



UTS Scholarship Conditions of Award

Equal Access Scholarship (Institution Equity Scholarship)

This document sets out the conditions of award for the below Equal Access Scholarship (Institution Equity Scholarship) ('Scholarship') as well as the obligations of recipients ('Recipient') and the University of Technology Sydney ('UTS') in regard to this Scholarship. The administrative processes to support awarding this Scholarship will be managed, and may be amended, in accordance with UTS Rules, Policy and Procedures.

1. SCHOLARSHIP NAME: Equal Access Scholarship (Institution Equity Scholarship)

2. PURPOSE:

To supplement the income of commencing and continuing students, who are currently experiencing financial and/or other educational disadvantages which impact their ability to support themselves financially, whilst achieving their educational goals.

3. VALUE AND BENEFIT

3.1 Number of Recipients:

- The annual number of Recipients will vary and is determined by the following variables:
 - a) the availability of funding; and
 - b) the number of candidates; and
 - c) eligible candidates' circumstances each session (Autumn and Spring)

3.2 Benefit/s to Recipient:

- Recipients will receive an amount usually between \$500 and \$6000 for the Scholarship's maximum duration as defined in clause 4.
- The amount awarded to each Recipient is determined by the Scholarship Selection Committee's agreed ranking principles and selection is determined the relative need of the applicant pool.
- The value and duration of the Scholarship to each Recipient will be confirmed in the offer letter sent at the time of the Scholarship offer.
- In the event, that there are unspent funds at the end of the year, UTS Scholarships in consultation with the Chair of the Selection Committee, may decide to pay top-up payments to eligible recipients.

3.3 Payment of benefit/s:

- For Recipients awarded the Scholarship for the Autumn session:
 - Each Recipient will receive two equal payments per year to their nominated bank account.
 - One payment will be made in both the Autumn and Spring sessions.
- For Recipients awarded the Scholarship for the Spring session only:
 - Each Recipient will receive one payment to their nominated bank account.
 - This payment will be made in the Spring session.
 - Students who accept their offer prior to the census date will receive their payment after the census date for each session.
 - Students who accept their offer during the session after the census date will receive payment within three (3) weeks of receiving their offer.
- Payments are subject to the Recipient satisfying ongoing eligibility criteria as defined in clause 8.

4. DURATION

- The minimum duration of the Scholarship is one (1) session with a maximum duration of one (1) year.

- Scholarship offers made for the Autumn session are awarded for the maximum duration of one (1) year subject to meeting the ongoing eligibility for Spring
- Scholarship offers made for the Spring session are awarded for the maximum duration of one (1) session.

Once the Scholarship duration has been exhausted for any calendar year, Recipients must reapply through the UAC Equity Scholarship to be considered in subsequent years. Please refer to the UAC website to confirm future Equity Scholarship Round dates. The UAC Equity Scholarship opens each year in April and closes at the end of January each year in line with the UAC Admissions offer rounds.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must:

- Be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or the holder of an Australian permanent resident visa or permanent humanitarian visa; or the holder of a Temporary Protection Visa¹; and
- In the session of the award be offered or admitted into one of the following UTS qualifications:
 - an undergraduate or postgraduate coursework degree, or
 - the Jumbunna UNISTART program, or
 - a postgraduate research degree; and
- Apply through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) for an Equity Scholarship and therein demonstrate financial disadvantage:
 - Through receiving a means-tested Commonwealth income support payment (such as Parenting Payment Single, Disability Support Pension, Carers Allowance, Austudy, ABSTUDY, Youth Allowance), or by providing comprehensive information demonstrating exceptional financial hardship; OR
 - Students may make an appointment for an alternative financial assessment with the UTS Financial Assistance Service in the Student Services Unit in order to evidence financial disadvantage. This is only available in cases when an applicant has been deemed ineligible on the basis of not meeting the financial hardship criteria as specified above and as outlined in the UAC application, or has been unable to submit an Equity Scholarship.
- Students who are in receipt of the UTS Humanitarian Scholarship will automatically be considered for an Equal Access Scholarship without having to apply for a UAC Equity Scholarship. Humanitarian recipients who wish to demonstrate additional disadvantages should still apply for the UAC Equity Scholarship.

6. RECIPIENT SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection is determined on a relative need basis, prioritising applicants who are able to demonstrate one or more educational disadvantages in addition to financial hardship via the UAC Equity Scholarship application. The criteria include the following educational disadvantages:

- Regional or remote background
- Sole parent responsibilities
- Carer responsibilities
- Long-term medical condition / disability or ongoing effect of abuse
- Indigenous Australian
- Refugee status

In the event that funding is available, the Selection Committee may award additional Scholarship allocations where the Recipient/s has demonstrated Financial disadvantage only.

7. SELECTION

7.1 Selection Committee:

In January each year, the Scholarships Selection Committee will determine the ranking principles for that year based on the relative need of applicants, and with priority given to applicants with multiple educational disadvantages. In subsequent offer rounds, applications of all eligible candidates will be assessed against the

¹ Applicants that are holders of a Temporary Protection Visa should identify themselves to the UTS Centre for Social Justice and Inclusions at the time they make their application for an Equity Scholarship.

agreed ranking principles. UTS Scholarships may ask the Selection Committee to revise the ranking principles at any point during the year if UTS Scholarships is not able to allocate all available funds. The new ranking principles will be used for any subsequent offers.

The Scholarship Committee will be made up of relevant members of the UTS community and is to include:

- Chair: Director, Student Administration (or nominee); and
- A staff member experienced in the selection of scholarships; and
- A staff member representing the Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion; and
- A staff member representing the Financial Assistance Service; and
- A staff member representing Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Research and Education

7.2 Offerings:

After the first Selection Committee, the Chair (or nominee) of the Scholarship Selection Committee will authorise offers based on the agreed ranking principles. Where required the Senior Coordinator, Scholarships will have authorisation to approve all current and future offers made to students directly by UTS or through the University Admission Centre.

Scholarship offers will be final for the session/year of award based upon the information provided to UAC at the time of selection, unless exceptional circumstances apply.

Recipients who are made a scholarship offer and then demonstrate additional disadvantages may have their scholarship reclassified to a higher tier subject to the availability of funding.

Initial offers will be issued in the January Main Round, where eligible candidates are identified. UTS may utilise later UAC offer rounds in April, May, June, July and September where funds are available. Generally, the offer rounds will be in the later part of each month, when available via UAC.

8. ONGOING RECIPIENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

8.1 Academic progress:

- Not applicable.

8.2 UTS Enrolment:

- Recipients who are awarded the Equal Access Scholarship on the basis of financial disadvantage AND educational disadvantages must continue to be enrolled in an eligible course, either full-time or part-time, in Autumn and/or Spring sessions.
- Recipients who are awarded the Equal Access Scholarship on the basis of financial disadvantage, are required to be enrolled in an eligible course, full-time² (minimum 18 Credit Points) in Autumn and Spring sessions, or for the duration of the Scholarship unless exceptional circumstance prevail³ or unless they are in the final session of study with a status of Potentially Complete.
 - Recipients experiencing exceptional circumstances may apply to the UTS Scholarships to retain the scholarship whilst undertaking a part-time study load.

8.3 Leave / Deferral / Course Withdrawal

- Recipients enrolled in a coursework degree or an enabling program that take a Leave of Absence from study will have their Scholarship payment suspended for the period of leave with the relevant Scholarship payment for the period forfeited.
- Recipients enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research that take Leave of Absence for a part of the enrolment period may be eligible for a pro-rated payment based on the number of enrolled days.
- If the Recipient defers the UTS offer or withdraws from the UTS course after the start of the session in which the Scholarship is first awarded the Scholarship will be terminated. Any Scholarship payment already made for the session in which they withdraw may be requested to be reimbursed to UTS.

² Recipients enrolled in non-standard subjects including but not limited to practical professional experience subjects required for course completion, or Recipients undertaking a session of exchange approved by UTS, will be considered case-by-case as part of the standard ongoing eligibility checking each session.

³ Exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to, severe disruptions, disability, ongoing illness, carer's responsibilities and other education barriers, and are considered by the UTS Scholarships on a case-by-case basis

8.4 Academic Integrity:

- UTS takes Academic Integrity very seriously and breaches (e.g. plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are considered Academic Misconduct. For more information on Academic Integrity at UTS can be found on the UTS Current Students pages of the UTS website.
- Any Academic Misconduct allegations proven by the University (and upheld if appealed) may result in the termination of this Scholarship and the University might require the Recipient to repay the total benefit received at time of termination.

8.5 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 Conditions of Award.
- The offer of the Scholarship is only valid for the intake defined in the Scholarship letter of offer and cannot be deferred.
- The Recipient is responsible for advising the UTS Scholarships of any changes in circumstances that would make them ineligible for continuation of the Scholarship, e.g. reducing study load to part-time, taking leave of absence or deferring study.
- Any change in the Recipient's circumstances not addressed by these Conditions of Award will be considered by the UTS Scholarships and/or the Scholarship Selection Committee case-by-case.
- The Recipient may be invited to consent to allowing their name, photograph and a short article to be used for the promotion of UTS scholarships.

9. TERMINATION OF RECIPIENT'S SCHOLARSHIP:

The Scholarship may be terminated:

- If the Recipient ceases to meet the eligibility criteria; or
- If the Recipient breaches any conditions of the Scholarship; or
- UTS determines that the student is guilty of misconduct and after consultation with the Director, Student Administration, the delegate able to award the Scholarship deems that it is not appropriate for the Recipient to continue to hold the Scholarship.
- If the scholarship is terminated due to breaching any conditions or misconduct, the Recipient may be required to reimburse UTS for any scholarship payments already made.