

NT Health Aboriginal Scholarship Scheme - 1st year Undergraduate students – 2020 Applicant Guideline

March 2020

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1 NT Health Aboriginal Scholarship Scheme – 1st year Undergraduate students

1.1 About the Scholarship

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide assistance to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who are enrolled or about to commence their first year of an undergraduate course within an approved program health discipline.

The Scholarship is valued at \$5000 which will be paid in two instalments of \$2,500 each at the end of each semester. Payment is subject to successful completion of four units each semester.

The scholarship is available for a maximum period of one year.

Throughout this document the term Aboriginal should be taken to include Torres Strait Islander people.

1.2 Relevant Health Occupations

The NT Department of Health encourages Aboriginal students aspiring to work in the following occupations to apply.

Registered Nurse	Registered Midwife
Pharmacist	Speech Pathologist
Occupational Therapist	Audiologist
Public Health Nutritionist / Dietitian	Psychologist
Social Worker	Environmental Health Officer
Physiotherapist	Prosthetist / Orthotist
Medical Laboratory Scientist	Podiatrist
Medical Radiation Practitioner	Sonographer
Radiographer	Dental Therapist
Dentist	

The Department also welcomes applications from students with career aspirations to work in the field of mental health as a health professional.

1.3 Approved Program

An approved program means any bachelor degree within the field of health or a bachelor degree that has a pathway leading to one of the above health occupations.

1.4 Vacation Employment with NT Health

Scholarship recipients may be offered vacation employment within NT Health during the end of year major academic break. Employment will be at the Administrative Officer 2 (AO2) level and implemented as per the Department of corporate and Information Services employment Program process.

NT Health includes the NT Department of Health, Top End Health Service and Central Australia Health Service.

1.5 When can you apply

Applications for the '*NT Health Aboriginal Scholarship Scheme – 1st year Undergraduate students*' open on Monday 2 March 2020 and close at 4pm Monday 30 March 2020.

1.6 Who can apply

An applicant is eligible for the award of the scholarship, if the applicant:

- a) is a person of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the community in which they live, or has lived;
- b) is an Australian citizen;
- c) is an NT resident and is enrolled to study their first undergraduate degree in the NT**;
- d) is enrolled to study full-time of four units per semester or equivalent; and
- e) is not working full-time.

**Scholarships will also be eligible for study interstate, if the course is not available in any form in the Northern Territory.

To confirm Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage, applicants will need to supply a Certificate of Aboriginality (COA) or proof that an application has been made for a COA.

1.7 Who can't apply

You cannot apply for the NT Health Aboriginal Scholarship – *1st year Undergraduate student*, if you:

- a) work for an Australian, state, or territory government.
- b) plan to work fulltime during your studies.
- c) plan to defer your studies.
- d) are completing an apprenticeship or traineeship.
- e) have enrolled interstate to study when the course you wish to study is offered in the NT.
- f) receive a scholarship, bursary or stipend or funding from another source, excluding:
 - Australian Government Abstudy
 - one-off merit scholarships paid in one year or less
 - access and equity grants
 - subsidies and grants not paid to you directly e.g. accommodation scholarship or textbook bursary.

1.8 How to apply

1. Fill in the NT Health Aboriginal Scholarship Scheme – *1st year undergraduate student* application for
2. Write a short essay*
3. Attach a current Curriculum Vitae/Resume
4. Attach either Proof of Acceptance or Proof of Enrolment.
5. Attach either Certificate of Aboriginality (COA) or evidence a COA has been applied for.
6. Email all documents to AWD.DoH@nt.gov.au by **COB 30 March 2020**

*The essay (maximum 700 words) to state why you have chosen your particular degree and the career path you wish to take, and the positive impact you hope to make in your community.

1.9 How is an application assessed

The Scholarship will be awarded to applicants who show the greatest merit as demonstrated by:

- the impact your qualification is going to make upon others in your community.
- a real desire to improve the quality of people's lives.
- an eagerness to learn from others.
- having a clear outcome to relevant health occupations.

2 Conditions for Scholarship

The scholarship will be paid, subject to the recipient:

- Signing a Deed of Understanding
- Being prepared to undertake a maximum of four weeks paid vacation employment with NT Health, during the end of year major academic break.
- Maintaining a pass grade throughout their studies.
- Providing a copy of their official academic results at the end of each semester, including proof of enrolment for the next semester (where applicable) to the Aboriginal Workforce Development, Department of Health.

It is recommended scholarship applicants seek independent financial advice before accepting a scholarship offer from the Department of Health.

3 Frequently Asked Questions

Q. *How many scholarships are available?*

A. There will be five scholarships available.

Q. *Can I work part-time during the year?*

A. Yes – as long as it does not interfere with your fulltime studies. You can work fulltime or part-time during major academic breaks.

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Q. Will the scholarship affect payments to my benefits (e.g. Centrelink payments of concession cards)?

A. It is recommended you speak to a consultant at Centrelink to check if the scholarship will affect your current benefits.

Q. When are scholarship payments made?

A. Scholarship payments will be made at end of each semester, subject to successful passing of four units.

Q. How will the scholarship money be paid to successful scholarship applicants?

A. Successful applicants will need to complete a Vendor Payment Authorisation Form to enable payment directly into the scholarship recipient's bank account.

Q. If I accept a scholarship will I have to pay tax on the money I receive?

A. It is advised all scholarship applicants to seek independent financial advice before considering a scholarship offer.

Q. Are people already receiving a grant or scholarship eligible to apply?

A. Yes – as long as it is not from another NT Health, Commonwealth, or State government source, and the source must be declared on your application form.

Q. Are people living interstate eligible to apply for the scholarship?

A. The scholarship is open to applicants who, at the time of applying, have a residential address in the Northern Territory (NT) or NT residents that needed to move interstate as the course is not available in any form in the NT.

Q. What if I choose to defer my studies after I have been successful in winning a scholarship?

A. The scholarship cannot be deferred.

Q. Can I reapply for the scholarship, if I don't pass and have to re do my first year?

A. Yes – when the scholarship is released in the following year.

Q. How long would I have to work during Vacation Employment?

A. A maximum of 4 weeks during end of year academic break.

If you have any further questions, please contact Aboriginal Workforce Development, People & Organisational Capability, NT Department of Health on 8922 7099 or email: AWD.DoH@nt.gov.au