3.1.2 Have achieved a minimum selection rank of 85 or equivalent (for undergraduate students) or 4.5 / 7 GPA in an eligible qualification (for postgraduate students).
- 3.1.3 Be commencing study in an eligible CRICOS-registered undergraduate or postgraduate coursework degree program at the University.
- 3.1.4 Not be the beneficiary of a separate University scholarship unless prior approval or special dispensation has been obtained from the University.
- 3.1.5 Be able to meet the financial obligations of a full fee-paying international student specified by the Australian Government. Evidence of this ability must be provided if requested by the University.
- 3.1.6 Not be enrolled in a program of study covered under a quota arrangement, which limits the number of international students able to be accepted. These programs are identified in Appendix 1.
- 3.1.7 Reside within 50km of the campus location specified on their Confirmation of Enrolment (COE). The University reserves the right to request evidence of an applicant's residential address. Documents accepted for the purpose of address verification are listed in Appendix 2. Students providing false or misleading information and / or documents will be deemed ineligible for the scholarship, and their COE may be cancelled.

3.2 The following students are not eligible to receive this scholarship, even if they meet the criteria outlined in 3.1:

- 3.2.1 Students who have not received an offer for the scholarship.
- 3.2.2 Students who are studying ELBP, Enabling, Non-Award, Exchange or Study Abroad, Higher Degrees by Research programs, degrees without a CRICOS code, standalone Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma, and programs delivered at offshore campuses or via online delivery.
- 3.2.3 Internal transfer students who are studying at an Australian campus.
- 3.2.4 Students who are sponsored by an external entity or are recipients of an Australia Awards scholarship, or students transferring from the University's Singapore campus.

4.0 SELECTION

4.1 Scholarships are automatically assessed upon application to the University (where other eligibility criteria are met).

- 4.1.1 Students will receive notification of the value of the scholarship within the Letter of Offer.
- 4.1.2 Should a recipient wish to reject an offer of scholarship, it is the recipient's responsibility to inform the University.
- 4.2 Scholarship offers will be made based on eligibility. All determinations of eligibility are aligned to the University's published entry and eligibility processes and made at the discretion of the University.
- 4.3 The University reserves the right not to award the scholarship.
 - 4.3.1 The University reserves the right to withdraw or amend the offer of scholarship if the applicant is subsequently deemed to be ineligible, the applicant is in breach of the terms of the scholarship offer, the number of available scholarships has been exhausted, or the scholarship is no longer offered.

5.0 CONDITIONS OF AWARD

- 5.1 The scholarship is payable for the number of units required to complete the eligible program as specified in the University's [program handbook](#). This excludes units awarded as credit or 'Recognition of Prior Learning' and credit granted after the commencement of a program.
- 5.2 The scholarship must be taken up for the program (including master programs packaged with a graduate certificate or graduate diploma program).
 - 5.2.1 If a recipient defers their offer to a future intake, scholarship eligibility will be lost. The recipient may subsequently reapply in the future, assuming the number of scholarships available has not been exhausted.
 - 5.2.2 If a recipient applies for an internal transfer to an alternative program, the recipient will not be eligible for a scholarship for the alternative program.
- 5.3 The scholarship provides an international tuition fee waiver and does not cover the cost of visas, Overseas Student Health Cover, travel, accommodation, medical and living expenses, amenities fees, books, study materials or any other expenses associated with studying at the University.
- 5.4 The recipient must pay the appropriate tuition fees within the stipulated payment deadlines and must remain in good financial standing with the University.
- 5.5 The recipient must remain compliant with their visa conditions, including but not limited to the requirement to maintain a full-time study load if holding a student visa, unless approval is obtained for a reduced study load (visit the University's [webpage](#) for additional details).
- 5.6 The recipient must maintain international student status during their enrolment at the University. The scholarship will be terminated if the recipient ceases to be an international student as defined under the Migration Regulations 1994.
- 5.7 The recipient must maintain a consistent level of academic achievement for the program of

study. If a recipient does not maintain a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 4.0 (pass grade) throughout their enrolment, eligibility for the scholarship will be reassessed and the scholarship may be cancelled. Reinstatement of the scholarship will be at the discretion of the University.

5.8 The recipient may be required to participate in marketing activities for and on behalf of the University, which may be published on the University's website or used for other promotional purposes.

5.9 The recipient must be willing to be featured in such promotional collateral produced by the University and be involved in promotional activity arranged by the University. Recipients of this scholarship acknowledge and accept these terms and conditions and consent for their image and / or testimonial to be used for promotional purposes.

6.0 BENEFIT

6.1 The scholarship is based on a variable value (dependent on program) for each year of study under a standard full-time study load (80 units) apportioned over each course taken.

Table 1 outlines the maximum scholarship value and number available to recipients. It is applied on a pro-rata basis, taking into consideration approved reduced study load arrangements, credit exemptions, recognition of prior learning, progression, or partial-year enrolments.

Annual Scholarship Value	A dollar value equivalent to 30% of the gross Indicative Annual Program Fee for students taking the prescribed ('full-time') study load. Students with approved reduced load will be eligible for a pro-rata value based on the number of units being undertaken.
Unit Value (based on 10 units)	Variable based on program of study
Number of Scholarships	A maximum of 270 scholarships are available in 2027. Once this number has been exhausted, eligible students will be advised on application and can join a waitlist.

Table 1: Maximum scholarship value (AU\$) and number available.

6.1.1 The scholarship will be administered for each term of study in the eligible program(s) as a tuition fee reduction against the number of units required to successfully complete the program of study as specified in the University's [program handbook](#).

6.1.2 For programs requiring over 80 full-time study loads for each year of study, the applicable unit value noted in Table 1 will be paid for each additional 10 units.

- 6.1.3 Where offers to a Master program are packaged with a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma, the scholarship is payable for both programs undertaken by the recipient. Students enrolled in a standalone Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma are ineligible for the scholarship (as indicated in section 3.2.2).
- 6.2** Should a recipient need to retake units or take additional units to complete the program that exceeds the units of study indicated in the initial COE (the scholarship benefit has been exhausted), the scholarship benefit will no longer be applied to the remaining units of study required to complete the program.
- 6.3** The scholarship benefit will be applied as tuition fee waivers directly into the recipient's University student account.
- 6.3.1 This will reduce the tuition fee liability by the scholarship benefit amount for each term of the program of study, provided the conditions of the scholarship are maintained. The benefit amount will be calculated on number of units the recipient is enrolled in at Census date for each term.
- 6.3.2 Recipients will be billed normal tuition fee rates based on enrolment load leading into census date of each eligible term for which the benefit applies. The tuition fee waiver may not be reflected on the tuition fee account until census has passed. After census date, a fee waiver will be applied to the recipient's student account.
- 6.3.3 The scholarship has no monetary value and cannot be redeemed as a cash payment in the event of a recipient's enrolment being withdrawn, deferred or cancelled. Any refund of overpaid tuition fees to a student upon withdrawal before the completion of their program will not include any scholarship benefit originally offered by the University.
- 6.4** Any overpayment by the recipient will remain in the tuition fee account to allocate to the next term's fees.
- 6.4.1 A recipient who has completed their full program of study can apply for a refund of unallocated fees.
- 6.4.2 If a recipient withdraws from the program of study, the scholarship value (which was applied as a fee waiver to the student account) will be retained by the University and is not refundable to the recipient.

7.0 SUSPENSION OF SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

- 7.1** A recipient may apply in writing for a suspension of the scholarship benefit because of illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstances. All applications must be supported by appropriate documentary evidence for the request to be assessed. The University reserves the right to decline the suspension request.
- 7.2** Periods of suspension approved in writing by the University shall not reduce the tenure of the scholarship.
- 7.3**

8.0 TERMINATION

8.1 A scholarship shall terminate before its due date of conclusion if the recipient:

8.1.1 Fails to fulfil any of the conditions of the scholarship, or

8.1.2 Relinquishes the scholarship, or

8.1.3 Ceases to be an international student at the University, whichever first occurs.

9.0 APPEALS

9.1 An applicant for, or recipient of, a scholarship may appeal in writing to the University, if they believe that procedures followed were deficient, defective or unfair. The University will provide a written response to the appeal within 20 business days of receipt.

10.0 VARIATION

10.1 The University reserves the right to vary any of the provisions of these conditions, where satisfied that circumstances warrant variation. The University, at its absolute discretion, may vary or withdraw the scholarship for commencing (i.e. not yet enrolled in their program of study) students. Written confirmation of any adjustment or cessation of the scholarship will be provided to applicants prior to the commencement of their program of study.

Appendix 1: Programs where the Vice-Chancellor's International Academic Merit Scholarship is not available

Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science - Diagnostic Radiography (Honours) [088060E]
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science - Nuclear Medicine (Honours) [088061D]
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science - Radiation Therapy (Honours) [088062C/116244E]
Bachelor of Medical Science / Doctor of Medicine [082394J]
Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics (Honours) [001131C]
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) [001132B]
Bachelor of Oral Health Therapy [084069F]
Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) [079931D]
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) [0329298M]
Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine (Honours) [116126M]
Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) [029748F]
Graduate Certificate in Human and Social Services [116622F]
Master of Social Work (Qualifying) [116623E]

Appendix 2: Documents accepted as proof of residential address

Utility Bill

Electricity, Gas, Water or Local Council Rates, internet or landline phone (not mobile) bills, issued within the last 3 (three) months.

Bank Statements

Statements or transaction summaries from an Australian bank recognised and licensed by APRA, issued within the last 3 (three) months.

Government-issued notices

Tax notices, Medicare statements, Centrelink statements or other official Government correspondence issued within the last 6 (six) months.

Mortgage statements

Home loan statements issued by an Australian lender recognised and licensed by APRA, issued within the last 6 (six) months.

Lease Agreements

Rental contracts issued by an appropriately registered and licensed Australian real estate agent, for a duration of at least 6 (six) months, issued within the last 3 (three) months.

Documents must be in English, fully legible, and will be verified at source if certified copies are not provided. Documents other than those detailed in this appendix will not be accepted for the purpose of address verification.