

# Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarship

## Terms and conditions

### Overview

The Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarship (*'the Scholarship'*), which includes the Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship valued at up to AU\$5000.00, and the Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship valued at up to AU\$5,000.00, is offered to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Persons enrolled at or applying to QUT.

These terms and conditions apply to Participants receiving a Scholarship in 2026.

### Purpose

The Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships are generously funded by the Australian Government's Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP), which provides grants to higher education providers to assist Indigenous Australian students undertake higher education.

Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships aim to increase the number of Indigenous Australian persons enrolling in courses leading to higher education awards and increase the number of Indigenous Australian students progressing in and completing courses leading to higher education awards.

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<p><b>Part 1</b> <i>Eligibility Requirements</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To be eligible for the Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship, Participants must satisfy the below eligibility requirements:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Person as defined under Section 5 of the <a href="#">Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Descent Policy</a> and have had a processing officer from the Oodgeroo Unit or Carumba Institute confirm Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent via the <a href="#">Confirmation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Descent (CATSID) procedure</a>.</li> <li>b. must be enrolled in or applying for a research or coursework award course at QUT in 2026.</li> <li>c. must be able to demonstrate financial disadvantage by either:                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. being in receipt of a means-tested Commonwealth income support payment; or</li> <li>ii. a comprehensive successful assessment by the University (e.g., an Equity Scholarships Scheme assessment, or an Equity Emergency or Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Bursary assessment.</li> </ol> </li> <li>d. must comply with QUT's scholarship, bursary, and prize</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. To be eligible for the Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship, Participants must satisfy the below eligibility requirements:</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. must satisfy the Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship eligibility criteria under Part 1 Clause 1; and</li> <li>b. must not have previously received the Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship, or the former Indigenous Relocation Scholarship; and</li> <li>c. must be able to demonstrate having been from a regional area or remote area. In accordance with the <i>Indigenous Student Assistance Grants Guidelines 2017</i> (Cth) s 4, <i>regional area</i> means an area classified as Inner Regional Australia or Outer Regional Australia in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, and <i>remote area</i> means an area classified as Remote Australia or Very Remote Australia in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard.</li> <li>d. must comply with QUT's scholarship, bursary, and prize concurrency conditions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Part 2</b> <i>Application and Selection Criteria</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applicants are required to submit an application unless previously granted an Indigenous Commonwealth Education Cost Scholarship in 2025 and continue to meet ongoing eligibility requirements.</li> <li>2. Due to the specific nature of the Scholarship, the Participant must provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. evidence of Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Descent (CATSID) via the <a href="#">Confirmation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Descent (CATSID) procedure</a>; and</li> <li>b. evidence of financial disadvantage (see Part 1 Clause 1); and</li> <li>c. evidence of having been from a regional area or remote area, if wanting to be considered for the Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship (e.g., an official bill, tax return, or letter from a local official).</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Applications must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Be submitted by the closing date</li> <li>b. Include any and all supporting documentation in the correct form</li> <li>c. Be written in the English language.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. By applying for this Scholarship, the Participant warrants that they have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.</li> <li>5. QUT has discretion with any decisions made, in connection with this process. To the extent permitted by law, QUT has no liability to any Participant for decisions made in relation to the Scholarship.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Part 3</b> <i>Value and Payment of Scholarship</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participants who apply in the Semester 1 teaching period may receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship valued at AU\$5000.00, to be paid in two (2) instalments of AU\$2,500.00 per Semester 1 and 2 teaching periods.</li> <li>b. an Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship valued at AU\$5,000.00, to be paid in two (2) instalments of AU\$2,500.00 per Semester 1 and 2 teaching periods, for a maximum of one (1) year.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Participants who apply in the Semester 2 teaching period may receive:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship valued at AU\$2,500.00, to be paid in one (1) instalment of AU\$2,500.00 for that teaching period only; and/or</li> <li>b. an Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship valued at AU\$2,500.00, to be paid in one (1) instalment of AU\$2,500.00 for that teaching period only.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Indigenous Commonwealth Education Cost Scholarship will be automatically awarded each year to participants who meet the ongoing eligibility criteria.</li> <li>4. Participants are only eligible to receive one (1) Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship at any point during the lifetime of their studies at QUT.</li> <li>5. Scholarship availabilities will be subject to annual Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP) funding from the Commonwealth.</li> <li>6. For the purposes of these terms and conditions, <i>teaching period</i> means the Semester 1 and/or 2 teaching periods, or in instances where a program of study and instruction for a unit or award course takes place in a teaching period not designated as a Semester 1 and/or 2 teaching period, the first enrolled teaching period designated in Grouped Period 1 (Semester 1 Cluster) and/or the first enrolled teaching period designated in Grouped Period 2 (Semester 2 Cluster). Payments will not be made to Participants during the Summer Program, or any teaching periods designated in Grouped Period 3 (Summer Cluster), unless otherwise specified in the Scholarship offer letter.</li> <li>7. Participants who complete their studies in accelerated mode or before the term of the Scholarship lapses will forfeit any remaining balance of the Scholarship.</li> <li>8. Payment is subject to the <i>Conditions of Scholarship</i>. If the Participant fails to adhere to the <i>Conditions of Scholarship</i>, payment may be suspended or terminated, unless special circumstances apply (see <i>Indigenous Student Assistance Grants Guidelines 2017</i> (Cth) s 27(3)).</li> <li>9. Participants will receive payment by electronic transfer to their nominated bank account after the census date of each teaching period.</li> <li>10. Participants enrolled in Exchange, Cross Institutional, and/or Brisbane Universities Language Alliance (BULA) units will receive payment after the census date of the Exchange, Cross Institutional, and/or BULA units.</li> <li>11. Whilst every care is taken to ensure payment is correct, Participants are required to monitor payments and notify the Scholarships team (<a href="mailto:scholarships@qut.edu.au">scholarships@qut.edu.au</a>) of any over or under payments.</li> <li>12. Overpayments:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If an overpayment occurs at any time and for any reason, QUT may issue the Participant with a written notice requiring repayment of the amount overpaid ('Overpayment Notice'); and</li> <li>b. The Participant must pay to QUT the amount of the overpayment specified in the Overpayment Notice within ten (10) business days of the date of the Overpayment Notice; and</li> <li>c. QUT may, at its sole discretion, recover the overpayment specified in the Overpayment Notice from the Participant by</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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	<p>offsetting that overpayment against any amount subsequently due to the Participant as part of their Scholarship.</p> <p>13. Taxation: QUT does not withhold PAYG tax from coursework scholarship, bursary, or prize payments. It is the Participant's responsibility to check the tax implications for their scholarship, bursary, or prize and personal circumstances. Participants are encouraged to use the <a href="#">Australian Taxation Office's scholarship decision tool</a>. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals">www.ato.gov.au/individuals</a>.</p> <p>14. Centrelink: Centrelink may include this Scholarship entitlement in any means testing for applications made for Commonwealth assistance. Participants are encouraged to check the Centrelink website for information regarding exemptions.</p>
<p><b>Part 4</b> <i>Term of Scholarship</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Indigenous Commonwealth Education Cost Scholarship will be automatically awarded each year to participants who meet the ongoing eligibility criteria.</li> <li>2. Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship is for one (1) year or part thereof.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Part 5</b> <i>Conditions of Scholarship</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Scholarship is governed by the grant conditions as prescribed under the <i>Higher Education Support Act 2003</i> (Cth) and the <i>Indigenous Student Assistance Grants Guidelines 2017</i> (Cth).</li> <li>2. Participants must remain enrolled in an award course at QUT.</li> <li>3. The below progression requirements apply to the recipients of the Indigenous Commonwealth Education Cost Scholarships: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Participants must achieve a minimum course (cumulative) grade point average (GPA) of 4.00 in any given teaching period to maintain the Scholarship for the next teaching period.</li> <li>b. Participants whose course (cumulative) GPA drops below 4.00 will be issued a notification that they are in breach of the Conditions of Scholarship but will continue to receive payment for the currently enrolled teaching period. Participants will be referred to the Oodgeroo Unit team for support in developing a student success action plan including engaging with the Keystones of Success Tutoring Program.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Participants who accept an offer for the Scholarship may: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. be required to inform any of the following persons of the receipt of the Scholarship, depending on their personal circumstances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. an employee of the Human Services Department; and</li> <li>ii. an employee of the Department administered by the Minister administering the <i>Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986</i> (Cth); and</li> <li>iii. an employee of the Department administered by the Minister administering section 258 of the <i>Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004</i> (Cth); and</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. not qualify for certain other forms of Commonwealth assistance.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Participants must use the Scholarship for its intended purpose, that being to fund education costs if in receipt of the Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship, or fund relocation costs</li> </ol>

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	<p>and/or accommodation costs if in receipt of the Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Without limiting Part 5 Clause 12, Participants are permitted to receive the Scholarship if already in receipt of assistance. However, Participants are not permitted to receive the Scholarship if the awarding of the Scholarship would result in the Participant receiving assistance concurrently from two or more Commonwealth sources for the same purpose. This includes assistance intended for the same or similar purpose under the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i> (Cth), the <i>ABSTUDY Scheme</i> and the <i>Student Assistance Act 1973</i> (Cth), the <i>Veterans' Children Education Scheme</i>, or the <i>Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme Instrument 2004</i> (Cth).</li> <li>7. Participants must not transfer their award course from QUT to a different higher education provider.</li> <li>8. Participants in receipt of the Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship must not defer their award course.</li> <li>9. Participants are permitted to change their award course and continue to receive the Scholarship, unless otherwise specified in the Scholarship offer letter.</li> <li>10. Payments are terminated if a Participant undertakes an approved Leave of Absence.</li> <li>11. Deferment of the Scholarship offer is not permitted.</li> <li>12. Participants who withdraw from their award course or units prior to the completion of the teaching period (i.e., no grades are recorded) may be required to return monies paid to QUT.</li> <li>13. Special circumstances will be taken into consideration to support individual variation to the <i>Conditions of Scholarship</i>. Supporting documentary evidence may be requested. Participants are encouraged to discuss their special circumstances with the Scholarships team (<a href="mailto:scholarships@qut.edu.au">scholarships@qut.edu.au</a>), Faculty, or QUT Student Services.</li> <li>14. Participants of the Scholarship are eligible to receive another QUT scholarship, bursary or prize, whilst in receipt of the Scholarship.</li> <li>15. Without limiting Part 5 Clause 12, Participants of the Scholarship cannot concurrently receive a scholarship or bursary offered via the Equity Scholarships Scheme whilst in receipt of the Scholarship. In the event the Participant receives both an offer for a scholarship or bursary offered via the Equity Scholarships Scheme and an offer for the Scholarship during the active term of the Scholarship, the Participant shall be required to accept one (1) offer only and forfeit the other offer.</li> <li>16. If payment has already been disbursed to the Participant for the forfeited scholarship or bursary, and the value of the accepted scholarship or bursary is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. higher than the value of the forfeited scholarship or bursary, the Participant shall be entitled to receive a top-up amount equal to the difference between the accepted scholarship or bursary and the forfeited scholarship or bursary; or</li> <li>b. lower than the value of the forfeited scholarship or bursary, the Participant shall be issued with an Overpayment Notice and be</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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	<p>required pay to QUT the difference between the accepted scholarship or bursary and the forfeited scholarship or bursary in line with the overpayment policy prescribed under Part 3 Clause 9 and Part 3 Clause 10.</p> <p>17. Unsuccessful applications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. QUT's decision in the awarding of the Scholarship will be final; and</li> <li>b. QUT is not liable for any: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. indirect or consequential loss; and</li> <li>ii. any loss of revenue, loss of profit, or loss of business opportunities, suffered by the Participant in connection with the Scholarship process whether under contract, tort (including negligence), or otherwise.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>18. The Participant accepts the Scholarship by doing the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Accept the Scholarship and agree to the declaration and terms and conditions in the online offer acceptance form by the date specified; and</li> <li>b. Provide QUT with student bank details.</li> </ol> <p>19. If the Participant does not accept the Scholarship by the date specified in the offer letter, the Participant will forfeit the Scholarship and QUT reserves the right to allocate the Scholarship to another person.</p>
<p><b>Part 6</b> <i>Under 18</i></p>	<p>1. If the Participant is under the age of 18 years, the Participant will be deemed to have obtained the permission of the Participant's parent or legal guardian to participate in the Scholarship application process and the Scholarship award and to be bound by these terms and conditions.</p>
<p><b>Part 7</b> <i>General Requirements for Application Terms</i></p>	<p>Where an application is required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All applications become the property of QUT upon submission, upload or otherwise.</li> <li>2. Applications must be received by QUT during the application period.</li> <li>3. A student claiming to be a Participant must provide proof of identity, if required by QUT.</li> <li>4. Each Participant may be required to sign a document indicating that they have received their Scholarship payment at the time of payment.</li> <li>5. Any decision of QUT, the Scholarship sponsor or donor, in respect of all matters arising out of, or in connection with, the Scholarship is final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into. See <i>Grievances and Appeals</i> below for information on appeals.</li> <li>6. Each Participant is responsible for notifying QUT of any change to contact details during the application process and after the Scholarship has been awarded.</li> <li>7. If the Scholarship process is interfered with in any way or is not capable of being conducted as anticipated due to any reason beyond reasonable control of QUT, QUT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify, suspend, terminate, or cancel the Scholarship, as appropriate.</li> <li>8. This Scholarship and these terms and conditions are governed by the laws of Queensland.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Part 8</b></p>	<p>QUT reserves the right to cease the Scholarship awarded to a Participant in</p>

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<i>Termination of Scholarship</i>	<p>the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Failure to comply with the <i>Conditions of Scholarship</i>.</li> <li>2. Failure to comply with the grant conditions as prescribed under the <i>Higher Education Support Act 2003</i> (Cth) and the <i>Indigenous Student Assistance Grants Guidelines 2017</i> (Cth).</li> <li>3. Withdrawal from award course. Participants are advised to contact the Scholarships team (<a href="mailto:scholarships@qut.edu.au">scholarships@qut.edu.au</a>), Faculty, or QUT Student Services before withdrawing from their award course.</li> <li>4. Engaging in behaviour that breaches the QUT Student Code of Conduct, where if proven would be regarded as student misconduct. The required standards of behaviour are contained within the <a href="#">Academic Integrity Policy</a>, the <a href="#">QUT Code for Responsible Conduct of Research</a>, and the <a href="#">Acceptable Use of Information and Communications Technology Resources Policy</a>.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Part 9</b> <i>Review and Appeals</i></p>	<p>Where the Participant intends to lodge an application for a review or appeal:</p> <p>Review process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Participant may request a review by submitting a written request via email to <a href="mailto:scholarships@qut.edu.au">scholarships@qut.edu.au</a> stating the grounds for review and include relevant supporting documentation.</li> <li>2. Review requests must be lodged within ten (10) working days from date of notification of original outcome.</li> <li>3. The Director (or delegate) of Student Administration will assess the original application, the information provided in the review request, and the relevant policy and legislative requirements.</li> <li>4. The Director (or delegate) will determine to confirm the original decision, amend the decision or set aside the original decision and issue a new determination based on updated rationale.</li> <li>5. Notification of the review will be provided via email within twenty (20) working days.</li> </ol> <p>Appeal process:</p> <p>Where the Participant intends to appeal the review decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appeals related to scholarship, bursary, and prize matters are governed by these terms and conditions, the University Committee Governance Policy, and the <a href="#">Appeals Committee Charter</a>.</li> <li>2. Where the Participant is dissatisfied with the review outcome, they may submit an appeal to <a href="mailto:scholarships@qut.edu.au">scholarships@qut.edu.au</a> within five (5) working days of receipt of the review outcome. The appeal must state the grounds for appeal and include any relevant supporting documentation.</li> <li>3. The appeal will be reviewed by the University Appeals Committee for formal consideration. The decision of the University Appeals Committee is final.</li> <li>4. Where the appeal is not resolved, the Participant may seek advice or lodge a complaint with the <a href="#">QUT Student Ombudsman</a>. The Ombudsman is responsible for administering QUT's <a href="#">student related complaints policy</a>.</li> <li>5. The decision of the Appeal at 3 above is final. The QUT Student Ombudsman will assess if the review process complied with QUT's established policies and procedures.</li> <li>6. Where the Participant is still dissatisfied with the outcome, the Participant has the right to seek external review from an agency such as</li> </ol>

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	<p>the National Student Ombudsman. The Participant is requested to advise the QUT Student Ombudsman of the application by email <a href="mailto:ombudsman@qut.edu.au">ombudsman@qut.edu.au</a>.</p>
<p><b>Part 10</b> <i>Privacy</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By applying for the Scholarship, the Participant provides permission for their personal details to be shared with the Selection Panel. QUT collects the personal information on the Scholarship application form to assess applications and for other university purposes upon enrolment. The collection is authorised under the QUT Student Rules. Information explaining how QUT manages Participant's personal information and our practices for disclosure can be found at: <a href="http://www.governance.qut.edu.au/compliance/privacy/">www.governance.qut.edu.au/compliance/privacy/</a></li> <li>2. QUT is bound by the <i>Information Privacy Act 2009</i> (Qld) ('IPA'), and the QUT privacy policy is available at <a href="https://www.qut.edu.au/additional/privacy">https://www.qut.edu.au/additional/privacy</a> and <a href="http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/F/F_06_02.jsp">http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/F/F_06_02.jsp</a>.</li> <li>3. QUT will collect and use the Participant's personal information for the purposes of administering and carrying out the Scholarship and may share information with nominated third parties who require the information for the management of the Scholarship. This information will not be used for promotion and marketing purposes.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Part 11</b> <i>Reserving the Right to Amend</i></p>	<p>Without limiting any part of the Scholarship terms and conditions, QUT may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amend or replace these terms and conditions, or any Scholarship rules or procedures, at any time and for any reason.</li> <li>2. Extend, suspend, or terminate the Scholarship or Scholarship process at any time before the Scholarship is awarded.</li> <li>3. Accept applications after the due date.</li> <li>4. At any time prior to awarding the Scholarship, disqualify any Participant from participating or exclude their offer from further consideration.</li> <li>5. Commence a new process for calling applications on a similar or different basis to that outlined in these terms and conditions.</li> <li>6. Use non-QUT personnel in assessing applications.</li> </ol>

**Contact:**

The Scholarship is administered by Student Administration. For any Scholarship related inquiries, please contact [scholarships@qut.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@qut.edu.au).