

Equity Scholarships



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



Key dates



Equity Scholarships

Equity Scholarship applications open 8 April 2026

2026		
Offer round	Apply and provide documents by	Offers released on
April Round 1	Friday 10 April	Friday 24 April
May Round 1	Friday 24 April	Friday 8 May
June Round 2	Friday 5 June	Friday 19 June
July Round 2	Friday 10 July	Friday 24 July
September Round 2	Friday 11 September	Friday 25 September
October Round 1	Monday 28 September	Saturday 10 October
November Round 2	Friday 13 November	Friday 27 November
December Round 2	Thursday 10 December	Thursday 24 December

2027		
Offer round	Apply and provide documents by	Offers released on
January Round 1	Monday 28 December	Saturday 9 January
January Round 2	Friday 8 January	Friday 22 January
February Round 2	Friday 29 January	Friday 12 February
March Round 1	Friday 5 February	Friday 5 March

To view a full list of UAC dates and check for changes go to uac.edu.au/key-dates

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Equity Scholarships

Equity Scholarships are awarded to students from low socio-economic backgrounds, particularly those who receive Centrelink income support payments.

Who can apply for Equity Scholarships?

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)
- directly to an institution
- through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) or the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC).

How Equity Scholarships work

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.

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.

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 throughout the admissions period.



How to apply

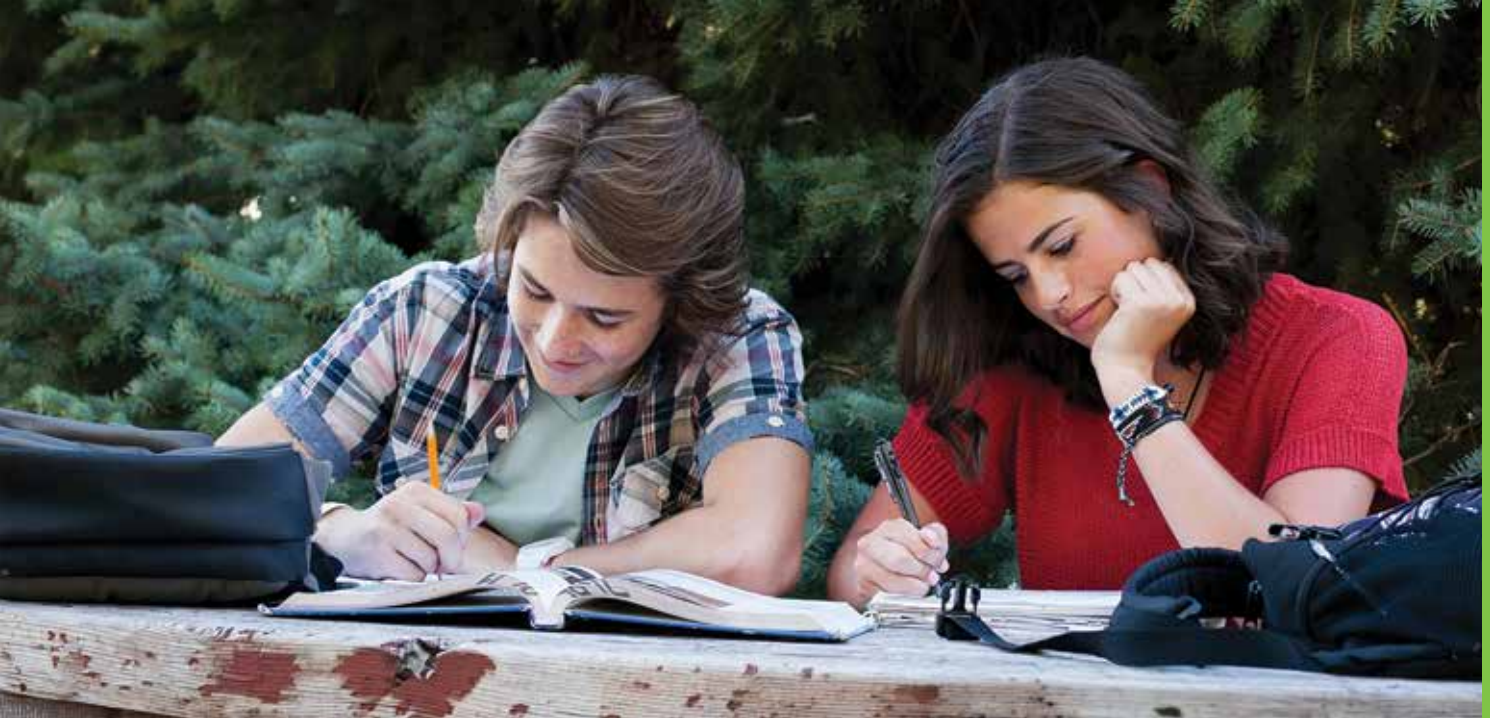
- 1** Go to the UAC website and select 'Apply / log in' at the top right of the screen.
- 2** Select 'Equity Scholarships application' – a series of questions and prompts will guide you through the application process.
- 3** Agree to the declaration and authority.
- 4** Download and print your confirmation 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 circumstances. Additional circumstances and supporting documentation must be received by UAC at least 10 working days before a scholarship offer round to be considered in that round.

For more information about Equity Scholarships, visit uac.edu.au/es

Your application will remain live until March 2027.

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



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

- supporting documents
- evidence of Centrelink payments if applicable.

Commonly required documents

Medical impact statement

A statement about how the medical condition/disability you have claimed will have an effect on your future 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 future 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 their effect on your ability to study. They cannot be related to you.

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.



Circumstances you can claim and the documents you will need to provide

The published eligibility criteria apply to all Equity Scholarships at all participating institutions. Some Equity Scholarships have additional criteria. Check institution websites for details.



For the most up-to-date details of the circumstances you can claim, go to uac.edu.au/es-categories.

Carer responsibilities



Eligibility criteria

You care 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. As a carer, you:

- may or may not be a family member and may or may not live with the person you 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.

Financial challenges

There are four categories of financial challenges. You are considered to be experiencing financial challenges if you satisfy **one** (only) of the following eligibility criteria.

Category 1: Receiving a Centrelink means-tested income support payment



Eligibility criteria

You are 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.

If your parent is receiving a Centrelink payment on your behalf, please do not enter their CRN into your ES application. Instead, consider applying for Financial Category 4: Parent/Guardian in receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A.

Category 2: Expecting to receive a Centrelink means-tested income support payment



Eligibility criteria

You are 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, log in to your Equity Scholarships application, click on the **Circumstances** tab and select **Yes** in response to the question 'Are you currently receiving a Centrelink means-tested income support payment?'. Then enter your Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN) and select your payment type. Click **Continue** to save your changes.

Category 3: Able to demonstrate exceptional financial hardship beyond your control or choosing



Eligibility criteria

You are able to provide comprehensive information demonstrating exceptional financial hardship that is beyond your 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.

Category 4: Dependent student undertaking a Year 12 qualification with a parent/guardian in receipt of Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A



Eligibility criteria

You are a dependent student between the ages of 16 and 19 years (up to the end of the calendar year you 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 financial challenge 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.



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



Eligibility criteria

Your 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 medical impact statement completed by a registered health professional who is treating you for your future condition
- an educational impact statement completed by a responsible person who can comment on the impact of your future studies.



Living in regional or remote area of Australia



Eligibility criteria

Within the two years immediately prior to the start of your current or proposed period of higher education study, you lived in a regional or remote area of Australia for at least 12 months.



Supporting documentation required

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.

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.

Your permanent residence postcode/s will be used to assess whether you lived in a regional or remote area of Australia.

The Australian Standard Geographic Classification Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) system map can be accessed at doctorconnect.gov.au. (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.

Note: 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.

Email equity@uac.edu.au if you need more information about the documents you must provide.

Sole parent responsibilities



Eligibility criteria

You are single and have at least one dependent child under 18 who is wholly or primarily in your care and who is living in Australia.



Supporting documentation required

One (only) of the following:

- 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.
- 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).



First Nations person



Eligibility criteria

You satisfy **all** of the following criteria:

- You are a First Nations person.
- You identify as a First Nations person.
- You are accepted as a First Nations person in the community in which you live or have lived.

Institutions may use this criteria in conjunction with other demonstrated circumstances.



Action required

Answer relevant questions in the application.



Out-of-home-care status



Eligibility criteria

You are placed, or have 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 applicant attribute.



Supporting documentation required

At least one of the following:

- a letter from a government or non-government organisation caseworker written on appropriate letterhead and including:
 - your name and date of birth
 - date of removal
 - signature and position of the caseworker.
- a copy of placement papers from a children's court.

Refugee and humanitarian status



Eligibility criteria

You are, or have previously been, the holder of **one** of the following Australian refugee and humanitarian visas:

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

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



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 ImmiCard 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.

Questions? Send an email to 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, Equity Scholarships or the Schools Recommendation Scheme, but there is a fee to apply for undergraduate admission through UAC.

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 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.

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.

Participating institutions: 2026 to 2027

	Equity Scholarships	Educational Access Scheme	Schools Recommendation Scheme
AIE Institute			✓
Academy of Interactive Technology			
Academy of Music and Performing Arts			✓
Australian Catholic University	✓	✓	
Australian College of Applied Professions			
Australian College of Physical Education		✓	✓
Australian National University	✓	✓	
Avondale University			
Charles Sturt University		✓	✓
CQUniversity		✓	
Excelsia University College			
Griffith University		✓	
International College of Management, Sydney	✓	✓	✓
La Trobe University		✓	
Macquarie University	✓	✓	✓
MIT Sydney			
National Art School			✓
SAE University College			✓
Southern Cross University	✓	✓	
S P Jain School of Global Management			
Torrens University Australia	✓	✓	✓
University of Canberra		✓	✓
University of Newcastle		✓	✓
University of New England		✓	✓
University of Notre Dame Australia		✓	✓
University of Sydney	✓	✓	
University of Technology Sydney	✓	✓	✓
University of Wollongong	✓	✓	
UNSW Canberra at ADFA	✓	✓	
UNSW College			
UNSW Sydney	✓	✓	
Western Sydney University	✓	✓	✓

Details of participating institutions are correct as at March 2026. Check the [UAC website](#) for updates.

Connect with us.

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

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