2023 QUT Excellence Scholarship (Academic)

Terms and Conditions

Overview
QUT Excellence scholarships are awarded to high achieving school leavers and gap year students who are commencing a relevant undergraduate course at QUT. This merit-based scholarship rewards high achievers and enables their continued success at university through membership into the College of Excellence.

1. Eligibility requirements
To be eligible for the QUT Excellence Scholarship (Academic), applicants must meet all the following requirements,

1.1. must be graduating Year 12 (or International Baccalaureate) OR have had no more than one gap year since graduating high school (or International Baccalaureate)

1.2. must achieve an unadjusted ATAR of 98 or above (an ATAR of 95 and above may be considered for certain courses). ATAR adjustment schemes are not applied in the assessment of these scholarships.

1.3. must be starting a university undergraduate course for the first time

1.4. must nominate a QUT undergraduate course as their first preference in the QTAC application process

1.5. must fall into one of the categories below,
   - an Australian or New Zealand citizen OR a permanent resident OR hold a permanent humanitarian visa
   - an international student who has completed high school in Australia OR completed Australian curriculum (or International Baccalaureate) offshore.

2. Value and payment of scholarships
There are two types of QUT Excellence Scholarships available.

2.1. QUT Excellence Scholarship (Academic) valued at $30,000 is paid at $10,000 per year ($5,000 per semester) based on standard, full-time equivalent enrolment over the first six semesters of the nominated undergraduate course.

2.2. QUT Excellence Scholarship (Academic) valued at $10,000 is paid at $5,000 per year ($2,500 per semester) based on standard, full-time equivalent enrolment over the first four semesters of the nominated undergraduate course.

2.3. Students enrolled on a part-time basis will receive 50% of the standard semester payment amount.

2.4. Payments will be subject to Section 4 - Conditions of the scholarship being met with payments being suspended circumstances set out in Section 4 below.

2.5. Students will receive scholarship payment by electronic transfer to their nominated bank account after the census date each semester.

2.6. While every care is taken to ensure direct payments of scholarship funds are correct, scholarship recipients are required to monitor payments and notify the Student Excellence Coordinator if any over or under payments occur. Where discrepancies in payment occur, students may be required to return the funds to the university.
3. Term of scholarship
   3.1. The term of the scholarship is determined by the student's enrolment load, either full-time or part-time (e.g., three years for the $30,000 scholarship or two years for the $10,000 scholarship, based on a full-time enrolment).
   3.2. Students who change to a part-time enrolment will extend the term of the scholarship and will continue to be entitled to their scholarship until the full value of their scholarship is exhausted, and subject to the conditions contained in Section 4 - Conditions of scholarship below.

4. Conditions of scholarship
   4.1. Students must accept or defer their scholarship offer by the acceptance deadline. Scholarships offers can only be deferred by commencing students who are also able to defer their course offer.
   4.2. Students must achieve a minimum course (accumulative) grade point average (GPA) of 5.00 in any given semester to maintain the scholarship for the next study period.
      4.2.1. Students whose course GPA drops below 5.00 are issued a notification that they are in breach of their scholarship condition but will continue to receive their payment for the next semester.
      4.2.2. If their course GPA remains below a 5.00 for the following semester, payment may be suspended until further notice.
      4.2.3. A third breach of the GPA condition may result in termination of the scholarship.
   4.3. Students must remain admitted and enrolled in a course to receive their scholarship payment.
   4.4. Students are permitted to change their course and continue to receive this scholarship unless otherwise specified in the scholarship offer letter.
   4.5. Recipients of the STEM Scholarship ($30,000 can only change to another STEM undergraduate course).
   4.6. Scholarship payments are suspended whilst a student is on an approved Leave of Absence. After completing their first semester, students can apply for up to two years leave of absence from their course without impacting their scholarship.
   4.7. Special circumstances will be taken into consideration to support individual variation to the conditions of scholarship, supporting documentary evidence may be requested. Student are encouraged to discuss their special circumstance with the Student Excellence Coordinator and/or Counselling services.
   4.8. Scholarship recipients who withdraw from their studies prior to completion of the teaching period (i.e., no grades are recorded) may be required to return monies paid for the withdrawn units.
   4.9. Students on Excellence Scholarships cannot concurrently receive another merit, cooperative, or industry scholarships, but are eligible to receive a Bursary, Prize, or Equity Scholarship.

5. Termination of scholarship
   A scholarship may be terminated in the following circumstances,
   5.1. Failure to comply with Section 4 - Conditions of scholarship
   5.2. Withdrawal from your course. Students are advised to access Counselling services or the Student Excellence Coordinator before withdrawing from their course.
5.3. Failure to enrol into a course following the completion of the approved deferral period. Deferment of the scholarship offer is only available to commencing students who can defer their course offer.

5.4. Students who commence a course at another university will not be eligible for the scholarship upon their return from deferment.

5.5. Failure to enrol into a course following the completion of the approved Leave of Absence period.

5.6. Student behaviour that breaches the QUT Student Code of Conduct, where if proven would be regarded as student misconduct. The required standards of behaviour relate to policies regarding Academic integrity (MOPP C/5.3), QUT Code for responsible conduct of research (MOPP D/2.6), Acceptable use of information technology resources (MOPP F/1.11).

6. Miscellaneous

6.1. Grievances
   6.1.1 Student may lodge a formal appeal arising from any scholarship matter through the Appeals Committee.
   6.1.2 Any grievances related to the administration of scholarship is governed by E/9.2 Grievance resolution procedures for student related grievances, with QUT’s Manual of Policy and Procedures.

6.2. Tax implications
   6.2.1 QUT does not withhold PAYG tax from coursework scholarship payments. It is the recipient’s responsibility to check the tax implications for your scholarship and personal circumstances. For advice on whether your scholarship is taxable, use the Australian Taxation Office’s scholarship decision tool. Additional tax information can be obtained via www.ato.gov.au/individuals.

6.3. Centrelink
   6.3.1 Please also note that Centrelink may include this scholarship entitlement in any means testing in relation to applications made for commonwealth assistance. Please check the Centrelink site for information regarding exempt scholarships.

6.4. Scholarship contact
   6.4.1 QUT Excellence Scholarships are administered by Student Engagement. For any scholarships related inquiries please contact scholarships@qut.edu.au