



Undergraduate Research Scholarship in Environmental Microbiology

Terms and Conditions

Establishment

This scholarship is available to support a program of supervised research in the field of Environmental Microbiology with the School of Science (Environmental Science and Management) during Semester 2 2026.

The scholarship includes a financial benefit of \$4000 in addition to a research project in marine microbiology.

Eligibility

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

- Be currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management/or Bachelor of Coastal and Marine Science/or Bachelor of Science/or Bachelor of Biotechnology degree (including Combined and Advanced programs) at the University of Newcastle.
- Have completed a minimum of 80 units in your current degree, including completion of first year core courses.
- Have Grade Point Average (GPA) of 6.0 or higher
- Be available and interested in participating in the research experience offered with this scholarship.
- Be willing to work on campus in Ourimbah, and in the field on rock platforms and boats on the Central Coast.

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 a scholarship would assist you. This statement will cover all scholarships you apply for.
- A 300-word statement outlining your experience and/or interest in environmental microbiology and availability to participate in a research project during semester 2. The research project will be aimed at understanding the accumulation of the bacterium *Escherichia coli* in cunjevoi (sea squirts) and fish with proximity to ocean outfalls, as well as evaluate the applicability of Australian Standard food safety protocols to cunjevoi and wild fish as an indicator of accumulation of *E. coli* from their environment.

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 shall be based on:

- A review of all eligibility criteria
- Your interest in the experience as demonstrated in your personal statement
- Academic Merit (Cumulative Grade Point Average)

Selection will be made by a panel of three members of University of Newcastle Academic staff, including Associate Professor Megan Huggett.

Benefit

The scholarship provides a benefit of \$4000. This will be paid in two instalments of \$2000 on acceptance of the scholarship offer and at the conclusion of the scholarship.

The scholarship offers the opportunity to undertake supervised, non-compulsory research during Semester 2. This will be for the equivalent of 15 full-time days and will conclude before the end of Semester 2. The schedule details can be arranged in consultation with your supervisor to accommodate your other commitments.

Although participation is not compulsory, it is the intention of this scholarship to support a student genuinely interested in and committed to making the most of this opportunity.

Periods of Leave

This scholarship does not provide a period of leave or deferral.

Termination

A scholarship shall terminate when:

- the recipient's circumstances change and eligibility for the scholarship is no longer met;
- the maximum duration of the scholarship has been reached; or
- the recipient provides written notice that they no longer wish to continue on the scholarship.

Privacy and Collection of Personal Information

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 Office

University of Newcastle
University Drive
CALLAGHAN NSW 2308

Phone: +61 2 4921 5000
Email: scholarships@newcastle.edu.au

Established: August 2026
Scholarship Code: VAC_073