

Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation Nursing Scholarships Program Conditions of Award

Postgraduate/Higher Degree Nursing Scholarship (Masters, PhD, or related discipline)

1. Introduction

Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation is offering Postgraduate/Higher Degree (Masters, PhD, or related discipline) Nursing Scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are committed to establishing a career in nursing. Our scholarship program honours the legacy of the late Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG and recognises her national leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.



2. Scholarship value

The Postgraduate/Higher Degree Nursing Scholarship value is up to \$40,000 (excluding GST) for full-time study to a maximum period of two years. The amount awarded will be assessed against selection criteria including, but not limited to, the impact and benefit to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing, and alignment with the Foundation's purpose and beliefs. The scholarship value can cover the cost of course fees and/or cover or partially cover study costs, such as course-related accommodation and transport. Other study related expenses may include IT equipment, books/study materials and uniforms.



3. Eligibility criteria

Lowitja Institute will only consider applications that satisfy all eligibility requirements.

- Applicants must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; is recognised as such by their community.
- Applicants must be currently enrolled in a full-time Postgraduate/Higher Degree Nursing (or related discipline) course provided by an accredited Australian registered training organisation and must provide written confirmation of enrolment.
- The applicant must have achieved previous qualifications required for eligibility for Postgraduate/Higher Degree (i.e. Bachelor of Nursing).
- Applicants must be intending to commence study at entry level in the academic year that this scholarship round offers.
- Applicants must not have defaulted on a previously awarded scholarship or bursary.
- Applicants must not have a criminal record for any serious offence in Australia and overseas.
- Applicants must demonstrate how the course focus will impact and benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing priorities and aligns with the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation's purpose and beliefs.

4. Application requirements

Lowitja Institute will only consider applications that complete all application requirements.

- Applicants will be required to provide written confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. The confirmation must include the common seal and be signed by an incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation or the chairperson of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Council in whose area the person lives or has previously lived.
- Applicants must provide written confirmation of enrolment in their chosen course.
- Applicants are required to submit a letter of support/written reference from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander professional or community peer with brief comments against the selection criteria.
- Applicants are to provide evidence of additional funding or scholarships they are in receipt of in relation to the chosen course (if relevant).

5. Duration

Scholarships are awarded for the duration of the chosen study program (up to 2 years), subject to annual review and satisfactory progress.

6. Assessment process

Applications will be assessed through the following process.

- Once the funding round closes, applications will undergo internal assessment for eligibility.

- Eligible applications will progress to a shortlist for peer review by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander panel, which may consist of external industry professionals, Lowitja Institute and Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation staff, and Lowitja Institute Board Directors.
- Applications will be scored and ranked based on the selection criteria.
- Suitable applicants may be offered an online interview.
- Recommendations for funding will be considered and approved by Lowitja Institute Board of Directors.

7. Selection criteria

The Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation Nursing Scholarship Program is a national program and an open and competitive round. The assessment process will be based on the following:

- How you demonstrate your commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and why.
- The strength of your goals and your dedication to them.
- Your knowledge and understanding of the late Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue's pioneering work and leadership for the rights and health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- The future impact you will make in your chosen field through being awarded the scholarship in Dr O'Donoghue's name.

8. Nursing scholarship contract and agreement conditions

Acceptance of the scholarship is subject to the recipient, Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation and Lowitja Institute accepting and agreeing to all conditions set out in the Nursing Scholarship Contract and Agreement.

The contract and agreement will include, but not be limited to, the following minimum terms and conditions:

Academic

- i. An official academic transcript must be provided at the end of each semester/study period to verify the recipient's academic performance. The transcript should clearly display the grades for all courses undertaken during that period.
- ii. Recipients must maintain a minimum pass average (50% or higher) across their chosen course in each academic year.
- iii. Recipients must comply with all the above conditions throughout the duration of their funding. Non-compliance with any of these terms may lead to a review of the recipient's funding status, with the possibility of suspension or termination of support.

Ongoing eligibility

The scholarship ceases or should end:

- i. if the recipient no longer meets the eligibility requirements.
- ii. at the conclusion of the period outlined in Section 5.
- iii. on the date on which the recipient withdraws or ceases to attend the home institution other than for approved absences.
- iv. if a recipient changes to part-time enrolment without receiving permission to retain their scholarship.
- v. if a recipient changes their program or course, not related to the Eligibility criteria referred to in Section 3, without permission.
- vi. if a recipient fails to meet the minimum academic performance requirements.
- vii. if a recipient breaches academic or behavioural standards set by the home institution under their respective Academic Misconduct & Discipline Rules,

whichever is earliest.

9. Providing false or misleading information

The awarding of a scholarship is based on the information provided to Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation, Lowitja Institute, and the home institution. A scholarship may be withdrawn at any stage if incorrect, false, or misleading information is provided, or relevant information is withheld. This includes circumstances where the false information is unrelated to the assessment in awarding the scholarship.

10. Taxation and Services Australia/Centrelink

Recipients are responsible for seeking taxation and Services Australia/Centrelink advice regarding their own individual circumstances. Scholarships may be regarded as taxable income if a recipient is enrolled on a part-time basis. For information on how your scholarship may affect your benefits, go to [Centrelink – Income from Scholarships](#) and for Taxation, go to [Australian Taxation Office – Scholarship Payments](#).

11. Promotion and publicity

The recipient may be requested to participate in promotion and publicity for the scholarship program from time to time. This may include promotion and publicity in the state or territory of residence or of schooling. Recipients may be contacted for an interview and photograph and asked to sign a consent form. Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation, Lowitja Institute and the home institution may also publicise the scholarship by publishing the names of the recipients. Arrangements for such promotion and publicity will be made through the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation and Lowitja Institute. Arrangements may also be made through the Communications offices of a home institution.