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.

New Zealand citizens who meet the criteria on this page qualify for HECS-HELP, New Zealand citizens who are Permanent Residents are ineligible for HECS-HELP until they become Australian Citizens.

Visit
- www.qut.edu.au/study/fees-and-scholarships/hecshelp-loans-scheme

Thinking about university? Consider the following...

Your residency status

- If you were born in Australia to New Zealand parents, and have lived most of your life in Australia, you become an Australian citizen at age 10.
- 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:
  - eight out of the past 10 years, and
  - 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.
I’m originally from NZ and wasn’t sure what I wanted to do after finishing Year 12. I took a gap year to earn some money and am now studying Primary Education at QUT.

I’m the first person in my family to attend uni. At first my family and I thought it would cost too much, but now think it’s the best decision I’ve ever made.

I get an Equity Scholarship which helps financially. The cost is definitely worth it – I now have the chance to work all over the world.

CANDY WALTERS
Nursing student

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.student.qut.edu.au/fees-and-finances/study-costs

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
Email: askqut@qut.edu.au

I’m a Maori Australian and grew up in Brisbane. I’ve been financially independent since I was 16 and used to think that I couldn’t afford to go to uni, but now realise that isn’t true.

After I left school I worked in retail for a couple of years but decided I wanted to do something more with my life.

I got into uni through the Q-STEP Scheme. Q-STEP gives students a 3 OP or 6 Rank bonus to help them get in and also a guaranteed scholarship. New Zealand citizens are eligible for this Scheme, so it’s well worth checking out.

I love being at uni because I’m working towards becoming a Registered Nurse; something I really want to be. If I can do it, you can do it!

CANDY WALTERS
Nursing student