NEW ZEALAND CITIZEN CONSIDERING UNDERGRADUATE STUDY IN AUSTRALIA?

Making the decision to go to university is a big deal for everyone, and if you are a New Zealand Citizen there are extra factors to consider. It is important to know how your residency status and length of time in Australia affects how you pay for university; and the financial entitlements (e.g. Centrelink) you are eligible for. Regardless of residency status, QUT offers New Zealand citizens financial support - find out more below.

Thinking about university? Consider this...

Your residency status

• If you were born in Australia to New Zealand parents you become an Australian citizen at age 10 if you have lived most of your life in Australia.

• If you moved to Australia before 2001 then your family is likely to be eligible to apply for Australian citizenship.

• If you arrived after February 2001 then it is more difficult to become an Australian citizen as you need to be a Permanent Resident first.

If any of these scenarios sound like you, or you are unsure of your status, seek advice from Department of Immigration and Border Protection. If you do qualify for Citizenship or Permanent Residency apply as early as possible (as these processes take time).

Visit  www.border.gov.au  or call 131 881

Financial help to study

New Zealand citizens are entitled to a Commonwealth supported place at uni – this means you pay the same fees as Australian Citizens to study. However, to qualify for HECS-HELP (a student loan from the Government) you need to meet certain criteria.

Qualifying for HECS-HELP

If you hold a New Zealand Special Category Visa (SCV) you will be able to access HELP loans, providing you:

• First entered Australia as a dependent child aged under 18 years of age;

• Have lived in Australia for at least 10 years at the time of application for the loan, and have been in Australia for at least:
  o eight out of the past 10 years, and
  o 18 months out of the last two years; and

• Are otherwise eligible for the loan; and

• Provide proof of residency documents by early in your first semester. This may involve requesting an International Movement Record from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection which can take time to get.

New Zealand citizens who meet the criteria on this page qualify for HECS-HELP.

New Zealand citizens who are become Permanent Residents become ineligible for HECS-HELP until they become Australian Citizens.


HINANO KAISSARA
Nursing Student

When I finished school I didn’t believe that I was smart enough to go to uni. Four years in the workforce helped me decide that it was time to overcome my financial, cultural and self-perceived barriers and follow my passion – health care. I finished a Diploma of Nursing before coming to QUT, and got advanced standing (credit for some of the subjects I’ve already done) and an Equity Scholarship when I got here. Graduating from uni would mean everything to me and my family. I’m a proud Cook Islander and will be the first of my family to attend and graduate from university. Being the eldest child makes it all the more special, I hope that my experience will inspire my five younger siblings and let them know that anything is possible and that they can achieve anything they want in life.
Don’t qualify for HECS-HELP?
University fees need to be paid up-front at the start of each semester, costs will vary depending on your course and institution.
Visit: www.qut.edu.au/study/fees-and-scholarships

Finance your study at QUT

Apply for the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) via QTAC
EAS Category 1 (financial hardship) provides a 3 OP or 6 Rank bonus for students from low-income backgrounds and a guaranteed $3500 Equity scholarship for QUT students.
Visit www.qut.edu.au/study/educational-access-scheme

Apply for QUT Equity Scholarships
Equity Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need and range from $1500 to $7500 a year.
Visit www.qut.edu.au/equity-scholarships

Study part-time while you work
University fees will be lower and you will be able to work to earn the money to cover your costs.

Inquire about Centrelink Assistance
Australian Permanent Residents who’ve held the status for two or more years may be eligible for financial assistance from Centrelink (e.g. Youth Allowance, Austudy). After 10 years, NZ citizens have short-term access to Centrelink support.
Visit www.centrelink.gov.au

Want more information? ASK QUT
Phone 07 3138 2000
Visit askqut@qut.edu.au

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