

POLICY NAME: UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

POLICY REF: U02

MEETING ADOPTED: 24 May 2018
Resolution No. 240518/12

POLICY HISTORY: 220514/13, 250310/21



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OBJECTIVE

This policy outlines how Ballina Shire Council will provide support to University Scholarship Programs.

POLICY

Council policy is to support opportunities for residents of our Shire to undertake university training. To assist with this Council will provide funding for university scholarships, subject to annual budgetary constraints.

Council is also committed to education on a regional basis and with Southern Cross being the only university based in the region Council's support will be provided to the Rising Stars Scholarship program co-ordinated by Southern Cross University.

The Council Scholarship is to be awarded to a Ballina Shire resident studying a full-time undergraduate degree at Southern Cross University - Lismore Campus. Council's preference is to provide scholarships to school leavers and / or indigenous students. Consideration will also be given to undergraduates studying at the Gold Coast and Coffs Harbour campuses if a preferred applicant from the Lismore Campus is not identified.

Council will commit to donating the full scholarship amount (currently \$15,000) to be paid in three instalments over three years.

A full scholarship may be offered on an annual basis.

The University will determine the application and selection process for scholarships. The University will provide Council with a shortlist of potential recipients along with a recommendation of the preferred recipient for Council's endorsement, however Council does have the option to provide an alternative preferred recipient from the shortlist.

Scholarship selection:

Scholarship selection will be based on:

- a. Applicants undertaking their first university degree.
- b. The student enrolling to study full-time and on campus.
- c. The student being an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- d. Academic achievement: qualify for admission or be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate degree at Southern Cross University in the year following the application.
- e. Applicants must reside within the Ballina Shire.
- f. Applicants must be enrolling to study any degree program at the Southern Cross University Lismore campus. Consideration will also be given to undergraduates studying at the Gold Coast and Coffs Harbour campuses.

- g. The selection committee will also consider the applicants' personal maturity and social responsibility as evidenced by contributions to the community and by the comments of the school/college Principal or nominee.
- h. Preference is to be given to school leavers and / or indigenous applicants.

Scholarship recipient's obligations:

The scholarship recipient's obligations whilst studying are set out in a Scholarship Agreement between the student and the University and include the following:

- a. Students receive their scholarship payments by instalments at the beginning of each semester.
- b. Payments are made subject to the recipient maintaining successful academic progression (usually a Credit average) in each teaching session.
- c. Students who defer their first year of study are ineligible for these scholarships, but will be eligible to apply when they commence studies.
- d. A scholarship recipient is eligible to defer their scholarship for a period of up to 12 months in total but that cannot be in the first year of the scholarship.
- e. If for some reason, the recipient of the scholarship withdraws from his/her study prior to the census week of any semester the recipient will be required to pay back the full amount of the scholarship for that semester.
- f. If the scholarship holder has not complied with the conditions of the scholarship and the University's Scholarship Policy as set out in the student's agreement with the University, the University reserves the right to relinquish the scholarship.

If a student withdraws from their course the remainder of the scholarship will be reallocated to another student who best meets the selection criteria. The University will seek Council's endorsement for this course of action and any recommended recipient prior to any offer being made.

Recovery of funds:

The first payment of any new scholarship is provided at the University's Scholarship Awards Ceremony held in July each year. The student will receive half of the scholarship monies allocated for that student each year. Should the student return less than favourable results for the first semester the University will issue notice to the student and withhold the second payment pending results at the conclusion of the second semester. Payments will be withheld from the student anytime throughout the course should the student fail to return the required academic results (usually a Credit average).

The University will recover scholarship funds for the particular semester should the student withdraw from their course or fail to return the required academic results (usually a Credit average).

BACKGROUND

Council is committed to improving education opportunities for shire residents and may provide one full scholarship for a Ballina Shire resident each year.

DEFINITIONS

In the University Scholarship Policy the following definitions apply:

Council	Ballina Shire Council
SCU	Southern Cross University
University	Southern Cross University
Scholarship	Rising Stars Scholarship program
Campuses	Southern Cross University locations at Lismore, Gold Coast and Coffs Harbour
School Leaver	A student who completes their secondary education by completing the Higher School Certificate

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to eligible residents of Ballina Shire.

RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Related documents, policies and legislation:

- Donations - Financial Assistance Policy
- Southern Cross University Scholarship Policy
- Deed of Gift Agreement with Southern Cross University

REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed at least every four years.