

# Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships



## People who are experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence

If you are experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence, you and your dependants may be eligible for a government subsidy which covers your Smart and Skilled course fee.

A Fee-Free Scholarship offers the opportunity to train and get back into the workforce.

### Am I eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship?

If you are experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence, or are the dependant of a person who is experiencing or has experienced domestic and family violence, you may be eligible for a Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarship.

Firstly, 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 the NSW Skills List qualification that supports your apprenticeship or traineeship

AND you must also:

- be commencing training on or after 1 July 2016; and
- be enrolling in a Certificate I, Certificate II, Certificate III or Certificate IV level full

qualification on the NSW Skills List with an approved Smart and Skilled training provider (see the Course Search function at [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au](http://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au)); and

- be able to disclose to the training provider when enrolling that you meet the domestic and family violence Fee-Free Scholarship criteria below.

### ***Domestic and family violence Fee-Free Scholarship criteria***

You must be 15 years of age or over and be experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence. You may also be the dependant of a person who is experiencing or has experienced domestic and family violence.

You must have a letter of recommendation from a domestic and family violence service, refuge or other support agency, such as

- Legal Aid NSW through their Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services
- Organisations who provide Integrated Domestic Family Violence Services
- Organisations who provide Staying Home Leaving Violence services
- Organisations who deliver Specialist Homelessness Services (ie: refuges and crisis accommodation)
- Domestic Violence NSW
- Any other organisation which clearly shows that the student is or has been previously receiving support services for domestic and family violence (for example a non-government organisation or charity that is self-funded).

## Where can I train and what qualifications 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

(See *Steps for finding a Smart and Skilled course and receiving a Fee-Free Scholarship* for more information).

## 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, however you do need to let your Smart and Skilled training provider know when you are enrolling that you meet the domestic and family violence criteria for a Fee-Free Scholarship.

### Steps for finding a Smart and Skilled course and receiving a Fee-Free Scholarship

- Check your eligibility for Smart and Skilled at [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/are-you-eligible](https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/are-you-eligible).
- Use the Course Search function at [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/sands/find-a-course](https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/sands/find-a-course) to find a training course and a Smart and Skilled provider that offers that course.
- Once you have selected a course and a training provider, take note of the provider's website and other contact details.
- Contact your support agency or service provider (as above) to get a letter of recommendation. (Your support agency or service provider can also help you look for your course).
- Visit your chosen training provider's website to find out what you need to do to enrol or alternatively you can call them and advise them that you meet the domestic and family violence criteria for a Fee-Free Scholarship and wish to enrol.

#### Note:

Your training provider may ask for a copy of your letter of recommendation at enrolment or during your training as proof of your eligibility for a Fee-Free Scholarship.

General enrolment information is available at [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/how-to-enrol](https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/how-to-enrol).

## Other circumstances under Smart and Skilled where the student does not have to pay a fee

### Fee Exemptions

People who meet the Smart and Skilled eligibility criteria and meet the one of the following do not pay a fee.

Fee exemptions are given to people who:

- are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (through descent, self-identification or community identification); or
- meet the Smart and Skilled disability criteria (proof of a disability support pension or documentary evidence from an appropriate medical professional is required); or
- are the dependants of disability support pension recipients.

Go to [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/students-with-additional-needs](http://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/students-with-additional-needs) to find out more.

### Fee free scholarships – Other eligibility criteria

People who meet the Smart and Skilled eligibility criteria may also be eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship if they:

- are aged 15-30 years and meet the Smart and Skilled concession fee eligibility criteria (Refer to the *Fee-Free Scholarships - what is concession eligible* fact sheet); or
- 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 (Refer to the *Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships – For young people in out-of-home care* fact sheet).

For these fact sheets and more information on Fee-Free Scholarships please go to [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships](http://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships).

### NOTE:

You may already be eligible to not pay a fee if you meet one of the fee exemption criteria or any of the other Fee-Free Scholarship criteria. In this case you do not have to declare your experience of domestic and family violence when enrolling.

### For more information:

For more information see [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships](http://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships) or contact 1300 772 104 or [smartandskilled.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:smartandskilled.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au).

Support agencies or service providers can contact one of our Regional Offices on a student's behalf for assistance in selecting an appropriate course and training provider. Go to [www.training.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/sts\\_contacts.html](http://www.training.nsw.gov.au/about_us/sts_contacts.html) for Regional Office contact details.

***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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