



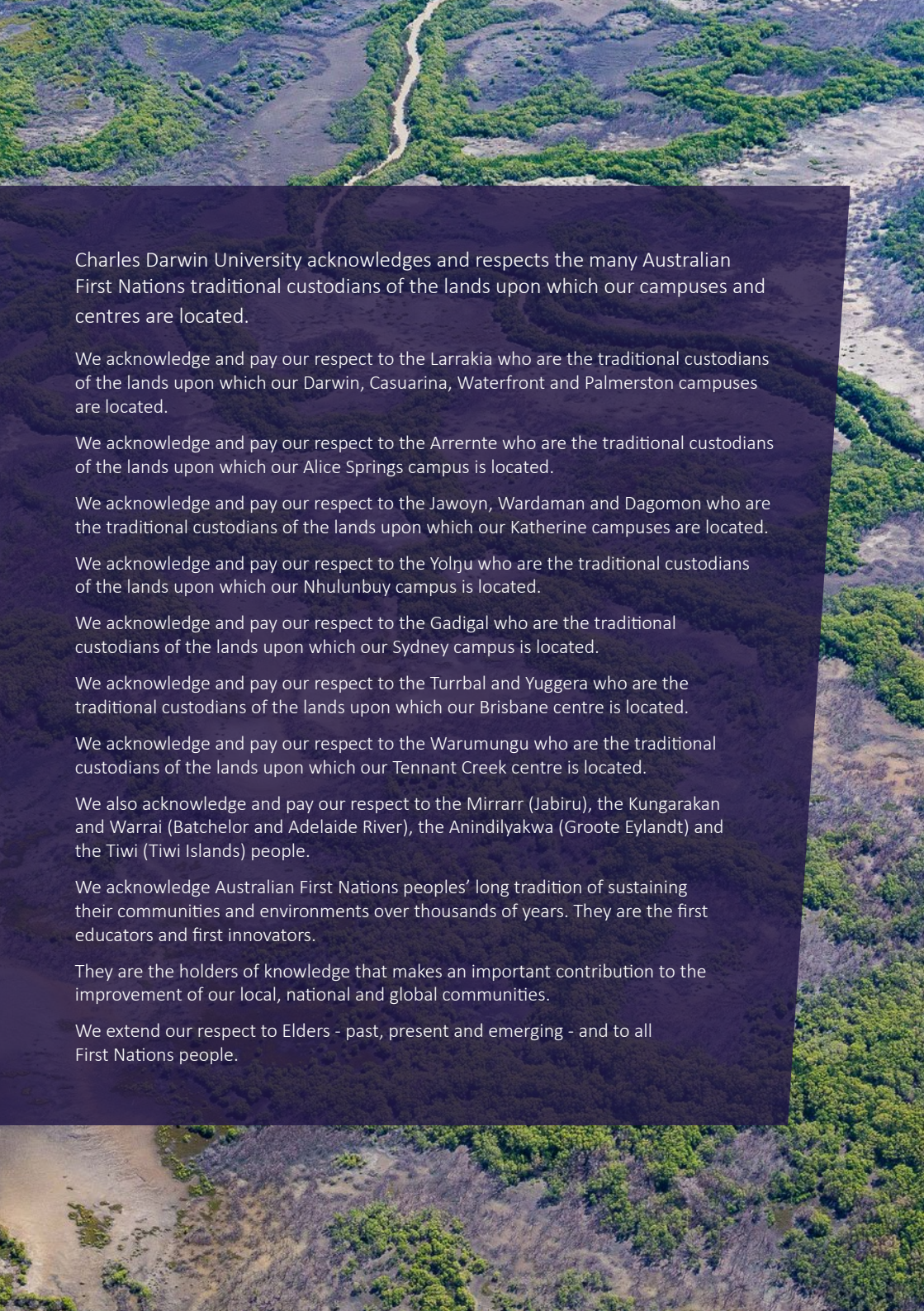
# Commonwealth ISSP Scholarships

## Higher Education Scholarship Handbook

Charles Darwin University

First Nations Leadership & Engagement





Charles Darwin University acknowledges and respects the many Australian First Nations traditional custodians of the lands upon which our campuses and centres are located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Larrakia who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Darwin, Casuarina, Waterfront and Palmerston campuses are located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Arrernte who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Alice Springs campus is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Jawoyn, Wardaman and Dagomon who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Katherine campuses are located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Yolŋu who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Nhulunbuy campus is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Gadigal who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Sydney campus is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Turrbal and Yuggera who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Brisbane centre is located.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Warumungu who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our Tennant Creek centre is located.

We also acknowledge and pay our respect to the Mirrarr (Jabiru), the Kungarakan and Warrai (Batchelor and Adelaide River), the Anindilyakwa (Groote Eylandt) and the Tiwi (Tiwi Islands) people.

We acknowledge Australian First Nations peoples' long tradition of sustaining their communities and environments over thousands of years. They are the first educators and first innovators.

They are the holders of knowledge that makes an important contribution to the improvement of our local, national and global communities.

We extend our respect to Elders - past, present and emerging - and to all First Nations people.



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## Scholarships at CDU

CDU are committed to providing opportunities to students through our scholarship program, which is supported by government, local business, organisations and individuals. This document outlines information and processes specific to the **Commonwealth Government Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP)** student scholarship program administered at CDU.

The ISSP Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships promote access to Higher Education, creating more opportunities for First Nations students to succeed.

## Who are the ISSP Scholarships for?

Any Australian First Nations student enrolled to study at CDU who meets the **specific eligibility criteria** can receive one or more of the following ISSP scholarships.

- > Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship (ICECS)
- > Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Costs Scholarships (ICAS)
- > Indigenous Commonwealth Rewards Scholarship

All First Nations students are encouraged to apply for the First Nations Commonwealth ISSP and other relevant scholarship opportunities.

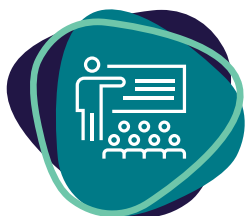
## When and how to apply

Scholarships have two main application periods which are aligned with Semester 1 and 2 of the academic year. Visit the [Scholarship Finder](#) to apply for the First Nations Commonwealth ISSP Scholarships.



## About the ISSP Commonwealth Scholarships

There are three types of scholarships offered under the ISSP, they include:



### Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships (ICES)

This scholarship assists with education costs for students, for example, compulsory textbooks, study equipment or laptops. The value of the ICECS is up to \$2,500.00 per semester.



### Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Costs Scholarships (ICAS)

This scholarship assists with relocation and accommodation, for example, removalists, bond payment or rent assistance.

The value of the ICAS is \$4000 per semester. If a student is awarded a scholarship in semester one, they can reapply in semester two.



### Indigenous Commonwealth Reward Scholarships

This scholarship acts like a prize for a student who has achieved exceptionally high standards (as determined by the university). This scholarship is only awarded once a year – successful students will be notified after grade release for Semester 2.



# Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship (ICECS)

## Eligibility\*

To be eligible for the Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship (ICECS) students must meet **all four** (4) of the following criteria:

**1. Be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.**

- > You must provide proof of this – see supporting documents on page 6

**2. Be enrolled:**

- > in a Tertiary Enabling Program, or an undergraduate course, or a post-graduate course (excluding research degrees)
- > in at least 20 credit points per Semester

**3. Must hold an appropriate academic record**

- > Pass in more than 50% of the credit points attempted during the previous academic progression period
- > This is only relevant for continuing or previously enrolled students

**4. Must demonstrate financial hardship**

- > You must provide proof of this – see supporting documents on page 6

*\*If students are in receipt of a Centrelink Start-Up loan/Scholarship and/or a Relocation Scholarship and/or ABSTUDY Residential Costs Option, they will not be eligible to apply*

# Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship (ICAS)

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship (ICAS) students must meet **all five** (5) of the following criteria:

**1. Be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.**

- > You must provide proof of this – see supporting documents on page 6

**2. Be enrolled:**

- > in a Tertiary Enabling Program, an undergraduate course, or a post-graduate course (excluding research degrees)
- > in at least 20 credit points per Semester
- > as an internal student

**3. Must hold an appropriate academic record**

- > Pass in more than 50% of the credit points attempted during the previous academic progression period
- > This is only relevant for continuing or previously enrolled students

**4. Must demonstrate financial hardship**

- > You must provide proof of this – see supporting documents on page 6

**5. Demonstrate the need to move to study at CDU**

- > You must demonstrate that within the last four years immediately preceding the commencement of the semester, you:
  - have lived in rural or regional Australia for at least three of the last four years or
  - completed the final two years of schooling in a high school or college in a rural/ regional area or
  - moved away from a rural/regional area to complete the final two years of schooling at a high school or college in a major city or
  - it was, or will be, necessary for you to move from the rural/regional area to undertake your higher education study at CDU and
- > that you have incurred, or will incur, additional accommodation costs due to having to move.

# Application process

## 1. Submit an application

Students apply to our Scholarship Finder. Applications are open until the Friday of the first week of each semester. Students can apply for the ICES and ICAS every semester they are studying at CDU, up to a maximum value (see page 8). To make the application process easier, if students are awarded a scholarship in Semester 1, we will roll over their scholarship if they are still studying with us in Semester 2 instead of making them reapply. This rollover is pending a check to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria.

## 2. Acknowledgement of Receipt

After submitting their application form, students will immediately receive an automatic reply acknowledging receipt of their application. Within three business days, their application status will be updated in the Scholarships portal to one of the following:

- > **Assessment ongoing** – this means students have met the eligibility criteria, and their submission will be sent to the scholarship committee for scoring.
- > **Pending** – further evidence has been requested.
- > **Ineligible** – students who do not meet one or more of the eligibility criteria will receive an email from the Scholarship team to advise which criteria were not met. This will allow the student to provide additional information to meet eligibility.

## 3. Assessment of Applications

A selection committee assesses all applications. Assessments are usually completed by the end of March for Semester 1 and the end of August for Semester 2.

*The closing dates of the ISSP Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships may be extended after consultation with the First Nations Student Services team.*

## 4. Scholarships Awarded

Applicants will receive an email notification from the CDU Scholarships Team regarding the outcome of their application. Payment of scholarships is made after



# Supporting Documents

Students must upload relevant documents in the Scholarships portal to support their application. Here is what we require for each eligibility criterion:

## Verification that you are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Acceptable documents may be one of the following:

- > 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 organization that you identify with or
- > Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN) if in receipt of ABSTUDY  
Students who do not have Proof of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander documentation or are unsure how to obtain this can contact First Nations student support.

## Evidence of financial hardship

Students must provide one of the following:

- > Proof of receiving a Centrelink or other Commonwealth Government means-tested income support payment (such as AUSTUDY, ABSTUDY, Youth Allowance, etc.) or
- > Proof of receiving personal taxable income below the HECS-HELP repayment threshold for 2024/2025 (currently at \$85,000), or
- > If a student earns more than the threshold amount, they must provide a Statement of Need. This is a written statement that outlines their circumstances for special consideration and helps to demonstrate the financial need for the scholarship.

## Evidence of the requirement to move for study (accommodation scholarship)

Students must provide one of the following:

- > Ensure that your address details in MyStudentInfo reflect your relocation. Ensure that your 'home address' is your rural/regional address and your 'semester address' is the address you moved to due to study.
- > Provide evidence of your schooling in a rural/regional area

## Enrolment evidence

Students do not need proof of enrolment, CDU can access this information through their student account.

## Academic evidence

Students do not need proof of their academic record; CDU can access this information through their student account. This criterion is only considered for continuing students, not new commencing students.

## Maximum value

As stated, students can apply for the ICES and ICAS every semester they are studying at CDU, up to a maximum number of payment cycles. Recipients cannot receive more than a total of:

- > 8 ICECS payment cycles for undergraduate students (4 years of study)
- > 4 ICECS payment cycles for postgraduate students (2 years of study)
- > 2 ICES payment cycles for enabling course students (1 year of study)

To reduce the burden of submitting applications, students who receive an ISSP scholarship in Semester 1 will have their scholarship rolled over for Semester 2. This rollover is pending a check to ensure they still meet the eligibility criteria (enrolment, academic, and financial hardship).

These scholarships are tied to calendar year funding, meaning that even if students are awarded in Semester 1, they will still need to reapply each calendar year for this scholarship.

### Previous Scholarship Recipients

Students who have previously had their Semester 2 rollover not approved due to not meeting the eligibility requirements may apply again for a scholarship in a new calendar year. However, they must demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria, i.e., that their academic performance has improved, or their financial situation has changed.

If students have previously applied and been deemed ineligible due to not meeting one or more of the eligibility criteria, they can still apply in future semesters when they do meet the eligibility criteria. Being ineligible once does not bar you from being eligible in the future.

### Impact of scholarships on other financial supports

Other government support, such as the ABSTUDY Residential Cost Option, Relocation Scholarships, or Student Start-up Loans through Services Australia, may impact eligibility for ISSP Scholarships.

For information on how scholarships may impact your ABSTUDY, please read about [what scholarships count as income](#). The First Nations Australian Commonwealth Scholarship does not count towards your \$10,094 income limit.

## Other scholarship opportunities

CDU offers a variety of other scholarships to **help you complete** your studies. We have a diverse range of scholarships that **recognise** hard work, support those in need, and **help** students with the financial burden of studying. Anyone studying at CDU can apply for a scholarship, provided you meet the eligibility criteria. You can read more on our **scholarship's** webpage, where you will find the Scholarships Finder, the CDU scholarship application portal.

We recommend that when looking on the scholarship finder filter by Scholarship Focus of 'First Nations Students'. This will show you scholarships open for First Nations students only.

Find out more at  
[cdu.edu.au/scholarships](https://cdu.edu.au/scholarships)



## Key Contacts:

### CDU Scholarships Team:

The CDU Scholarships team manages the applications and awarding of all scholarships at CDU. If you have questions about your application or whether or not you meet the eligibility criteria, we're here to help!

1800 061 963 / [scholarships@cdu.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@cdu.edu.au)

Find out more at  
[cdu.edu.au/scholarships](https://cdu.edu.au/scholarships)



### First Nations Student Support:

CDU has a dedicated First Nations Student Services team provides multi-layered support to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in achieving their education goals. They can help with your scholarship application, advise you on meeting eligibility criteria, and provide information about supporting documentation.

08 8946 6470 / [fnsreception@cdu.edu.au](mailto:fnsreception@cdu.edu.au)

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[cdu.edu.au/first-nations-leadership/](https://cdu.edu.au/first-nations-leadership/)



*You make CDU*



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