

Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships



Information for Students

NSW Government's 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.

Young people (aged 15-30) and individuals experiencing or having experienced domestic and family violence (and their dependants) who meet the relevant criteria are 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 firstly meet the Smart and Skilled eligibility criteria.

You must be:

- an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, 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 the NSW Skills List qualification that supports your apprenticeships or traineeship

* 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:

- want to study a Smart and Skilled subsidised Certificate I, II, III or IV level qualification on the NSW Skills List with an approved Smart and Skilled training provider (see the Course Search function at smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au); and

- meet one of the following criteria:
 - be aged between 15 and 30 years when you start training and either:
 - be eligible for a Smart and Skilled concession fee; or
 - meet the out-of-home care criteria (These criteria are further explained below.)

OR

- be able to disclose to the training provider when enrolling that you meet the domestic and family violence Fee-Free Scholarship criteria below:
 - be commencing training on or after 1 July 2016; and
 - be 15 years of age or over and be experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence, or be the dependant of a person who is experiencing or has experienced domestic and family violence; and
 - have a letter of recommendation from a domestic and family violence service, refuge or other support agency.

Am I eligible for a Smart and Skilled concession fee?

Australian Government Welfare recipients on specific benefits and their dependants are eligible for a Smart and Skilled concession fee. For further details, please refer to the fact sheet *What is concession-eligible?* available at smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships.

Do I meet the out-of-home care criteria?

If you are aged 15-17 years and currently in out-of-home care or aged 18-30 years and have previously

been in out-of-home care, and your training commences on or after 1 January 2016, you meet the out-of-home care criteria.

'Out-of-home care' is as defined in section 135 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1985* and comprises two main types: statutory care and supported care. For further details, please refer to the fact sheet *Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships for young people in out-of-home care* available at smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships.

What evidence will be required that I meet the domestic and family violence criteria?

To meet the domestic and family violence criteria, you will need to have a letter of recommendation from a domestic and family violence service, refuge or other support agency. For further details, please refer to the fact sheet *Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships - People who are experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence* available at smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships.

Where can I train and what can I do?

You can enrol in any full Certificate I to Certificate IV qualification on the NSW Skills List - including qualifications undertaken as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship - with a Smart and Skilled training provider of your choice, which include:

- NSW TAFE
- NSW Adult and Community Education colleges
- private training colleges
- NSW government departments
- employers and industry organisations

Information on qualifications and approved Smart and Skilled training providers can be found at smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au.

How much is the Fee-Free Scholarship worth?

Under Smart and Skilled the cost of a course delivered by an approved Smart and Skilled training provider is partly subsidised by the NSW government. The student contributes the remainder, by paying a student fee.

The Fee-Free Scholarship covers the 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 Fee-Free Scholarship?

You do not need to lodge a formal application.

If you meet the Fee-Free Scholarship eligibility criteria and you are a concession-eligible young person, the Smart and Skilled training provider you choose will advise you at enrolment if you are eligible and confirm if you have been provided a scholarship.

If you meet the out-of-home care criteria or domestic and family violence criteria, you should advise your Smart and Skilled training provider when you enrol.

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. 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.

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).

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. For further details, please refer to the fact sheet *Information for NSW Social Housing Residents* (see *For more information* below).

Student Declaration

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

For more information:

For more information and for supporting fact sheets see smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships or contact 1300 772 104 or smartandskilled.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au.

Anyone experiencing domestic and family violence is urged to contact the Domestic Violence Line on 1800 656 463 or Men's Referral Service on 1300 766 491. The Domestic Violence Line is available 24 hours, seven days a week and provides telephone counselling, information and referrals to other services.

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