

Higher Education Scholarship Guidelines

Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade



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Acronyms	Full form
NTG	Northern Territory Government
HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme
ATAR	Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank
IB	International Baccalaureate
CDU	Charles Darwin University
SOPL	Skilled Occupation Priority List
NTCET	NT Certificate of Education and Training

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1. Overview

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (the department) has a vision of a \$40 billion economy by 2030 through the growth of sustainable and competitive industries.

To achieve this, the department aims to grow a skilled, agile and capable workforce to meet business and community needs now and for future demand, and deliver valued services through a highly skilled, professional, engaged and trusted workforce.

To support this, the Higher Education Scholarship (the scholarship) program, encourages local school leavers to undertake tertiary studies leading to employment in the Northern Territory.

Up to 20 scholarships are awarded annually to eligible Northern Territory (NT) Year 12 graduates. The scholarship provides financial support of \$5,000 per year for participants to complete their first undergraduate degree focusing on key industries as identified through the Northern Territory Skilled Occupation Priority List (NT SOPL).

2. Key Dates

Date	Milestone	Description
Early December	Applications open	Applications open in GrantsNT on ATAR release day
Mid-February	Applications close	Applications close
March	Applications assessed	Applications assessed by panel
April	Applicants advised of outcome	Successful and unsuccessful applicants notified of outcome

3. General Information

The Higher Education Scholarship's intent is to assist young Territorians to attain sought after skills and qualifications, allowing them to gain employment and contribute to key industries within the NT.

Successful applicants will be required to sign a funding agreement, which is a legally binding document that specifies the terms and conditions, requirements and expectations between the department and scholarship recipient.

3.1. Academic progress, study load and conduct

To continue to receive your scholarship, you must:

- be enrolled as a full-time student at all times during the academic year
- attend classes that align with your course requirements
- meet your institution's requirements regarding academic progress and conduct
- complete four units per semester or equivalent - your scholarship will end if you fail four or more units during the course
- follow reasonable directions given by your institution's staff members and officials
- not accept any other ongoing scholarship (see section 6)
- update your details in GrantsNT if your address, telephone, email or bank details change.

3.2. Changing your course or enrolment

You must tell the scholarship administrator in writing before you make any changes to your course or enrolment.

The scholarship administrator will determine if you are still eligible for the scholarship and if it should be continued, suspended or ceased.

If your change meets the terms and conditions of the scholarship, you must do the following:

- send in a copy of the previous semester's results
- send a copy of the new enrolment confirmation
- provide written confirmation of any credit transfers you will receive to the new course (where applicable).

Changing your course can affect the duration of the scholarship. No additional funds will be granted; if you remain eligible, you will be paid for the original number of years outlined in the funding agreement.

3.3. Deferring your studies

The first year of the scholarship cannot be deferred.

If you wish to defer your study, submissions can be made in GrantsNT through a variation request; evidence to support this deferral may be required.

Deferrals will generally only be supported once throughout the duration of the degree, however, each request will be assessed on a case by case basis considering any extenuating circumstances.

A failure to notify the scholarship administrator of a deferral may result in the scholarship being ceased.

3.4. Employment

This scholarship does not guarantee employment by the Northern Territory Government during university vacations or on completion of the course.

During the semester you may work part-time if it does not interfere with studies. You can work full-time or part-time during university vacations.

The NTG has a vacation employment program for university students, which offers paid employment through semester breaks. This is a great opportunity to gain exposure to different agencies and experience working in an area not dissimilar to your course of study. More information can be found here: [Vacation employment | Early Careers](#)

On graduation, you may apply for a government job. Your application will be subject to normal merit selection practices.

Graduates may be eligible to apply for a job placement with the NTG through the Graduate Program where you are rotated through different work units and projects relevant to your field of study for a period between 12 and 24 month. Upon completion, graduates will have opportunities for employment. For more information, visit [Graduates | Early Careers \(nt.gov.au\)](#)

3.5. Study methods

Scholarship holders must be enrolled as a full-time student at all times during the academic year. It is recommended that where possible, any practicals or placements, occur in the NT.

4. How to apply

To apply for a higher education scholarship, follow these steps:

Step 1. Read over the scholarship guidelines to confirm you are eligible

Step 2. Fill in the higher education scholarship application form through [GrantsNT](#)

Step 3. Check you have attached all required documentation to your application, and submit.

The application will require the following documents:

- Confirmation of Australian Citizenship/evidence of permanent residency
- Proof of NT residency (for example, a bill or photo ID)
- Evidence of certificate of education completed in the Northern Territory (e.g., NT Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET))
- Evidence of Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR)/International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Confirmation of full time enrolment

Your application will also need a personal statement, covering:

- How the scholarship will assist you
- Why you have chosen your particular degree
- What career path you wish to take
- The positive impact you hope to have on the NT community
- Intentions to work in the NT after graduation

5. Who can apply

You can apply for an NT higher education scholarship if you:

- finished year 12 in 2022 or 2023
- completed the NTCET or equivalent and received an ATAR / IB
- scored 85 or above in your ATAR / IB*
- are an NT resident**
- are enrolled to study your first undergraduate degree in the NT***
- are enrolled to study full-time of four units per semester or equivalent
- are an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- are not working full-time.

*Your IB score is based on the [South Australian Tertiary Admission Centre \(SATAC\) conversion scale](#).

**this is inclusive of students who were at boarding school interstate and are returning to the Northern Territory, where their parents/guardians are resident/s.

***Scholarships may be awarded for study interstate if your course isn't available in any form in the NT.

6. Who cannot apply

You can't apply for a higher education scholarship if you:

- have gained entry to university through the Tertiary Enabling Program (TEP) or equivalent
- work for an Australian, state or territory government
- plan to work full-time during your studies
- are completing a traineeship or apprenticeship
- have enrolled to study interstate when the course you wish to study is offered in the NT, regardless of majors offered. This includes double degrees that are available separately in the NT.
- receive a scholarship, bursary, stipend or funding from another source, excluding:
 - Australian Government Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY
 - one-off merit scholarships paid in one year or less
 - access and equity grants
 - subsidies and grants not paid to you directly, like an accommodation scholarship or textbook bursary.

7. What can be funded

Funding is only available for the recipient's first undergraduate degree, at the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#) (AQF) level 7. All qualifications being studied in the Territory are supported, however qualifications undertaken interstate must be considered a high priority occupation on the [NT Skilled Occupation Priority List](#).

The scholarship is paid for the minimum time it takes to complete the degree at the full-time study load of four units per semester or equivalent.

If enrolment is in a double degree, it will be paid at the minimum time it will take to complete one qualification of full-time study.

Scholarship holders can choose to defer their payments to the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS); this will not impact eligibility.

8. What cannot be funded

The following are not eligible to be funded:

- Qualifications at AQF levels 1 to 6, and 8 to 10 (inclusive)
- An additional Honours year (AQF level 8), regardless of if it is applied for up front, or requested retrospectively as a result of an offer or encouragement on behalf of the institution.
- Courses outside the Northern Territory that:
 - are not listed as high priority on the [NT SOPL](#)
 - are available in the NT
 - are a double degree, available separately in the NT.

9. Assessment process

You will receive a confirmation email on receipt of your application. If further documentation is required to progress your application, you will be contacted via email.

If your application meets the eligibility criteria, it will be submitted to the panel for assessment. Eligible applications will be ranked based on ATAR scores. Up to 20 scholarships will be awarded.

Applicants who meet all eligibility criteria will be given priority preference; however, the panel may choose to award scholarships to applicants who do not meet all eligibility criteria, but have demonstrated merit, and that the skills and qualifications obtained will allow them to gain employment and contribute to key industries in the Territory.

Assessments will be completed by the end of April; you will be notified through GrantsNT on the outcome of your application.

9.1. If your application is successful

If your application is successful, you will need to sign a grant agreement confirming you will continue to meet the scholarship criteria and terms. This is a legally binding agreement.

Additional documentation will include a talent release form and vendor creation/amendment application and statement by a supplier form.

Your scholarship can only be used for the approved course and institution shown on the agreement.

Students may be requested to assist with media promotion of the scholarship scheme throughout the term of agreement.

Reporting and acquittal

You will be required to upload the following documents into GrantsNT twice-yearly:

- a copy of your academic transcript showing your results
- confirmation of enrolment in the next semester showing the units enrolled in and the study load.

Each document must show the name of the university, your name and the degree name.

Reporting dates will differ based on the institution, however will align approximately to:

- **December - February** for:
 - semester 2 results and semester 1 enrolment OR
 - trimester 2 and 3 results and trimester 1 enrolment
- **July – September** for:
 - semester 1 results and semester 2 enrolment OR
 - trimester 1 results and trimester 2 (and 3 if able) enrolment

You won't receive any payments unless you submit satisfactory reports within 30 days of receiving your results.

To acquit the scholarship, you must provide a copy of your full academic transcript at the end of your final semester.

Within 12 months of graduating, you may receive a request to complete a survey regarding your experience with the scholarship program. Your responses help to inform continuous improvement and determine whether the intent of the program is being met. Information provided may also be used in departmental marketing.

9.2. If your application is not successful

If you did not receive a scholarship and believe your application should be reviewed, you may apply to the scholarships administrator within seven days of receiving the decision.

You must make a written application for a review and include any supporting information.

Your request will be reviewed and the original decision may be upheld, amended or overturned. The decision made following the review is final and cannot be further reviewed.

10. Payments of funding

If successful, the scholarship recipient will be required to fill out a vendor creation/amendment form and Statement by a Supplier form; this will allow the NT Government to pay the individual.

The scholarship is paid up front, in two instalments of \$2,500 at the beginning of each semester.

Payments will be made by electronic transfer to your nominated bank account. You will need to ensure your bank details in GrantsNT match the details in the vendor creation/amendment form.

If units are year-long, the payment will be made for the full year, i.e., \$5,000 at the beginning of semester 1.

If it is a trimester format, payments will be made before trimester 1, and before trimester 2. To receive the trimester 1 payment, the academic transcript must show results for both trimesters 2 and 3.

11. Contacts

For more information, contact the scholarship administrator by calling 08 8999 8862 or emailing scholarships@nt.gov.au.

All correspondence and notifications about your application will be sent via email.