



2021

Oodgeroo Noonuccal Postgraduate and Undergraduate Scholarships

Information for applicants

Applications close 5 March 2021



This scholarship program has been established in honour of Oodgeroo Noonuccal to enable the continuation of the advocacy work she pursued so courageously and passionately during her life time.

Oodgeroo Noonuccal was born Kathleen Jean Mary Ruska on the 3rd November 1920, a descendant of the Noonuccal people of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island). During her lifetime she was, and continues to be, recognised as one of Australia's leading literary figures, who used her pen to give voice to the Indigenous struggle for rights and justice. In 1962, she was instrumental in advocating for citizenship rights for Indigenous people as Secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI), work that gave rise to the 1967 referendum.

Oodgeroo received numerous awards, such as the Mary Gilmore Medal (1970), the Jessie Litchfield Award (1975), the International Acting Award and the Fellowship of Australian Writers Award. In 1970, she was appointed as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) for services to the community, but returned it in protest over the bicentenary celebrations held in 1988. In 1972, she withdrew from active involvement in political organisations to live in semi-retirement on a leasehold property, Moongalba ('sitting-down place'), on Minjerribah, establishing the Noonuccal-Nughie Education and Cultural Centre, where she regularly conducted programs for groups of school students and visitors.

In recognition of a lifetime commitment to Indigenous peoples and her outstanding contributions to Australian literature, Oodgeroo Noonuccal was awarded three honorary doctorates by universities within Australia. Two honorary doctorate awards were conferred on her for her contribution to Australian literature, a Doctorate of Letters from Macquarie University and a Doctor of the University from Griffith University. In 1992, Oodgeroo received an honorary Doctorate from the Faculty of Education, Queensland University of Technology for both her contribution to literature and in recognition of her work in the field of education. This scholarship is an ongoing acknowledgment of these lifetime achievements.

The aim of the Oodgeroo Scholarship Program

The aim of the Oodgeroo Scholarship Program is to promote the pursuit of Indigenous studies through supporting the education of Indigenous people in any of the fields which relate to the life and works of Oodgeroo Noonuccal. This might include literature, education, history, cultural studies, law, justice studies and race relations. Up to two scholarships will be awarded to Indigenous undergraduate and postgraduate students to pursue their studies at QUT in 2021 and beyond.

What scholarships are available?

The Oodgeroo Scholarship Program consists of:

1. One Postgraduate Scholarship of \$10 000 to be offered annually to an Indigenous student in any QUT faculty or school who is, or who will be, enrolled in Semester 1 2021 in either a Graduate Diploma or Masters degree; note that the Masters program could be either a coursework degree or a research Masters degree.
2. One Undergraduate Scholarship of \$7 500 to be offered annually to an Indigenous student who is, or who will be, enrolled in Semester 1 2021 in a QUT undergraduate degree.

Please note: Semester 1 2021 cannot be the last semester of the student's enrolment.

How will the successful scholarship recipients be selected?

A Selection Committee will consider all applications and select the scholarship recipients. The primary criteria used to assess all applications will be merit, community involvement and the extent to which the studies undertaken fulfil the aim of the program as being relevant to the life and work of Oodgeroo Noonuccal.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a scholarship you must:

1. be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
2. already be enrolled in or accepted into a QUT course of study relevant to one of the two scholarships, and enrolled (or intending to enrol) in that program in Semester 1 2021*
3. not a previous recipient of the Oodgeroo Noonuccal scholarships
4. have completed (and submitted by the due date) a full application addressing the selection criteria, current resume, including a current academic transcript and two written referee statements.

Please note: Semester 1 2021 cannot be the last semester of the student's enrolment.

To apply you must complete the application form via unihub and submit by **5 March 2021:**

<https://unihub.qut.edu.au/Form.aspx?id=3214326>

What will happen after I apply?

QUT will confirm receipt of your application via email. Successful candidates will be notified in before census date in March 2021.

How will the scholarship be paid?

The scholarship is for one year only and will be paid in two instalments to the successful recipient, to be used in accordance with the conditions of the scholarship. Payments will be made after Semester 1 and Semester 2 census date, following confirmation by the university that the enrolment program meets the requirements of the scholarship.

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