

First Nations Australian Commonwealth Scholarships 2023

Scholarship payment amounts are available on the [First Nations Commonwealth Scholarships](#) webpage.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

You must

- > provide proof of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. Acceptable documents may be one of the following:
 - o A Confirmation of Aboriginality letter stamped with a community seal and/or signed by a delegate of an incorporated Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community organisation that you identify with. If you currently do not have proof of heritage or are unsure of how to obtain this document, please contact the [First Nations Student Services](#).
 - o Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN) if in receipt of ABSTUDY
- > be enrolled in the Tertiary Enabling Program or Preparation for Tertiary Success program, an undergraduate course, or a post-graduate course (excluding research degrees)
- > be enrolled in at least 2 units (20 credit points) per semester
- > demonstrate financial hardship either by:
 - o receiving a Centrelink (or other Commonwealth) means-tested income support payment (such as Austudy, ABSTUDY, Youth Allowance etc), or
 - o receiving personal taxable income below the HECS-HELP repayment threshold for 2022/2023 (currently \$48,361 per year), or
 - o providing a statement of financial need
- > demonstrate the need to move for study and be enrolled internally to be eligible for the Accommodation Scholarship
- > must not be in receipt of a current First Nations Commonwealth Scholarship
- > (for continuing or previously enrolled students) demonstrate an appropriate academic record of a pass in more than 50% of the credit points attempted during the previous [academic progression period](#)
- > Priority will be given to students who are from regional/remote areas of Australia

You may not be eligible for a scholarship if you are

- > in receipt of a Centrelink Start-Up loan/Scholarship and/or a Relocation Scholarship and/or ABSTUDY Residential Costs Option

DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships are for one (1) year only. Applicants must reapply each year.

PAYMENT

- > Each recipient will be paid by electronic funds transfer to their nominated bank account.
- > Payment will be made after the Census dates in Semester 1 and Semester 2.
- > Payments are subject to the recipient satisfying ongoing eligibility criteria as detailed below.

ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

To receive semester 2 payments recipients must pass the following 3 reviews at the end of semester 1.

1. Academic progress
The recipient must pass more than 50% of their enrolled load in a progression period and not fail the same unit two (2) or more times.
2. CDU Enrolment
The recipient must continue to be enrolled in at least 2 units (20 credit points) in semester 1 and semester 2.
3. Financial Hardship
The recipient must demonstrate continual financial hardship as submitted in the online survey which will be emailed prior to semester 2.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PAYMENTS (EFFECTIVE FROM SEMESTER 1 2017)

Education and Accommodation Scholarships

Undergraduate – 8 payments

Postgraduate – 4 payments

Education and Accommodation Scholarships

Enabling – 2 payments

OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND CONDITIONS

- > The offer of the Scholarship is made subject to information provided by the recipient being true and accurate.
- > By accepting the offer of the Scholarship, each recipient agrees to the Scholarship Terms and Conditions.
- > The recipient is responsible for advising the Scholarships Officer of any changes in circumstances that would make them ineligible for the continuation of the Scholarship.

TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship will terminate:

- > If the recipient does not meet the ongoing eligibility criteria; or
- > If the recipient withdraws from their course; or
- > If the recipient breaches any conditions of the Scholarship; or
- > If CDU determines that the student is guilty of serious misconduct

SERVICES AUSTRALIA AND ATO INFORMATION

Students who are receiving certain Commonwealth Benefits are recommended to advise [Services Australia](#) that you will be receiving a scholarship and the amount to be received to ensure your payments are calculated correctly. Please refer to the [Exempt equity and merit-based scholarships](#) section, the [Online guide to Social Security](#) or [contact Services Australia](#) directly.

You can learn more about the taxation conditions of your scholarship by using the [Australian Taxation Office \(ATO\) scholarship tool](#).