

Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships



Information for Students

Are you eligible for a Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarship?

NSW Government's new Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships mean you can get the skills you need to get the job you want and your course fees will be covered.

From 1 July 2015, young people (aged 15-30) who meet the Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarship criteria will be eligible for a government subsidy which covers their Smart and Skilled course fee.

Am I eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship?

To be eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship, you must meet the Smart and Skilled eligibility criteria and be:

- an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, Australian permanent humanitarian visa holder or New Zealand citizen; and
- no longer at school; and
- living or working in NSW; and
- aged 15 years or over

OR

- A NSW apprentice or new entrant trainee undertaking a qualification on the NSW Skills List.

* citizenship and residency status requirements to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship can be found at:
www.training.nsw.gov.au/aacs/advice_instructions/citizenship_residency.html

You must also be:

- aged between 15 and 30 years old when you start training

- wanting to study a Smart and Skilled subsidised Certificate I, Certificate II, Certificate III or Certificate IV level qualification on the NSW Skills List (see the Course Finder at www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au)
- either a Commonwealth Welfare recipient or the dependant of a Commonwealth Welfare recipient.

If you have a disability or are the dependant of a disability support pension recipient you may be eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship if you are starting a second qualification in a calendar year.

The documents *What is concession-eligible?* and the *Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarship eligibility diagram* (www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students) provide support in determining eligibility.

From 1 July 2015, eligible students are entitled to one Fee-Free Scholarship per financial year, and a maximum of two scholarships between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2019.

You can see if you are eligible for Smart and Skilled training by answering a few questions in the Eligibility Checker on www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au.

Where can I train and what qualifications can I do?

You can enrol in any Certificate I to Certificate IV qualification on the NSW Skills List - including those that support apprenticeships and traineeships - with a Smart and Skilled Training Provider of your choice.

Information on Certificate I to Certificate IV qualifications on the NSW Skills List and the Smart and Skilled Training Providers approved to deliver them can be found at www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au.

How much is the Fee-Free Scholarship worth?

The Fee-Free Scholarship covers the student fee you would have otherwise paid for the course had you not received the scholarship.

Training Providers may still charge fees for 'incidental expenses', such as for essential tools or for field trips. Training Providers must let you know of any additional fees for incidental expenses at enrolment.

How do I apply for a Scholarship?

You do not need to lodge a formal application.

If you meet the Fee-Free Scholarship eligibility criteria (see above), the Smart and Skilled Training Provider you choose to enrol with will advise you at enrolment if you are eligible and confirm if you have been provided a scholarship.

There are 50,000 scholarships for 2015/16.

If you are living in social housing, or on the waitlist for NSW social housing, and meet the Fee-Free Scholarship eligibility criteria you are guaranteed a scholarship to start training.

Your training provider will confirm if you have been provided a Fee-Free Scholarship at enrolment.

How will the Fee-Free Scholarship be provided?

If you are eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship, your student fee will be paid directly by the NSW Government to your Smart and Skilled Training Provider.

What does "NSW Social Housing" mean?

For the purposes of Fee-Free Scholarships, NSW Social Housing includes tenants of:

- public housing (owned and managed by the NSW Government or managed by a community housing provider)

- community housing (owned and/or managed by community housing providers)
- Aboriginal housing (owned and/or managed by the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) and Aboriginal Community Housing Providers)
- clients receiving crisis accommodation/supported accommodation (Specialist Homelessness Services)
- clients receiving private rental assistance funded by Family and Community Services (for example: private rental subsidy, rental bond loans, tenancy guarantees).

Student Declaration

Potential students will need to be clear on whether they are on the waitlist and eligible for social housing or fall within the above definition of social housing.

The student declaration at enrolment will ask you to confirm that the information provided, including your social housing status, is true and correct.

What happens if I miss out on a Fee-Free Scholarship?

If the 50,000 place limit on Fee-Free Scholarships is reached in the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, and you are not living in social housing or on the waitlist for social housing, you will still be eligible for the Smart and Skilled student concession fee.

Smart and Skilled concession fees vary depending on the qualification level. Fees range from \$80 for a Certificate I or foundation skills course to \$240 for a Certificate III or Certificate IV qualification.

For more information:

For more information see the 'for students' pages at www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au or contact State Training Services on 1300 772 104 or smartandskilled.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au

Training Providers should contact Training Market Customer Support on training.market@industry.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 9266 8008.

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