



Defence Women in STEM Undergraduate Scholarships

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth, through the Department of Defence, will provide a number of Scholarships, each for a maximum period of 2 years. The number of Scholarships in each year depends on the calibre of candidates. The Defence Women in STEM Undergraduate Scholarships are aimed at encouraging high-performing women to continue their university study in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, and improve the representation of women in the STEM workforce.

VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship has a value of \$10,000 per Scholar per annum. The University will pay the Scholar bi-annually with a \$10,000 payment at the beginning of each semester for 2 years.

Scholars will be responsible for making payment of all their tuition fees by the prescribed date as set out by the University from time to time. Scholars are also responsible for the costs of books, study materials, accommodation and all other costs of study.

DURATION

The Scholarship is payable for a maximum of 2 years on a full time basis, unless otherwise approved by the Department of Defence. Part time students are encouraged to apply. For part time students, the scholarship value will be paid pro rata.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Scholarships will be awarded to students that:

- Identify as a woman
- Are commencing your second or third year of study in 2022 at an undergraduate level, with a minimum of two further years of study in their degree program.
- Are studying an engineering, information technology, computer science, mathematics or science degree.
- Have a GPA of 5.0 or higher
- Are an Australian citizen
- Are willing to obtain and maintain an Australian Government security clearance at the level of Baseline, to be in place by August in the year of the award
- Are not holding another scholarship concurrently
- Are not currently employed with the Department of Defence through the Australian Public Service, Australian Defence Force or another contracting arrangement

APPLICATIONS

Applications shall be called for each year with a closing date as set by Defence. In 2022, scholarships will close on Sunday 3 April at 23:59 AEST. Applications must be made directly to Defence via the online mechanism provided. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will need to submit the following documents when applying for the scholarship:

- A 500-word personal statement outlining academic achievements, career aspirations in the relevant area of study, and other relevant experience
- A 500-word outline of interest in the scholarship and associated future opportunities within the Department of Defence.
- A CV outlining academic achievements, extra-curricular activities and community leadership experience.
- A letter of recommendation from a university academic or other appropriate academic referee
- A recent copy of their university transcript.

The selection panel will consider the submissions from each applicant and award scholarships to outstanding candidates based on the following criteria:

- Academic achievement (5 marks)
- Relevance of study to Defence science and engineering and interest in a career in Defence or related industries (5 marks)
- Community leadership and involvement in extra-curricular activities. (5 marks)

Persons who identify as women and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are encouraged to apply.

Applications will be considered by a selection committee with various representatives from Defence, academia and/or Defence Industry. The selection committee will communicate details of the successful recipients to the delegated scholarships officer at their university, and all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email.

The selection committee reserves the right to make no award or to award the Scholarship at other times in exceptional circumstances if it considers there is no applicant of sufficient merit or that suits the requirements of Defence.

ONGOING CONDITIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP

By accepting the scholarship, the student commits to the following conditions:

- You will continue to meet relevant eligibility criteria for the duration of the scholarship, unless special consideration is approved. Approval for special considerations will be made in writing to the Department of Defence and the university scholarships officer. This includes ongoing full-time enrolment in an eligible STEM degree and maintaining a minimum GPA of 5.0 (credit average). Part-time enrolment may be given special consideration
- You will remain in Australia for study, enrolled in the same course and university as when the scholarship is awarded
- If your circumstances change in any way where you do not meet the eligibility (e.g. withdrawal from study), you agree to notify your university's scholarships officer immediately.
- You will apply for and maintain an Australian Government security clearance at the level of Baseline to be in place by the end of August in the year of award. The scholarship may be withdrawn if this requirement is not met. (This clearance will be initiated by Defence).

If these conditions are not met, scholarship payments will cease and the scholarship may be withdrawn.

There are opportunities for the student to participate in the following activities:

- A fellowship program with Defence for scholarship winners
- A placement with Defence during the course of the scholarship, showcasing the opportunities for a STEM career in Defence
- Mentoring with a Defence based mentor who can provide career advice and mentoring support around academic study during the course of the scholarship.

TERMINATION

The Scholarship may, subject to the University's rules and procedures, be terminated if the Scholar fails to continue to meet the ongoing conditions of scholarship, including if the Scholar fails to fulfil his or her obligations to the University or Defence or if, the Scholar is not making satisfactory academic progress (based on advice from the University)

TAXATION

Scholars are responsible for seeking taxation advice regarding their own individual circumstances.

PUBLICITY

It is anticipated that holders of the Scholarship may be requested to participate in publicity of the Scholarship as required. Scholars may be contacted for an interview and photograph. The University may also publicise the Scholarships by publishing the names of the Scholars.

DISCLAIMER

The award of a Scholarship does not carry any commitment by Defence for future employment. There are opportunities for scholarship holders to apply for STEM Cadetships and Graduate Programs within Defence.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on this scholarship, please contact the DSTG Workforce Capability & Talent team: DSTGWorkforceCapability&Talent@dst.defence.gov.au