

## The Australian National University NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP Conditions of Award

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There shall be a number of scholarships for new domestic students known as the ANU National Merit Scholarship.
- 1.2 The objectives of the scholarship are to reward academic excellence in secondary school studies and provide assistance with costs related to tertiary studies.

### 2. VALUE

- 2.1 The value of the scholarship will be \$6,500 per year for a maximum of five years. The scholarship shall be paid in two equal instalments at the beginning of each semester, unless otherwise stated in the scholarship offer letter.
- 2.2 The scholar is responsible for making payment of all his/her tuition fees by the prescribed date as set out by the University each session. Scholars are responsible for the costs of books, study materials, accommodation and all other costs of study.
- 2.3 An extension of scholarship may be granted for students enrolled in ANU Vertical degrees where the duration of the program is greater than five years. A scholar must submit a written request to the Chair of the University Awards Sub-Group (the Chair) for the scholarship to be extended.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY

The Scholarship shall be available for award each year to a student who:

- (a) is an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen, holder of an Australian Permanent Resident visa or a permanent humanitarian visa;
- (b) has completed their Year 12 or equivalent qualification within the last two years and achieved excellent results as converted to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) between 99.75 and 99.85 (no bonus points);
- (c) has not enrolled in any undergraduate degree program previous to commencing at the University;
- (d) has submitted an application for admission through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) listing the ANU as first, second or third preference, or has accepted a deferred place to commence their studies in the year following the deferral.

### 4. APPLICATION

No formal application is required as eligible candidates will be automatically considered for the scholarship.

### 5. SELECTION

- 5.1 The Scholarship shall be awarded on the basis of the scholars meeting all eligibility requirements set out above.
- 5.2 In exceptional circumstances, the Registrar may consider requests for special consideration if a prospective student does not meet eligibility requirement 3 (c) above. The student must submit a request in writing to the Registrar stating their case in full and providing all relevant documentation.

## **6. CONCURRENT HOLDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholars may not hold other scholarships/awards of equal or greater value, concurrently with the ANU National Merit Scholarship. Scholars must submit a written request and make a case citing exceptional circumstances to the Chair to concurrently hold other scholarships/awards of lesser value than the ANU National Merit Scholarship.

## **7. DEFERMENT**

The Scholarship will usually be taken up in the year of offer. In exceptional cases, a student may request deferral of their scholarship for up to 12 months.

## **8. COMMENCEMENT**

The Scholarship will commence from the first day of the first teaching period that the scholar is enrolled.

## **9. LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE**

ANU National Merit Scholarship holders are expected to maintain a Distinction (70%) average each semester (with the average being across all courses taken in a particular semester).

If a scholar is unable to achieve a Distinction average in their previous semester they will be sent a formal warning.

If a scholar does not meet the Distinction average in a subsequent semester they will risk having their scholarship suspended or terminated.

Scholars will be given the opportunity to explain their performance and how their performance can be remedied before a decision on the suspension or termination of a scholarship is made.

## **10. DURATION**

The Scholarship is to be held for a maximum of five years on a full-time basis including an Honours Year, unless otherwise approved by the Chair.

## **11. ENROLMENT**

11.1 A scholar must enrol in and remain enrolled in an undergraduate degree program or a vertical double degree offered at the University.

11.2 A scholar is expected to enrol in 48 units per year. If the scholar wishes to drop below this unit load, he or she must submit a written request and make a case to the Chair as to why they are enrolling in less than 48 units. The maximum duration of the scholarship remains at five years irrespective of any change in unit load.

11.3 In exceptional circumstances, a scholar may be given permission by the Chair to hold the Scholarship on a part-time basis. In such a case the scholarship payment will be made on a pro-rata basis. The scholar must submit a written request and make a case citing the exceptional circumstances to hold the scholarship on a part-time basis.

11.4 The Scholarship shall be surrendered if the scholar changes to part-time enrolment without permission or withdraws from the program while holding the Scholarship.

11.5 If the scholar wishes to transfer program, he or she must submit a written request and make a case to the Chair to retain the Scholarship for the new program. The maximum duration of the scholarship remains at four years irrespective of any change in program.

## **12. TERMINATION**

The Scholarship shall terminate at the conclusion of the period outlined above, or on the date on which the scholar ceases to attend the University other than for approved absences, whichever is the earlier. The University may terminate the Scholarship before this time if the scholar does not fulfil his or her obligations, or if, in the opinion of the Chair, satisfactory academic progress is not being made by the scholar.

## **13. REPAYMENT OF FUNDS**

The Scholarship instalment for the semester in which the enrolment change or withdrawal occurred may be requested to be refunded in part or in full. The determination will be made by the Chair.

## **14. INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE**

- 14.1 Scholars will be permitted to retain the Scholarship whilst on an approved international exchange as part of their undergraduate program.
- 14.2 A scholar must submit a written request to the Chair for permission to retain the scholarship whilst on any other approved international experience.

## **15. TAXATION**

Scholars are responsible for seeking taxation advice regarding their own individual circumstances. Please note that scholarships may be regarded as taxable income if a scholar is enrolled on a part-time basis.

## **16. PUBLICITY**

It is anticipated that ANU National Merit Scholarship holders may be requested to participate in publicity of the scholarship from time to time. This may include publicity in the state or territory of residence or of schooling. Scholars may be contacted for an interview and photograph. The University may also publicise the scholarships by publishing the names of the scholars. Arrangements for such publicity will be made through the Communications and External Liaison Office of the University.

## **17. DISCLAIMER**

The award of a scholarship does not carry any commitment by the University for future employment.