Testimonial

As a woman, a parent, and an older Indigenous student, I didn’t feel like I fit in with the other engineering students, especially in my first year. I felt that I had a very different upbringing and different experiences and ways of thinking than other students. I didn’t have a typical pathway to engineering. I had no previous knowledge of the maths, physics and chemistry required.

Scholarships helped give me confidence and motivation. They gave me the ability to study and spend time with my son. I felt that if someone else believed in me and I was doing well enough to receive a scholarship, I could excel and graduate.

My scholarships also opened my eyes to all the opportunities out there. They allowed me to meet lots of industry people. As a result, I was invited to many events and had several work placements.

I now enjoy a full-time position at Inpex with the onsite Engineering team.

Rikki Bruce, Mechanical Engineering graduate, CDU scholarships recipient

Scholarships at CDU

We are committed to providing opportunities to students through our scholarship program, which is supported by government, local business, organisations and individuals.

Types of scholarships

We offer scholarships for different purposes and with different selection criteria. Some are for students who show talent and passion for their area of study. Others are for students who show commitment and vision in their local community. There are scholarships for sports involvement, for work placement and to help students struggling financially. Scholarships are also for students who choose to postpone their studies to make way for other life commitments.

Scholarships range between $500 and $15,000, and are paid directly into your bank account, so you can use the funds in the way you feel best helps your studies.

Scholarship categories

CDU offers scholarships in the following categories:

- high achieving school leavers
- Indigenous Australians
- location-specific
- female
- higher education courses
- VET courses

To find out which scholarship best suits you go to the Scholarship Finder website.

W: cdu.edu.au/scholarships/scholarships-finder
Who can apply?
Anyone who is or will be studying at CDU that meets the eligibility criteria. You can apply for more than one scholarship. You can hold up to two active scholarships at one time. If you are offered more than two scholarships, you will be asked to choose which two scholarships you wish to accept.

When and how to apply
Check when applications open, then go to the Scholarship Finder website to identify which scholarships you may be eligible to apply for. Open each scholarship and check you meet the eligibility. When you are ready, select the ‘Apply for this scholarship’ button. Make sure you address each selection criteria in your application.

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Your written statement
Aim to write at least 500 words for your application. Remember, the panel may have a lot of applications to read, so keep it as concise as possible. When writing your statement, you need to make sure you address each of the selection criteria individually. The following information will give you some helpful hints.

What does the panel require?
Look again at the selection criteria on the CDU Scholarships website. Are there any points you’re being asked to cover specifically? If it says ‘demonstrate passion, ability and initiative’ you need to do just that by giving examples on each topic. You can support your application by providing documents relating to your community involvement or references confirming your passion.

We recommended using the selection criteria as headings and answer these directly underneath. This method makes it easy for the panel to identify that you have addressed the criteria.

What is the panel looking for in a recipient?
If you are asked to ‘demonstrate a commitment to the NT and intention to use your qualifications and skills in the Territory,’ give examples of how you hope to do this once you achieve your degree. It’s important to recognise the donors are looking for someone who will get involved and give back to the community. A great way to demonstrate your ties to the NT would be to mention your participation in any community groups, sporting teams or even social clubs you are part of.

Who is giving the scholarship and what is their background/purpose?
Do some online research. Find out information about the donor of the scholarship. Tying this information into your statement shows you have done your homework. If you can relate this to yourself and your goals, even better.

Tell the panel about yourself but keep it relevant
The panel that assesses each scholarship wants to get to know you. They want to have an idea of who the recipient is, not just their ability to address selection criteria. If you can include personal information and keep it relevant, then do so. For example, a person who grew up with a family involved in motor sports might tie that into why they want to study mechanical engineering. Include personal information in your application as long as it relates to the category of scholarship you are applying for.

Give them something extra
Finally, think about your competition, particularly for a scholarship that is aimed at a specific course. Consider that the other applicants will be reading this brochure too. What sets you apart from them? Why do you deserve or need it more? No examples here; you will have to think about this and demonstrate how you can stand out from the crowd!

Scholarships change lives!
To become a scholarship donor contact advancement@cdu.edu.au today.
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