

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR VICTORIA UNIVERSITY ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP (HIGHER EDUCATION)

These Guidelines apply to holders of: **Victoria University Access Scholarship (Higher Education)**

1 CONDITIONS OF AWARD TO SCHOLARS

- Students must be Australian citizens, NZ citizens, Permanent Residents of Australia, holder of a Bridging or other Temporary visa or holder of a Permanent Humanitarian Visa;
- Students must be experiencing financial hardship demonstrated through receipt of a means-tested Commonwealth income support payment or other evidence of low income and/or social disadvantage
- Students must be enrolled full-time* (Unless the applicant has an approved Disability Access Plan) in a Commonwealth Supported Place in an undergraduate degree;
**Full-time enrolment in a HE course is equal to at least 75% of a full-time load – minimum 36 credit points per semester;*
- Scholarships cannot be deferred or intermitted for the first semester of the student's first year of the degree.

A student is **not eligible** for a VU Access Scholarship if they:

- Have already completed a bachelor degree or higher level degree unless each degree is a prerequisite for their current course of study, and there is no alternative pathway into that course of study at Victoria University. Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry) and Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry) courses at Victoria University are not eligible for these scholarships.
- Are enrolled on a part-time basis, unless assessed as having approved exceptional circumstances that prevent full-time enrolment. In approving exceptional circumstances, the University will take into account factors such as: enabling course requirements; disability; significant family care responsibilities; Indigenous community responsibilities; or course constraints outside a student's control. Applicants with exceptional circumstances must seek approval by writing to the Scholarship Selection Panel.
- Have already received a VU Access Scholarship for the maximum duration in the same course of study
- Are in receipt of a Commonwealth Scholarship administered by Centrelink.
- Are in receipt of a Centrelink Start-up scholarship

2 ONGOING ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

- Students must be enrolled in a full-time* undergraduate degree at Victoria University **students can only change to part-time enrolment in special circumstances. To do so, the student must email the Scholarships Office to apply for special consideration. In the instance where the student's application is unsuccessful, their scholarship will discontinue, but if the student's application is successful, the payments will be adjusted are per payment guidelines below;*

- Students may not transfer the Scholarship to study at another institution;
- Students may not hold the Scholarship in addition to another Victoria University scholarship;
- Students must notify the Scholarships Office immediately if you:
 - Discontinue full-time study;
 - Transfer to another institute; or
 - Transfer to another program within the University.
- Students must notify the Scholarships Office of any changes in financial circumstances since time of application. Students must declare all changes or increases in income for reassessment.
- Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress* in accordance with the [Victorian University academic progress policy](#). **Satisfactory academic progress for HE students is defined by attaining at least a pass of 50% in all units enrolled in a one year period or maintaining a GPA of 3.5+. At the discretion of the Scholarships Review Panel, leniency may be given to students who fail one unit per semester.*
- Students who intend on taking a leave of absence (intermission) during their course must inform the Scholarships Office via email.
- Students must notify the Scholarships Office if they accept a University sanctioned international exchange to allow the continuation of the Scholarship.
- Students must comply with University standards with regard to academic misconduct

If the above conditions are not met, the scholarships office may discontinue your scholarship.

3 VALUE AND DURATION

- The scholarship is valued at \$1,000 per year for up to four years (maximum of \$4,000 value).
- Scholarships are paid for the maximum duration unless the student is no longer eligible to receive payment. This includes where a student completes their course of study or no longer meets the eligibility criteria.
- Scholarships will be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer direct to the student's nominated bank account. One payment will be made each year in April or September (dependant on when the scholarship is awarded). Payments are made only after confirmation of student enrolment status and eligibility.
- Students who are approved for special consideration to change to part-time enrolment will be payed a portion of the scholarship based on number of units enrolled. This will be advised by the Scholarships Office.
- Students who do not complete and return their yearly Renewal Declaration form will have their scholarship payment automatically suspended until the form is returned to the Scholarships Office.