

Equity Scholarships Scheme

Terms and conditions

Overview

The Equity Scholarships Scheme (*the Scholarship*) is an equity scholarship valued at AU\$1,800.00 for the Equity Bursary, up to AU\$4,200.00 for the Equity Scholarship, and up to AU\$7,500.00 per year for Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarships, offered to commencing or continuing, international and domestic students. This is provided to the Participant via funds transfer to their nominated bank account.

These terms and conditions apply to Participants commencing the Scholarship in 2025.

Purpose

The Equity Scholarships Scheme is supported by the QUT Learning Potential Fund offering funding for scholarships and bursary support to more than 2000 QUT students experiencing financial hardship each year.

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Part 1 <i>Eligibility Requirements</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To be eligible for the Equity Bursary and Equity Scholarship, Participants must satisfy the below eligibility requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If applying directly to the Equity Scholarships Scheme: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> must be a current or future domestic or international student undertaking an undergraduate, postgraduate, or research award course at QUT in 2025. must be from a low-income household. must be experiencing financial hardship. must comply with QUT's scholarship, bursary, and prize concurrency conditions. If applying through the QTAC Educational Access Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the 'Q-Step Scheme'): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> must be assessed as being a QTAC applicant whose recent study was impacted by financial or personal challenges. must comply with QUT's scholarship, bursary, and prize concurrency conditions. To be eligible for a Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarship, Participants must satisfy the below eligibility requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Must satisfy the Equity Bursary and Equity Scholarship eligibility criteria above. Must satisfy the eligibility criteria for the Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarship, as outlined on the QUT website.

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	c. Must comply with QUT's scholarship, bursary, and prize concurrency conditions.
Part 2 <i>Application and Selection Criteria</i>	<p>1. The Scholarship requires an application form. Due to the specific nature of the Scholarship, the Participant must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Evidence of financial disadvantage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participants must provide bank statements for all bank accounts (both overseas and onshore) under the Participant's name, covering two (2) months from the time of the Participant's application submission. Documents must be provided in an accepted format (Word, CSV, and Excel files will not be accepted). ii. Participants must provide proof of income. iii. Participants must provide proof of the income of parent(s)/caregiver(s), if financially dependent and/or living at home. iv. Participants must provide proof of partner's income, if partnered. v. Participants must provide a Centrelink Income Statement, or Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN) for verification with Centrelink Confirmation eServices, if in receipt of financial supplements, financial assistance, or income contingent loans from Centrelink. vi. Participants must provide a written response on how their financial circumstances, either past or present, have had a negative impact on their life and their capacity to give time and attention to their studies. vii. Participants must provide any evidence of other financial hardship, significant expenses, or liabilities. b. Evidence of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participants who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Person as defined under Section 5 of the Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Descent Policy must have a processing officer from the Oodgeroo Unit or Carumba Institute confirm Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent via the Confirmation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Descent (CATSID) procedure. c. Evidence of regional, rural, and remote area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participants who identify as having been from a regional, rural, or remote area must provide evidence of having lived in a regional, rural, or remote area, according to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), at the time of their admissions application (QTAC or direct application to QUT), OR evidence of having attended a school in a regional, rural, or remote area, according to the ASGS, and be a recent school leaver (i.e., have graduated in the last two (2) years and have done no further study since graduating). d. Evidence of Australian South Sea Islander descent.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participants who identify as Australian South Sea Islander must provide a letter of support or verification from a registered Australian South Sea Islander community organisation. e. Evidence of The Smith Family Learning for Life program membership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participants who are members of The Smith Family's Learning for Life program must provide a letter of support or verification from The Smith Family on official company letterhead, OR a letter of support or verification from a Learning for Life worker on official company letterhead. f. Evidence of personal hardship (non-financial). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participants experiencing personal hardship must provide appropriate evidence of personal hardship. The evidence of personal hardship must outline the duration, and the severity, of the personal hardship, and must detail how their personal hardship, either past or present, has had a negative impact on their life and their capacity to give time and attention to their studies. g. Other evidence relating to Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarships. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If wanting to be considered for a Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarship, and the Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarship has additional eligibility requirements not otherwise mentioned above, the Participant must provide appropriate evidence that satisfies those additional eligibility requirements in their Equity Scholarships Scheme application. <p>2. Applications must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Be submitted by the closing date b. Include any and all supporting documentation in the correct form c. Be written in the English language. <p>3. By applying for this Scholarship, the Participant warrants that they have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.</p> <p>4. 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.</p>
<p>Part 3</p> <p><i>Value and Payment of Scholarship</i></p>	<p>1. Participants who apply in the Semester 1 teaching period may receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An Equity Bursary valued at AU\$1,800.00, to be paid in one (1) instalment of AU\$1,800.00 for that teaching period only b. An Equity Scholarship valued at AU\$4,200.00, to be paid in two (2) instalments of AU\$2,100.00 per Semester 1 and 2 teaching periods c. A Named Learning Potential Fund 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 d. A Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarship valued at AU\$7,500.00, to be paid in two (2) instalments of AU\$3,750.00 per Semester 1 and 2 teaching periods

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. A Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarship valued at AU\$5,000.00 per year, to be paid in eight (8) instalments of AU\$2,500.00 per Semester 1 and 2 teaching periods f. A Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarship valued at AU\$7,500.00 per year, to be paid in eight (8) instalments of AU\$3,750.00 per Semester 1 and 2 teaching periods. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Participants who apply in the Semester 2 teaching period may receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An Equity Bursary valued at AU\$1,800.00, to be paid in one (1) instalment of AU\$1,800.00 for that teaching period only b. An Equity Scholarship valued at AU\$2,100.00, to be paid in one (1) instalment of AU\$2,100.00 for that teaching period only. 3. For the purposes of these terms and conditions, <i>teaching period</i> means the Semester 1 and/or 2 teaching periods. Payments will not be made to Participants in a teaching period not designated as a Semester 1 and/or 2 teaching period, including Summer Program, or any other teaching period designated in the Grouped Period 1 (Semester 1 Cluster), Grouped Period 2 (Semester 2 Cluster), or Grouped Period 3 (Summer Cluster), unless otherwise specified in the Scholarship offer letter. 4. Participants who complete their studies in accelerated mode or before the term of the Scholarship lapses will forfeit any remaining balance of the Scholarship. 5. 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. 6. Participants will receive payment by electronic transfer to their nominated bank account after the census date of each teaching period. 7. Participants enrolled in Exchange, Cross Institutional, and/or Brisbane Universities Language Alliance (BULA) units will not receive payment after the census date of the Exchange, Cross Institutional, and/or BULA units. 8. Unless otherwise advised in the Scholarship offer letter, scholarships and bursaries offered via the Equity Scholarships Scheme do not rollover to the next calendar year. A fresh application will be required each calendar year. This applies to Participants who receive a scholarship or bursary via the Q-Step Scheme on commencement at QUT. 9. Whilst every care is taken to ensure payment is correct, Participants are required to monitor payments and notify the Scholarships team (scholarships@qut.edu.au) of any over or under payments. 10. Overpayments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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') 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. c. QUT may, at its sole discretion, recover the overpayment specified in the Overpayment Notice from the Participant by offsetting that overpayment against any amount subsequently

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	<p>due to the Participant as part of their Scholarship.</p> <p>11. 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 Australian Taxation Office's scholarship decision tool. For more information, visit www.ato.gov.au/individuals.</p> <p>12. 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>Part 4 <i>Term of Scholarship</i></p>	<p>1. The term of the Scholarship will be for one (1) year for Participants who apply in the Semester 1 teaching period.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Limited Named Learning Potential Fund Scholarships will have a term of four (4) years.</p> <p>2. The term of the Scholarship will be for the Semester 2 teaching period only for Participants who apply in the Semester 2 teaching period.</p>
<p>Part 5 <i>Conditions of Scholarship</i></p>	<p>1. Participants must remain admitted and enrolled in an eligible award course to receive payment. See <i>Eligibility Requirements</i> for the definition of eligible award course.</p> <p>2. Participants must be enrolled in a minimum of one (1) QUT unit at the census date for each teaching period during the term of the Scholarship to receive payment.</p> <p>3. Participants are permitted to change their award course and continue to receive the Scholarship, unless otherwise specified in the Scholarship offer letter.</p> <p>4. Deferment of the Scholarship offer is not permitted.</p> <p>5. Payments are terminated if a Participant undertakes an approved Leave of Absence.</p> <p>6. 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.</p> <p>7. 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 (scholarships@qut.edu.au), Faculty, or QUT Student Services.</p> <p>8. Participants of the Scholarship are eligible to receive another QUT scholarship, bursary, or prize, whilst in receipt of the Scholarship.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Without limiting Part 5 Clause 8, Participants of the Scholarship cannot concurrently receive a second scholarship or bursary offered via the Equity Scholarships Scheme whilst in receipt of the Scholarship. In the event the Participant receives two offers for different scholarships or bursaries offered via the Equity Scholarships Scheme during the active term of the Scholarship, the Participant shall be required to accept one (1) offer only and forfeit the other offer.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. 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 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. c. 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 lower than the value of the forfeited scholarship or bursary, the Participant shall be issued with an Overpayment Notice and be required to 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 10. <p>9. Unsuccessful applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. QUT's decision in the awarding of the Scholarship will be final b. QUT is not liable for any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. indirect or consequential loss; and 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. <p>10. The Participant is required to provide QUT with student bank details as outlined in the offer letter.</p> <p>11. A presumption shall be made that the Participant accepts the offer for the Scholarship upon the receipt of a successful outcome letter for the Scholarship, unless otherwise advised. Should the Participant wish to decline their offer for the Scholarship following the receipt of a successful outcome letter, the Participant is advised to contact the Scholarships team (scholarships@qut.edu.au) in writing.</p>
Part 6 <i>Under 18</i>	<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>
Part 7 <i>General Requirements for Application Terms</i>	<p>Where an application is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All applications become the property of QUT upon submission, upload or otherwise. 2. Applications must be received by QUT during the application period. 3. A student claiming to be a Participant must provide proof of identity, if required by QUT. 4. 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. 5. Each Participant is responsible for notifying QUT of any change to contact details during the application process and after the Scholarship has been awarded. 6. 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

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	<p>control of QUT, QUT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify, suspend, terminate, or cancel the Scholarship, as appropriate.</p> <p>7. This Scholarship and these terms and conditions are governed by the laws of Queensland.</p>
<p>Part 8 <i>Termination of Scholarship</i></p>	<p>QUT reserves the right to cease the Scholarship awarded to a Participant in the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failure to comply with the <i>Conditions of Scholarship</i>. 2. Withdrawal from award course. Participants are advised to contact the Scholarships team (scholarships@qut.edu.au), Faculty, or QUT Student Services before withdrawing from their award course. 3. 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 Academic Integrity Policy, the QUT Code for Responsible Conduct of Research, and the Acceptable Use of Information and Communications Technology Resources Policy.
<p>Part 9 <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"> 1. A Participant may request a review by submitting a written request via email to scholarships@qut.edu.au stating the grounds for review and include relevant supporting documentation. 2. Review requests must be lodged within ten (10) working days from date of notification of original outcome. 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. 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. 5. Notification of the review will be provided via email within twenty (20) working days. <p>Appeal process:</p> <p>Where the Participant intends to appeal a matter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appeals related to scholarship, bursary, and prize matters are governed by these terms and conditions, the University Committee Governance Policy, and the Appeals Committee Charter. 2. Where the Participant is dissatisfied with the review outcome, they may submit an appeal to scholarships@qut.edu.au within five (5) working dates of receipt of the review outcome. The appeal must state the grounds for appeal and include any relevant supporting documentation. 3. The appeal will be reviewed by the University Appeals Committee for formal consideration. The decision of the University Appeals Committee is final. 4. Where the appeal is not resolved, the Participant may seek advice or lodge a complaint with the QUT Student Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is responsible for administering QUT's student related complaints policy. 5. The decision of the Appeal at 3 above is final. The QUT Student

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	<p>Ombudsman will assess if the review process complied with QUT's established policies and procedures.</p> <p>6. Where the Participant is still dissatisfied with the outcome, the Participant has the right to seek external review from an agency such as the National Student Ombudsman. The Participant is requested to advise the QUT Student Ombudsman of the application by email ombudsman@qut.edu.au.</p>
Part 10 <i>Privacy</i>	<p>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: www.governance.qut.edu.au/compliance/privacy/</p> <p>2. QUT is bound by the <i>Information Privacy Act 2009</i> (Qld) ('IPA'), and the QUT privacy policy is available at https://www.qut.edu.au/additional/privacy and http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/F/F_06_02.jsp.</p> <p>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.</p>
Part 11 <i>Reserving the Right to Amend</i>	<p>Without limiting any part of the Scholarship terms and conditions, QUT may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend or replace these terms and conditions, or any Scholarship rules or procedures, at any time and for any reason. 2. Extend, suspend, or terminate the Scholarship or Scholarship process at any time before the Scholarship is awarded. 3. Accept applications after the due date. 4. At any time prior to awarding the Scholarship, disqualify any Participant from participating or exclude their offer from further consideration. 5. Commence a new process for calling applications on a similar or different basis to that outlined in these terms and conditions. 6. Use non-QUT personnel in assessing applications.

Contact:

The Scholarship is administered by Student Administration. For any Scholarship related inquiries, please contact scholarships@qut.edu.au.