Breadwinners’ Programme

Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Scholarship

Contact us

Scholarships and Financial Support Service
scholarship.applications@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/scholarships
What is it?
The Breadwinners’ Programme is a collaboration between an employee, their employer, the University of Sydney and the Australian Government.

It provides financial support and facilitates a work/study arrangement for you while you complete an undergraduate degree at the University of Sydney over four years.

How does it work?
During years 1 and 2, you will keep working full time while studying at the University part time (two subjects/units of study totalling 12 credit points per semester).

During years 3 and 4, you will study at the University full time (four subjects/units of study totalling 24 credit points per semester) and will be on extended leave from your employer – except during all University breaks when you will be required to work for your employer (20 weeks a year).

To fund your living expenses in the final two years, the Breadwinners’ scholarship tops up the salary paid to you by your employer to an agreed amount – equivalent to your current post-tax salary.

You will need to pay all student fees associated with your course, including Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) fees that you may pay off over time once you have graduated.

At the end of the four years, you will have a degree and the opportunity to resume your previous job or to explore options with your employer.

Am I eligible?
You are eligible to apply if you:

- are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who identifies and is accepted as such by the community
- are currently employed full time in New South Wales
- are the main income earner in your family or supporting at least one other person
- have not previously undertaken a bachelor’s degree at university. Previous study of a foundation year, bridging course or enabling program at a university is permitted
- to the extent possible, are able to demonstrate educational disadvantage over time and provide evidence of a low socio-economic background over the past 10 years.

For more details, visit:
- sydney.edu.au/scholarships/breadwinners

You also need to be eligible for and accept a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) for your undergraduate bachelor’s degree at the University of Sydney. For details on CSPs, see
- sydney.edu.au/study/hecs

Other conditions of the Breadwinners’ Programme:
- you will need to enter into a HECS-HELP scheme to cover student and course fees
- you need to achieve academic progress deemed as satisfactory by the University of Sydney to remain in the programme
- if you have to extend your study you will be responsible for return-to-work negotiations with your employer
- the scholarship payment is only available for two years (years 3 and 4 of study).

Which courses can I study?
The Breadwinners’ Programme is available for any three-year undergraduate course offered at the University of Sydney.

We recommend selecting a course that can be completed in four years, due to the part-time component of the programme.

How do I apply?
1. Find a course
   Explore a range of three-year undergraduate courses
   - sydney.edu.au/courses

2. Apply to the University of Sydney
   Apply through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC). UAC application fees, including late application fees, may apply. For full details and closing dates, visit:
   - uac.edu.au

   Please note:
   You will need to meet all application requirements. For example, if you do not have an ATAR/UAI/TER or a tertiary record (generally deemed to be successful completion of a Diploma or Advanced Diploma at an AQF-approved tertiary institution) you may be required to undertake an Academic Skills Assessment to support your application.

   Make sure you tick the box to apply for a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) on your UAC application.

   You will need to receive and accept an offer of admission from the University of Sydney to be considered for the Breadwinners’ Programme.

3. Complete the application
   Once you have received and accepted an offer of admission, submit your Breadwinners’ Programme application.
   Application forms are available at:
   - sydney.edu.au/scholarships/breadwinners

   For more information about the supporting documents you need to supply with your application, please contact Student Support Services:
   - support.cadigal@sydney.edu.au
Support while you study

Once enrolled in the Breadwinners’ Programme, you may access the support and services available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the University, including:

- support from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Support Officers
- access to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Orientation and Academic Skills Workshops (which run just prior to the start of each semester)
- access to the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme, an Australian Government program that provides tutors to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for two hours per unit of study per week, at no cost
- support from an Academic Adviser within your faculty, who can provide any study-specific advice you may need
- assistance from the Student Support Services Unit, including counselling, study skills, financial support and careers advice
- access to University facilities, including technology labs, libraries, our aquatic centre, gyms and indoor climbing room.

For more about our services, visit:
- sydney.edu.au/study/indigenous-support

Salary and scholarship

In years 1 and 2 of the programme (when you are working full time and studying part time) you will receive your normal income from your employer.

To help fund your living expenses in the final two years, the Breadwinners’ scholarship tops up your employer’s pro-rata salary to an equivalent level of your current post-tax salary.

Under taxation laws, the scholarship money provided by the government is considered exempt income. Therefore, when you receive these funds in years 3 and 4, you will not be taxed on them.

Information for employers

The Breadwinners’ Programme benefits employers because:

- it is an advantage to have qualified, highly knowledgeable and productive staff
- supporting your employees to improve their qualifications and career prospects builds staff satisfaction and employee loyalty
- championing staff to gain qualifications and skills increases workforce diversity, improving opportunities for promotion
- supporting staff professional development is integral to an organisation’s human resources policies and commitments, as well as Reconciliation Action Plans and Corporate Social Responsibility programs.

Talking to your employee

Talk to your employee about whether they are willing to apply for participation in the Breadwinners’ Programme and the opportunities that may be available to them in the future. Key factors to discuss include:

- payment of regular salary in years 1 and 2
- management of salary-related on-costs such as superannuation, annual leave, leave loading, long service leave, payroll tax and workers’ compensation
- employer agreement with employees to take leave to study part time in years 1 and 2, and full time in years 3 and 4 of the programme
- providing access to a workplace mentor
- the commitment from both employee and employer for the employee to work during all semester breaks in years 3 and 4, to maintain contact and give the employee opportunities for real-world application of their studies
- commitment to keeping the employee’s return-to-work options open after they have finished their studies.

“I am the first person from both sides of my family to attend university and I know they are extremely proud of my achievements.”

Jacinda Matthews
Bachelor of Oral Health
Scholarships and Financial Support Service
scholarship.applications@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/scholarships

Student Support Services
Level 5, Jane Foss Russell Building (G02)
The University of Sydney
+61 2 8627 8619
+61 2 8627 8482 (fax)
support.cadigal@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/study/indigenous-support

This publication is supported by the
Australian Government Department
of Education and Training through the
Breadwinners’ Programme.