



# Equity Scholarships

[uac.edu.au/es](https://uac.edu.au/es)

Awarded to applicants who are most in need of financial support while studying.



# Key dates



## Equity Scholarships

### 2023

Offer round	Apply and provide documents by	Offers released on
April Round 1	Friday 7 April	Friday 21 April
May Round 1	Friday 28 April	Friday 12 May
June Round 2	Friday 9 June	Friday 23 June
July Round 2	Friday 14 July	Friday 28 July
September Round 2	Friday 8 September	Friday 22 September
October Round 1	Saturday 23 September	Saturday 7 October
November Round 2	Friday 10 November	Friday 24 November
December Round 2	Friday 8 December	Friday 22 December

### 2024

Offer round	Apply and provide documents by	Offers released on
January Round 1	Friday 29 December	Friday 12 January
January Round 2	Thursday 11 January	Thursday 25 January
February Round 2	Friday 2 February	Friday 16 February
March Round 1	Friday 2 February	Friday 8 March

# Contents

Equity Scholarships	02
Disadvantages you can claim	04
Carer responsibilities	04
English language difficulty	04
Financial hardship	05
Long-term medical condition/disability or ongoing effects of abuse	06
Regional or remote disadvantage	07
Sole parent responsibilities	07
Applicant attribute: Indigenous Australian	07
Applicant attribute: Out-of-home-care status	08
Applicant attribute: Refugee status	08
Participating institutions: 2022 to 2023	10





## Equity Scholarships

There are two types of Equity Scholarships:

- Institution Equity Scholarships: funded by individual institutions (their value, eligibility criteria and duration differ between institutions)
- Indigenous Student Success Program: funded by the Australian Government.

To apply for an Equity Scholarship, you must be enrolled at, or applying for admission to, a participating institution. You can be applying:

- through UAC for undergraduate or postgraduate study (only a very limited number of scholarships are open to international applicants), or
- directly to an institution, or
- through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) or the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC).

### How Equity Scholarships work

Applications for Equity Scholarships are highly competitive. Institutions make offers to applicants who demonstrate the greatest level of need. Most applicants who are awarded a scholarship are receiving Centrelink income support payments.

### Successful applicants

Offers are emailed the day after each undergraduate offer round, but not all institutions participate in each round. For a list of participating institutions by offer round, visit [uac.edu.au/es-offer-rounds](https://uac.edu.au/es-offer-rounds).

Your scholarship offer is made on the condition that you're eligible to receive the scholarship on your first census date for the scholarship period. Institutions will confirm your eligibility before any payments are made to you. The institution will provide more detailed information regarding when and how your payment will be made.

Institutions may also make Equity Scholarship offers directly to applicants (ie not via UAC).

### Unsuccessful applicants

There are limited scholarships available, so if you are unsuccessful it doesn't mean that you're not in need; rather, it means that there are other applicants who've been assessed as being in greater need.

Unsuccessful applicants don't need to reapply within the same admissions period: your application remains live for future offer rounds.

## How to apply

- 1 Go to the UAC website and select 'Apply or log in' at the top right of the screen.
- 2 Select 'Equity Scholarships application' – a series of questions and prompts will guide you through the application process.
- 3 Agree to the declaration and authority.
- 4 Download and print your confirmation of application. If you need to provide supporting documents, a document package will also be generated. (No document package = no documents required.)
- 5 Upload to your application any documents specified in the document package.

If your circumstances change after you've submitted an application, you can log back in and add disadvantages. Additional disadvantages and supporting documentation must be received by UAC at least 10 working days before a scholarship offer round to be considered in that round.

Your application will remain live until March 2024.

Do not submit another application before then: it will be withdrawn.



## Commonly required documents

### Medical impact statement

A statement about how the medical condition/disability you have claimed will have an effect on your studies. A blank medical impact statement is provided in your Equity Scholarship document package. It must be completed by a registered health professional who is treating your medical condition/disability.

### Educational impact statement

A statement about the impact your medical condition/disability has, or will have, on your studies. A blank statement is provided in your Equity Scholarship document package. It must be completed by a responsible person.

A **responsible person** may be a higher education educator, doctor, specialist medical professional, lawyer, accountant, social worker, counsellor, religious or community leader. They must be familiar with your circumstances and able to comment and provide information about your educational disadvantage and its effect on your ability to study.

If you're a current Year 12 applicant, a responsible person is your school/college principal, counsellor, year adviser or careers adviser. If you're unable to have your school complete the statement, you must attach an explanation as to why your school can't complete it and the relationship between you and the responsible person.

### Your privacy

In line with the UAC privacy policy and UAC's agreement with Centrelink, if you provide your CRN it will not be shared with institutions. Therefore, institutions may also request that you provide it.

Your application can't be assessed until you have uploaded all required information. This includes:

- supporting documents
- evidence of Centrelink payments.



## Disadvantages you can claim and the documents you will need to provide

### | Carer responsibilities

#### Definition

A person of any age who cares for another person who needs ongoing support because of a long-term medical condition, a mental illness, a disability, frailty or the need for palliative care. A carer:

- may or may not be a family member and may or may not live with the person they care for
- may be in receipt of a Centrelink Carer Allowance or Carer Payment.

Volunteers under the auspices of a voluntary organisation are not included.

#### Supporting documentation required

**One** (only) of the following:

- your Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN) if you are receiving a Carer Payment or Carer Allowance. You will be required to enter your CRN in your application.
- an independent statement to support your eligibility for carer responsibilities, completed and signed by a responsible person who knows your circumstances. You will need to explain why you are not in receipt of a Carer Payment or Carer Allowance.

### | English language difficulty

#### Definition

A person who satisfies all of the following criteria:

- due to their non-English speaking background, experiences difficulties that affect their ability to study
- came to Australia from a non-English speaking country within the last five years
- didn't previously undertake any formal education at an institution where the language of instruction was English
- hasn't undertaken two or more years of full-time study in Australia in a diploma, advanced diploma, bachelor degree or higher level award.

#### Supporting documentation required

**All** of the following:

- details of the studies you have undertaken
- a statement of attendance from an Intensive English Centre (if applicable)
- at least **one** of the following documents confirming your date of arrival in Australia:
  - international movement records from the Department of Home Affairs
  - a notification confirming your date of first arrival in Australia on the letterhead of the Department of Home Affairs
  - your school's confirmation of your date of arrival or year of enrolment when you first commenced study in Australia
  - your first immigration visa, showing the entry date stamp.

(**Note:** Providing an Immi Card or visa grant letter with no other documents is not enough for assessment. UAC must be able to identify your date of entry into Australia.)

## **| Financial hardship**

There are four categories of financial hardship. A person is considered to be experiencing financial hardship if they satisfy one (only) of the following definitions.

### **Definition 1**

A person currently receiving a Centrelink (or other Commonwealth) means-tested income support payment (such as a Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment (Single) or Carer Payment).

### **Supporting documentation required**

Your Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN). The CRN must be in your name. You will be required to enter your CRN in your online application.

### **Definition 2**

A person expecting to receive a Centrelink (or other Commonwealth) means-tested income support payment in the current admissions period.

### **Supporting documentation required**

In your application you will be asked to indicate when you expect to receive a Centrelink (or other Commonwealth) means-tested income support payment.

No documentation is required to support eligibility for the expectation of receipt of a means-tested payment when you apply.

However, after enrolment and prior to payment of a scholarship, you must provide your institution with evidence that you have received a support payment. Alternatively, email your CRN to [equity@uac.edu.au](mailto:equity@uac.edu.au) once your first payment has been credited to your bank account and we will update your assessment.

### **Definition 3**

A person able to provide comprehensive information demonstrating exceptional financial hardship that is beyond their control or choosing.

If you are eligible to claim a Centrelink means-tested allowance but choose not to, you are not eligible to claim exceptional financial hardship.

If your family income is above the Centrelink eligibility threshold, you are generally not eligible to claim exceptional financial hardship.

### **Supporting documentation required**

Evidence of eligibility for exceptional financial hardship demonstrating a level of real and enduring financial hardship. Supporting documentation requirements are provided in the document package.

#### Definition 4

A dependent student between the ages of 16 and 19 years old (up to the end of the calendar year they turn 19) who is currently undertaking a Year 12 qualification and whose parent/guardian is in receipt of Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A.

You are not eligible to claim this disadvantage if you are a parent receiving FTB Part A.

#### Supporting documentation required

**One** (only) of the following:

- a recent Centrelink family assistance letter (no older than three months prior to the date you applied for a scholarship) issued to your parent/s or guardian/s demonstrating receipt of FTB Part A
- or
- a copy of a Centrelink income statement issued to your parent/s or guardian/s (no older than three months prior to the date you applied for a scholarship) demonstrating receipt of FTB Part A.

**Note:** Your parent/s or guardian/s can view and download their Centrelink income statement/s by logging into their Centrelink online account, or myGov, if they have set up an account. Alternatively, your parent/s or guardian/s must call or visit a Centrelink office to obtain a Centrelink family assistance letter. Allow at least a week for Centrelink to process your request.

If you have any queries about this documentation, email [equity@uac.edu.au](mailto:equity@uac.edu.au).

### | Long-term medical condition/disability or ongoing effects of abuse

#### Definition

A person whose ability to study at university is being affected, or is likely to be affected, by the long-term and ongoing effects of one of the following:

- a severe and long-term (or a severe and recurrent) medical/psychiatric condition or illness
- a learning, sensory, physical, psychological or other disability/disorder
- trauma or abuse.

#### Supporting documentation required

**All** of the following:

- a personal statement (see your document package)
- a medical impact statement completed by a registered health professional who is treating you for your condition
- an educational impact statement completed by a responsible person who can comment on the impact of your studies.

## | Regional or remote disadvantage

Definition
A person who, within the two years immediately prior to the start of their current or proposed period of higher education study, lived in a regional or remote area of Australia for at least 12 months.
Supporting documentation required
<p>Documents substantiating your residential (not postal) address in a regional or remote area of Australia for a period of at least 12 months in the two years immediately prior to the start of your current or proposed higher education course of study.</p> <p>Documents must be in your name and may include: bank statements; a letter of attendance from your school or higher education provider showing your home address at the time you attended; Centrelink letters; electoral commission enrolment form; utilities bill; phone bill.</p> <p>Your permanent residence postcode/s will be used to assess whether you lived in a regional or remote area of Australia.</p> <p>The Australian Standard Geographic Classification Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) system map can be accessed at <a href="http://doctorconnect.gov.au">doctorconnect.gov.au</a>. (Navigate to the 'Health Workforce Locator' and enter your address.) You can use this tool as a guide for your postcode. All categories other than 'RA1 – Major Cities of Australia' are considered to be regional or remote.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If you can only provide documents in your parent/guardian's name, upload a copy of your birth certificate or other document(s) that verify your relationship.</p> <p>Email <a href="mailto:equity@uac.edu.au">equity@uac.edu.au</a> if you need more information about the documents you must provide.</p>

## | Sole parent responsibilities

Definition
A person of any age who is single and has at least one dependent child under 18 who is wholly or primarily in their care and who is living in Australia.
Supporting documentation required
<p><b>One</b> (only) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ your Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN) if you are receiving a Parenting Payment (Single). You will be required to enter your CRN in your application. In line with the UAC privacy policy and UAC's agreement with Centrelink, your CRN will not be shared with institutions. Therefore, institutions may also request that you provide it.</li><li>■ an independent statement to support your eligibility for sole parent responsibilities, completed and signed by a responsible person who knows your circumstances. You will need to explain why you are not in receipt of a Parenting Payment (Single).</li></ul>

## | Applicant attribute: Indigenous Australian

Definition
<p>A person who satisfies all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person</li><li>■ identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person</li><li>■ is accepted as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in the community in which they live or have lived.</li></ul> <p>Institutions may use this criteria in conjunction with other demonstrated disadvantages.</p>
Action required
Answer relevant questions in the application.

## | Applicant attribute: Out-of-home-care status

### Definition

A person who is placed, or has previously been placed, with an out-of-home care (OOHC) provider due to government agency intervention. This includes:

- authorised and supported kinship care arrangements
- short-term, long-term or foster care provided by a government and/or non-government organisation
- cases where adoption has taken place after an initial period of OOHC.

Spending time in a refugee camp inside or outside of Australia does not meet the eligibility criteria for this disadvantage.

### Supporting documentation required

At least one of the following:

- a letter from your government or NGO caseworker written on appropriate letterhead and including:
  - name and date of birth of the applicant (young person)
  - date of removal
  - signature and position of the caseworker.
- a current copy of placement papers from a Children's Court.

## | Applicant attribute: Refugee status

### Definition

A person who is, or has previously been, the holder of one of the following Australian refugee visas:

- Global Special Humanitarian (subclass 202)
- Protection visa (subclass 866)
- Refugee visas (subclass 200, 201, 203 and 204)
- Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785)
- Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790)
- Humanitarian Stay (subclass 449)
- Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851)
- Temporary Humanitarian Concern visa (subclass 786)
- Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851)

Institutions may use this criterion in conjunction with other demonstrated disadvantages.

### Supporting documentation required

**One** (only) of the following:

- a copy of your Australian entry visa showing refugee status
- a copy of your Red Cross or United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) registration if you arrived in Australia on a non-refugee visa
- a copy of your document for travelling to Australia
- a copy of your Global Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 202).

**Note:** Providing an Immi Card or visa grant letter with no other documents cannot be used for assessment. UAC must be able to identify your date of entry into Australia.

**Questions?** Send an email to [equity@uac.edu.au](mailto:equity@uac.edu.au).

Please provide your Equity Scholarship application number and full name in all email enquiries.

**Application fee**

There is no fee to apply for the Educational Access Scheme, Schools Recommendation Scheme or Equity Scholarships, but there is a fee to apply for undergraduate admission through UAC. The undergraduate application fee will increase at 11.59pm on Friday 29 September 2023.

**Your email address**

UAC will email you about your application, so you must provide a private (ie not school-based), up-to-date email address when you apply. To prevent emails from UAC reaching your junk folder, add the domain [uac.edu.au](mailto:uac.edu.au) to your list of safe email contacts.

It is your responsibility to check your emails regularly (including your junk emails) for any messages from UAC.

**Support for applicants with a disability**

If you have a disability and are having problems with the UAC application process, call us on (+61 2) 9752 0200 between 8.30am and 4.30pm (Sydney time) Monday to Friday or email us using the enquiry form at [uac.edu.au/contact](mailto:uac.edu.au/contact).

We will help you with your application.

**Confidentiality**

All information provided by applicants is treated as confidential according to UAC's Privacy Policy and institution privacy statements. Only authorised personnel at UAC and/or institutions will have access to your application.

Your personal information can only be released to a third party in special circumstances, such as where the law requires it, or where you give permission.

All UAC applications require you to declare that the information you provide is true and complete and to authorise UAC to use your information for specific purposes.

Read UAC's Privacy Policy and application declarations at [uac.edu.au/privacy](https://uac.edu.au/privacy).

## Participating institutions: 2023 to 2024

	Equity Scholarships	Educational Access Scheme	Schools Recommendation Scheme
AIE Institute			✓
Australian Catholic University	✓	✓	✓
Australian College of Applied Professions			
Australian College of Physical Education		✓	✓
Australian National University	✓	✓	
Charles Darwin University			
Charles Sturt University	✓	✓	✓
CQUniversity		✓	
Griffith University		✓	
International College of Management, Sydney	✓	✓	✓
La Trobe University		✓	
Macquarie University	✓	✓	✓
MIT Sydney			
National Art School	✓		✓
SAE Creative Media Institute			✓
SIBT			
Southern Cross University	✓	✓	
Torrens University Australia	✓	✓	✓
University of Canberra		✓	✓
University of New England	✓	✓	✓
University of Newcastle		✓	✓
University of Notre Dame Australia		✓	✓
University of Sydney	✓	✓	
University of Technology Sydney	✓	✓	✓
University of Wollongong	✓	✓	
UNSW Canberra at ADFA	✓	✓	
UNSW Sydney	✓	✓	
Western Sydney University	✓	✓	✓

Details of participating institutions are correct as at April 2023. Check the [UAC website](#) for updates.

# ACCESS YOUR POTENTIAL.

**Universities Admissions Centre**  
(NSW & ACT) Pty Ltd


ABN 19 070 055 935  
ACN 070 055 935

 (+61 2) 9752 0200

 [uac.edu.au](https://uac.edu.au)

 [uacinfo](https://www.facebook.com/uacinfo)

 [uacinfo](https://www.instagram.com/uacinfo)

 [uacdigital](https://www.youtube.com/uacdigital)

 [uacapply](https://www.tiktok.com/uacapply)

**UAC**