

Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships



Information for NSW Social Housing Residents

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) who meet the Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarship criteria are eligible for a government subsidy which covers their Smart and Skilled course fee. Priority is given to people living in social housing.

Am I eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship?

To be eligible, you must 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 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:

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

- 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.

Am I eligible for a Smart and Skilled concession fee?

Commonwealth Welfare recipients 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?* (see *For more information* below).

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* (see *For more information* below).

Where can I train and what 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 qualifications and approved training providers can be found at smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au

How much is the Fee-Free Scholarship worth?

The Fee-Free Scholarship covers the fee you would have otherwise paid for the course.

Training Providers may still charge fees for 'incidental expenses', such as for essential tools or for field trips but 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 (see above), the Smart and Skilled Training Provider you choose will tell you if you are eligible at enrolment and confirm 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 even if the yearly limit is reached.

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.

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 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.

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

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