



UTS Scholarship Conditions of Award

Vice-Chancellor's Merit Scholarship

This document sets out the conditions of award for the below scholarship ('Scholarship') as well as the obligations of recipients ('Recipient') and UTS in regards 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: Vice-Chancellor's Merit Scholarship

2. PURPOSE

To attract top achieving financially disadvantaged high school students to UTS undergraduate degrees.

3. VALUE AND BENEFIT

3.1 Number of Recipients:

- Up to five (5) new Recipients will be awarded the Scholarship each year.

3.2 Benefit/s to Recipient:

- The value of the Scholarship to each Recipient is \$12,500 per year for the maximum duration of the Scholarship as outlined in clause 4.
- UTS accommodation is guaranteed to the Recipient (at the Recipient's own cost) if they are from outside the Sydney region.

3.3 Payment of benefit/s:

- Each Recipient will receive two payments per year by electronic funds transfer to their nominated bank account.
- Each payment will be \$6,250 (or the pro-rata amount if part-time study has been approved by exception as defined in clause 8.2).
- Payment will usually be made within four weeks after the census date in Autumn and Spring sessions.
- Payments are subject to the Recipient satisfying ongoing eligibility criteria as defined in clause 8 below.

4. DURATION

- The duration of the Scholarship is the standard duration¹ of the undergraduate UTS course the Recipient is enrolled in, on the basis of a full-time study load, and an Honours degree, if applicable.
- In all cases, the Scholarship continues only until the total of the Recipient's payments is equal to the total value of the Scholarship being \$12,500 x the minimum number of years required for completion of the UTS course the Recipient is enrolled in, on the basis of a full-time study load (equivalent full-time student load of 48 credit points/academic year).

Note: where the Recipient does not follow the standard full-time course structure, the total value of the Scholarship may be exhausted prior to course completion.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for the Scholarship, an applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- Australian or New Zealand citizen, or holder of an Australian permanent resident visa or permanent humanitarian visa; and

¹ The standard course duration is listed in the UTS Handbook within the detailed entry for each course.

- Current school leaver; or gap year student who graduated in the previous year, where no tertiary study was undertaken in the gap year; and
- Have received an offer through UAC for a UTS undergraduate degree; and
- Intended full-time enrolment in a UTS undergraduate degree, which is their first undergraduate degree; and
- Academic excellence in the final year of high school (ATAR of 90.0 or above, excluding bonus points); and
- Have applied for and/or been assessed under the Equity Scholarship or Educational Access Scheme via UAC, and therein demonstrated financial disadvantage (at the time of Scholarship selection).

6. RECIPIENT SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated financial disadvantage (through the UAC Equity Scholarship or Educational Access Scheme application and/or assessment)
- Academic excellence at year 12 level, ranked in ATAR order, excluding bonus points.
- First UAC preference to a UTS undergraduate course at the time of selection will be highly regarded
- Candidates who have applied using the optional UTS online Elite School Leavers Scholarships Application form will be highly regarded.
 - Motivation to succeed in the chosen degree program, as demonstrated in the Scholarship application or as determined by UTS
 - Initiative in personal and professional life, as demonstrated in the Scholarship application or as determined by UTS

7. SELECTION

Eligible candidates will be presented to a Scholarship Selection Committee, which will undertake the selection of Recipients, usually on the date of ATAR release.

The Scholarship Selection Committee will be made up of at least three relevant members of the UTS community, chaired by Director, Student Administration Unit (SAU) (or their nominee), and is to include a member experienced in the selection of equity scholarships.

Offers will be authorised by the chair of the Selection Committee.

8. ONGOING RECIPIENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

8.1 Academic progress:

The Recipient must maintain a minimum Credit average (WAM 65+), in each session.

8.2 UTS Enrolment:

The Recipient:

- must continue to be enrolled full-time (minimum of 18 credit points in Autumn and Spring sessions) in a UTS undergraduate program at UTS²; or
- may, in particular circumstances apply to the UTS Scholarships Office for approval of a part-time study load. The Recipient with an approved part-time study load will receive reduced pro-rata payments for the period of part-time study.
- may apply to the UTS Scholarships Office to transfer the Scholarship to another UTS undergraduate program, if a course transfer is being sought.
 - The value of the Scholarship will be recalculated using the new undergraduate program to determine duration as outlined in clause 4. Furthermore;
 - If the Recipient seeks to transfer the Scholarship to another UTS program more than once, applications after the first will be considered by the Scholarship Committee case-by-case.
 - Deleting a Bachelor of Arts International Studies from a combined course, or withdrawing from a part of a combined course are not considered course transfers for the purpose of these Scholarship conditions.

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 who maintain their enrolment status at UTS through exchange subjects, will be considered case-by-case as part of the standard ongoing eligibility checking each session.

- Recipients undertaking Honours must commence their Honours degree no later than one academic year following the completion of their Undergraduate degree.

8.3 Leave / Deferral/Course withdrawal:

- 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 and any Scholarship payment already made for the session in which they withdraw is to be reimbursed to UTS.
- After the first session in which the Scholarship is awarded, if the Recipient can demonstrate exceptional circumstances³, he/she may apply to the Scholarships Office to place the Scholarship on hold for the duration of approved leave of absence from studies. If the application is approved, payment of the Scholarship will be suspended for the period of leave. The Scholarship will be terminated if the Recipient does not apply to the Scholarships Office to place the Scholarship on hold.
- Provided the Recipient remains eligible, payments will be resumed to the Recipient after an approved leave of absence until the remaining value of the Scholarship has been paid or another leave of absence is approved.

8.4 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.
- For the duration of the Scholarship the Recipient is not permitted to hold other UTS Scholarships, unless an equity-based scholarship is approved by exception.
- The Recipient is responsible for advising the Scholarships Office of any changes in circumstances that would make him/her ineligible for continuation of the Scholarship including but not limited to reducing study load to part-time, taking leave of absence or deferring study.
- Where applicable, the Recipient must advise the Scholarships Office of his/her intention to undertake an Honours degree upon receiving their Honours course offer.
- The Recipient does not need to re-apply for the Scholarship each year.
- Any change in the Recipient's circumstances not addressed by these Conditions of Award will be considered by the Scholarships Office and/or the Scholarship Selection Committee case-by-case.
- The Recipient will be invited to consent to allowing their name, photograph and a short article to be used for the promotion of UTS.

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
- If UTS determines that the student is guilty of misconduct and after consultation with the Director, Student Administration Unit, 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.

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 Scholarships Office on a case-by-case basis.