



Commonwealth Indigenous Access Scholarship Information Sheet

Applications Close: 31 December 2008

Applications should be returned by the due date to:

In person:

Private and Confidential
Student Finance Accountant
Business Office
Cooranbong Campus

By Post:

Private and Confidential
Student Finance Accountant
PO Box 19
Cooranbong NSW 2265

Important Information

This application invites you to apply for the Indigenous Access Scholarship. (IAS)

1. Indigenous Access Scholarship (IAS)

Students awarded an Indigenous Access Scholarship are given priority when applying for a CECS and CAS scholarship, provided necessary requirements are met.

2. Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship (CECS)
3. Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship (CAS)

Applicants must complete all sections of this application.

Please read this information sheet carefully to ensure you complete all the necessary sections of this application, and provide the required documentation. All questions within each section must be answered.

ANY APPLICATION WHICH IS NOT FULLY COMPLETED WITH FULL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

The supporting documentation required for all of these scholarships is outlined in Section 7 of this application.

All information supplied in support of your application will be treated confidentially.

In some cases Avondale will contact a person who knows you well; please provide the name and phone number of a person, such as a school teacher, pastor or employer, who is willing to provide a character reference for you.

Indigenous Access Scholarships

The Indigenous Access Scholarships will provide a payment of \$4,000 to up to 1,000 Indigenous higher education students per annum, particularly those from rural or remote areas of Australia, who need to relocate to take up an undergraduate course or an approved enabling course.

All Indigenous students who receive an Indigenous Access Scholarship will also have access to a continuing CECS and, where eligible, a CAS.

To be eligible for an Indigenous Access Scholarship, a student must:

- (a) be an Australian citizen; and
- (b) be an *Indigenous* person
A person will be considered to be an *Indigenous* person for the purpose of a CS where the person:
 - (i) is of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; and
 - (ii) identifies as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
 - (iii) is accepted as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the community in which he/she lives or has lived.

(A student's declaration of their Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander status during the CS application process should normally be accepted as sufficient evidence of their Indigenous status. However, where it is disputed or uncertainty exists as to the Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander status of the student, evidence will be required to establish that he or she is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. The following documentation is acceptable in confirming a student's status as an *Indigenous* person: an affirmation signed by the student, declaring that he/she identifies as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and a letter signed by the Chairperson of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incorporated organisation in a community in which the student lives or has previously lived.); and

- (c) be:
 - (i) a commencing student enrolled in or undertaking a course (for the purposes of cross-institutional studies) with the eligible scholarship *provider* as a Commonwealth supported student, as defined in *the Act*; or
 - (ii) have accepted the offer of a place as a Commonwealth supported student, as defined in *the Act*; and
- (d) be a commencing student, and:
 - (i) have accepted the offer of a place in; or
 - (ii) be enrolled in; or
 - (iii) undertaking a course (for the purposes of cross-institutional studies) with the eligible scholarship *provider* in an eligible enabling course or an undergraduate course of study; and
- (e) meet the low socio-economic status requirements specified in section 2.10.5 of these Guidelines; and
- (f) meet, or intend to meet, the full-time student requirements specified in section 2.10.10 of these Guidelines; and
- (g) not already have completed the requirements of a course of study (with any *provider*) regarded by the eligible scholarship *provider* to be equivalent to or higher than an Australian bachelor's award; and
- (h) In exceptional circumstances, if a continuing student is required, as part of their course, to undertake study in a location distant from their previous place of study, providers may give consideration to these students when awarding a *CAS-Indigenous Payment*.

Commonwealth CECS and CAS Scholarships

Students in receipt of Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships will receive \$2120 per year (indexed annually) for a maximum of 4 years to assist them with general education costs. This will be paid once each year.

Students who receive the Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship will receive \$4240 (indexed annually) per year for a maximum of four years to assist with accommodation expenses. This will be paid twice each year.

Students are eligible to apply if they are:

- An Australian citizen or holder of an Australian permanent humanitarian visa
- Are enrolled in an undergraduate course at Avondale College Limited leading to a higher education award
- Are in a Government Supported Place (i.e. HECS student) and meet the full time student requirements
- Meet the low socio-economic background criteria

- Have not previously completed an undergraduate degree

In addition to the above criteria, students applying for CAS must meet all of the following requirements:

- Either:
 - Have lived in a rural or regional area for at least the previous three years immediately preceding commencement of study at Avondale College Limited, or
 - Have completed the final two years of schooling at a high school/college in a rural/regional area, immediately prior to coming to Avondale College Limited
- Have moved from a location that is outside of a capital city and has a population of less than 120,000 people
- Have found it necessary to move away from the rural or regional area in order to undertake your course
- Be enrolled as an internal student
- Not be living with either natural or adopted parents / guardian

You are not eligible to apply for CECS or CAS if you are:

- Enrolled in an enabling or non-award program
- An international or full fee paying student, postgraduate student, or done previous undergraduate study
- Studying part time, unless you can prove extenuating circumstances
- Have previously completed an undergraduate degree
- Are not undertaking a Government supported course of study

If you defer your enrolment, your Commonwealth Learning Scholarship can be deferred for a maximum period of 12 months, provided you obtain an approved leave of absence from your course.

If you transfer to an alternative tertiary institution, continuation of your scholarship is subject to the new institution agreeing to its continuation. When transferring, you must declare any previous Commonwealth Learning Scholarship that you have received.

These scholarships are not considered as income under the social Securities Act and should not affect your Centrelink payment. They are not taken into account when applying the Personal Income Test for Youth Allowance, Austudy, Abstudy, or the primary payment of students receiving a Pensioner Education Supplement.

Before each payment is made, your eligibility status will be checked. If you are no longer eligible, your scholarship will cease.

General Information

A letter will be sent to you within one week of the Financial Assistance Committee meeting to advise if you are successful or unsuccessful. Students who are successful will have 50% of the IAS amount deposited into their student fee account by registration day. Those who go on to be eligible for the CECS and CAS will be notified within one week of the **Financial Assistance Committee** meeting in early semester one.



Commonwealth Indigenous Access Scholarship Application Form

Applications Close: 31 December 2008

Applications should be returned by the due date to:

In person:

Private and Confidential
Student Finance Accountant
Business Office
Cooranbong Campus

By Post:

Private and Confidential
Student Finance Accountant
PO Box 19
Cooranbong NSW 2265

Section 1 – Personal Details

1. Family Name _____ 2. Male Female
Given Name/s _____
Previous Name/s (if applicable) _____
2. Address _____

3. Contact Phone Number _____ Mobile Number _____
4. Email Address _____
5. Please indicate your citizenship:
- Australian Citizen
 - Holder of permanent humanitarian visa
 - Other DO NOT CONTINUE. YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS.
6. Are you an Indigenous Australian? (see information sheet for criteria)
- Yes No
7. I am submitting this application for the consideration of the following scholarships:
- Indigenous Access Scholarship
 - Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship
 - Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship
8. Are you a terrorist or a member of a terrorist organisation?
- Yes – DO NOT CONTINUE, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ANY SCHOLARSHIP No

Section 2 – Academic Details

1. What course are you enrolling in at Avondale College Limited? _____

Please note:

- If you are enrolling in a course other than Education or Nursing, DO NOT CONTINUE as you are not eligible for an IAS, CECS or CAS.

2. Have you previously completed an undergraduate degree? Yes No

- If you have already completed an undergraduate degree, DO NOT CONTINUE as you are not eligible for an IAS, CECS or CAS.

3. Will you be a full time (24 credit points) student or completing at least 75% of a full time equivalent study load?

Yes No Unsure

If you enrol in less than 75% of a full time equivalent study load, please indicate the circumstances which prevent you studying full time

Carer Responsibilities Disability Financial Hardship Other

My reasons for studying part time are: (please outline briefly and attach supporting evidence as detailed in Section 7)

Section 3 – IAS & CAS Eligibility (for Education students who moved from rural/regional areas)

1. What is your mode of study?

Internal

External / Mixed / Other GO TO SECTION 4, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CAS.

2. When you came to Avondale to study, what town or rural area did you relocate from?

Name of town/rural area _____ Postcode _____

3. In the three years prior to coming to Avondale to study, what rural/regional town did you live in?

First year _____

Second year _____

Third year _____

4. If you were a school leaver immediately prior to coming to Avondale, which rural/regional high school/college did you attend, and for how many years?

High School Name _____ No. of Years _____

5. What factors made it necessary for you to move away from your rural/regional area in order to undertake your studies? Check all that apply.

- Distance to nearest educational institution Transport limitations
 Preferred educational institution Course choice / availability
 Personal Circumstances

Other _____

Please provide brief details about your decision to relocate _____

6. Are you currently living with your natural or adopted parents or guardian?

- Yes No

Section 4 – Financial Details

All applicants are required to answer the questions in this section and provide documentary evidence in support of the application. **IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION, YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.** If you are unsure of your income or expenses, please provide your best estimate.

1. Who will be listed as your Fee Payer (please circle)

Self / Parents / Guardian / Other _____

2. Do you or will you receive any of the following income (tick all that apply)

- Study assistance Support from family
 Youth Allowance Health Care Card
 Abstudy Pension (type) _____
 Pension Education Supplement Other (specify) _____
 Wages (full time or part time work)

3. What is your current status with regard to receiving assistance / allowances / income as indicated in question 2?

- Single (living at home) Partner, no dependents
 Single (living away from home, independent) Partner, with dependents
 Sole Parent / Carer Other (specify) _____

4. Please show the breakdown of your average FORTNIGHTLY income. If you have a partner, please provide combined income.

Individual Income

Combined Income

Youth Allowance/Austudy/Abstudy/Pension \$ _____ /fortnight

Full time / Part time work \$ _____ /fortnight

Assistance from family, eg. allowance, board \$ _____ /fortnight

Child support \$ _____ /fortnight

Scholarships / Grants (including Avondale Scholarships) \$ _____ /fortnight

Other (specify) _____ \$ _____ /fortnight

Total Income \$ _____ /fortnight

5. What are your average FORTNIGHTLY expenses? If you have a partner, please provide combined expenses.

Individual Expenses

Combined Expenses

Rent / Board / Mortgage (please circle one) \$ _____ /fortnight

Food / groceries \$ _____ /fortnight

Transport \$ _____ /fortnight

Car (insurance / registration / fuel / maintenance) \$ _____ /fortnight

Gas / Electricity \$ _____ /fortnight

Childcare \$ _____ /fortnight

Phone \$ _____ /fortnight

Loan repayments \$ _____ /fortnight

Medical expenses \$ _____ /fortnight

School Fees (dependents) \$ _____ /fortnight

Avondale College Limited Fees \$ _____ /fortnight

Course related expenses (eg. textbooks, equipment) \$ _____ /fortnight

Incidentals \$ _____ /fortnight

Other (specify) _____ \$ _____ /fortnight

Total Expenses \$ _____ /fortnight

6. Please outline the details of the fees you currently pay:

Facility Charge	\$_____ /semester
Tuition Fees	\$_____ /semester
Residential Charges	\$_____ /semester
Meal Allocation	\$_____ /semester
Scholarships (Avondale or other)	\$_____ /semester
Employer Discount	\$_____ /semester
Family Discount	\$_____ /semester
Other Discounts/Charges	\$_____ /semester
Fee Help Loan	\$_____ /semester
Student Contribution (HECS) Paid Upfront / Deferred	\$_____ /semester
Total to pay for Fees each semester \$_____ /semester	

Section 5 – Personal Circumstances

1. How many children under 18 years old do you support _____ (if none, GO TO Q.2)

What are their ages? _____

Please tick the box which best describes your circumstances most of the time

- I am a sole parent / carer, caring for my children 100% of the time
- I am in a shared care situation, caring for my children about 50% of the time
- I am in a shared care situation, caring for my children less than 50% of the time
- My partner and I care for our children 100% of the time
- Other, please estimate % of time you care for your children

2. Do you have dependents, other than children, and what level of care do they require? (eg. an elderly parent or a sibling who lives in or requires part time care). Please provide details.

3. Please comment if you or any of your dependents have special needs, and the impact on your capacity to give time and attention to your studies.

4. Please provide any further information related to your social disadvantage (eg. person with a disability, from a rural/isolated area, difficult family circumstances, disrupted schooling, refugee etc), or other factors which impact negatively on your life and capacity to give time and attention to your studies.

5. Please provide any other information that illustrates the impact of your financial situation on your daily life (eg. what basic needs, if any, are you and your family missing out on?)

Section 6 - Declaration

- I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information I have provided is true and correct.
- I have included all the required documentary evidence (see checklist in section 7).

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Section 7 – Documentary Evidence

Please provide COPIES of the documentation that you attach to this application. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS as documentation will not be returned.**

If documentation relates to your family, you need to provide supporting information regarding their relationship and dependency.

Please tick if applicable. I have enclosed the following documentation:

Indigenous:

- Verification of receipt of Abstudy
- Verification of acceptance as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person in the community in which you live or lived.

Relocated from rural/regional area

- High school reports for year 11 and 12 (school leavers only)
- Evidence of having lived in a rural/isolated area for 3 years or more. (Eg. any official bill, tax return, document or letter from a local official which shows your previous address)
- Evidence of your necessity to move (eg. doctor's letter, counsellor's or other relevant reports)
- Other, please specify _____

Personal Circumstances

- Dependents, number and ages
- Caring for others (eg. Doctor's letter)
- Health and/or disability issues for self or others (eg. Doctor or relevant professional's letter)
- Social disadvantage (eg letter of refugee status, Guidance Counsellor's report, evidence of disrupted schooling, doctor's letter if not provided elsewhere)