

Victorian Postgraduate Mental Health Nurse Scholarships- Full Course Fee

Application Guide- 2025 course enrolment

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Available at [Department of Health's website](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-workforce/mental-health-and-wellbeing-workforce-scholarship-program) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-workforce/mental-health-and-wellbeing-workforce-scholarship-program>

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Scholarship program overview

These scholarships support nurses working in Victorian public mental health services to undertake postgraduate study in mental health nursing. Approximately 140 full course fee postgraduate mental health nurse scholarships are funded per year. Scholarships cover the full cost of course fees for a Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing or a Master of Mental Health Nursing. This document has been prepared to guide applicants through the application process.

Purpose and scope

Scholarships are available to mental health nurses employed (or commencing employment) in Victorian public mental health services who are studying an eligible course in 2025.

This initiative primarily aims to:

- incentivise and support nurses to undertake specialist mental health qualifications
- help build the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of Victoria’s mental health nurses to deliver high quality, evidence-based and consumer-centred care.

To assist in promoting a diverse workforce as recommended by the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, LGBTIQ+, workers with disabilities and culturally diverse workers are strongly encouraged to apply. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants will be given additional weighting in the application process.

How do I apply?

Applicants must read and understand this Application Guide before applying. The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) administer the scholarships for the Department of Health (the department). Applications should be submitted via the application form on the [ACN’s website](https://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships/vic-postgrad-mental-health-nurse-scholarship-fc) <<https://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships/vic-postgrad-mental-health-nurse-scholarship-fc>> by 11.59pm AEST on Friday 6 December 2024. For more information, please contact the ACN on 1800 061 660 or scholarships@acn.edu.au.

Key dates

Activities	Key dates
Applications open	30 September 2024
Applications close*	Friday 6 December 2024
Outcomes announced	From mid-March 2025

Background

Introduction

The department is implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (the Royal Commission). As part of the reform agenda, and in partnership with Victoria's Chief Mental Health Nurse, the department funds 140 full course fee postgraduate mental health nursing scholarships per year to encourage and support nurses to specialise in mental health nursing.

Each scholarship covers the full cost of course fee for a Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing or a Master of Mental Health Nursing based on the availability of funds.

The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

The Royal Commission provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform the mental health system and improve access to services, service navigation and models of care.

The Royal Commission's interim (November 2019) and final (February 2021) reports recommended a series of programs to build the foundations of a future reform agenda. These reforms aim to ensure Victoria's mental health and wellbeing workforce is well supplied, highly skilled and supported to thrive.

The Victorian Government has committed to implementing all recommendations from the Royal Commission. Implementation of workforce reform priorities are outlined in *Victoria's mental health and wellbeing workforce strategy 2021-2024* ([the Strategy](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/mental-health-workforce-strategy) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/mental-health-workforce-strategy>>) which is being led by the Mental Health and Wellbeing Division and the Hospitals and Health Services Division in the department.

Scholarship administration

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) are administering the scholarships on behalf of the department. Please note that the ACN does not determine the successful scholarship recipients; this assessment process is undertaken by the department.

For information about a full range of development opportunities for mental health nurses, mental health allied health professionals, alcohol and other drug (AOD) practitioners and lived and living experience workers, please refer to the [Department of Health's website](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-workforce/mental-health-and-wellbeing-workforce-scholarship-program) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-workforce/mental-health-and-wellbeing-workforce-scholarship-program>> or the [ACN's website](https://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships) <<https://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships>>.

Scholarship program details

All eligible applicants are encouraged to apply for a scholarship. All applications are screened by the ACN for eligibility, and a department-led assessment panel will undertake a merit assessment to award scholarships through a competitive process.

Applicant eligibility

The following eligibility criteria applies, applicants should assess their eligibility prior to applying.

Applicant Eligibility	
1	Applicants must be a registered nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia < https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au > or will be registered by the end of 2024.
2	Applicants must be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or New Zealand citizen.
3	Applicants must be employed (or commencing employment) in a Victorian public mental health service (including Local Mental Health and Wellbeing services) at or above 0.5 FTE.
4	Applicants must be enrolled (or intending to enrol) in an eligible course for commencement in 2025 (see 'Course eligibility' below).
5	Applicants must have their application reviewed and endorsed by their Director of Mental Health Nursing (or Senior Mental Health Nurse) as part of their application.

Course eligibility

The following course eligibility applies, applicants should assess this eligibility before applying.

Course Eligibility	
1	Scholarships will be provided for the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing Master of Mental Health Nursing
2	The course must be delivered by an accredited university or higher education provider < https://www.teqsa.gov.au/national-register >

Please note: No other courses other than the courses listed above are eligible. If you are studying something other than the courses listed, you may be eligible for other scholarships outlined on the following pages:

- The [Mental Health and Wellbeing Workforce Scholarship Program](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-workforce/mental-health-and-wellbeing-workforce-scholarship-program) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-workforce/mental-health-and-wellbeing-workforce-scholarship-program>>
- [Postgraduate scholarships for nurses and midwives](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing-and-midwifery/scholarships-for-postgraduate-nurses-and-midwives) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing-and-midwifery/scholarships-for-postgraduate-nurses-and-midwives>>
- [ACN's website](https://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships) <<https://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships>>.

Ineligible applicants

The following applicants are ineligible to apply for this scholarship:

- Applicants who've received the Full Course Fee Postgraduate Mental Health Nurse Scholarship previously.
- Applicants who are receiving scholarships through any other Victorian Government funded scholarship program for course enrolment in 2025.

As part of this process, any information provided by an applicant may be shared and subject to verification by eligible education providers and Victorian Government departments including DFFH, DGS, and DJSIR.

You may be requested to provide further information to assist in the assessment of your application or a claim for payment if your application is successful. The Victorian Government reserves the right to refuse an application or claim for payment where eligibility criteria are not met, or where the applicant does not or cannot provide sufficient information in the required timeframe to assess whether eligibility criteria have been met, or where a claim for payment of the scholarship cannot be supported.

How applications will be assessed

All applications are screened by the ACN for eligibility based on the information and evidence you provide, and a department-led assessment panel will undertake a merit evaluation of the assessment criteria to award scholarships through a competitive process. Only deidentified application data is available to the department. Scholarships are limited and eligible applicants are not guaranteed a scholarship.

As part of this process, any information provided by an applicant may be shared and subject to verification by eligible education providers and Victorian Government departments including Department of Health.

You may be requested to provide further information to assist in the assessment of your application or a claim for payment if your application is successful. The Victorian Government reserves the right to refuse an application or claim for payment where eligibility criteria are not met, or where the applicant does not or cannot provide sufficient information in the required timeframe to assess whether eligibility criteria have been met, or where a claim for payment of the scholarship cannot be supported.

Weightings and prioritisation

Prioritisation will be provided for the following eligible applicants by way of a weighting:

- those not receiving other funding support (eg. employer support for course fees, scholarships, grants or financial support from an organisation or institution)
- those who have not previously received a postgraduate mental health nurse scholarship (\$3000)
- those who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- those employed by a health service in regional or rural Victoria.

Value of the scholarship

The scholarships cover the full cost of your course fees for a Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing or a Master of Mental Health Nursing based on the availability of funds. This includes the gap if you are enrolled in a Commonwealth Supported Place.

Please note that the scholarship provides funding for course fees only, any additional costs such as textbooks will need to be funded by the student.

You will need to indicate the approximate course costs associated with your chosen qualification.

Application process

STEP 1- Confirm Eligibility

- check your eligibility against the eligibility criteria in these guidelines
- check that you can meet the grant conditions
- confirm if your employer will support you to undertake postgraduate studies and have them review and endorse your application.

STEP 2- Complete application form

- ensure all required supporting documentation is attached
- proofread your application.

STEP 3- Submit application

- applications close at 11.59pm AEST on **Friday 6 December 2024**.

STEP 4- Applicants notified of outcome

- applicants are notified of their outcome by **mid-March 2025**.
- successful applicants can expect payments to be made by the ACN in April 2025, **after** the first semester census date (31 March 2025).

Please note: Late applications will not be accepted.

Assessment Criteria

A panel will be convened to assess all eligible applications.

Applicants will be asked to provide a 200-300-word statement addressing each of the following assessment criteria.

Assessment Criteria
<p>1. Motivation</p>
<p>Provide a 200-300-word statement describing what motivated you to pursue a career in mental health nursing.</p> <p>Please feel free to include any of the following in your answer (this is a non-exhaustive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your reasons for pursuing mental health as a career • someone who has inspired you and why • an example of working alongside consumers, families, carers and supporters and/or lived and living experience workers • an example of a time where you wished you had mental health skills/knowledge to support a person
<p>2. Commitment to the public mental health or AOD sector and career aspirations</p>
<p>Provide a 200-300-word statement describing your commitment to working in the public mental health sector and your career goals over the next five years.</p> <p>Please include how your study will aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your commitment to mental health nursing in the context of providing person-centred, recovery-oriented care • your career development, such as what your goals, hopes and expectations are (eg. are there specialist areas or specific interests you would like to move toward or explore within mental health?)

Refer to **Appendix 1** which provides comparable responses that can assist you with a competitive application.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Responses

Reliance on AI generated responses is discouraged by the department. If AI is used, responses should be personalised to show unique attributes of the applicant and a true understanding of the applicant’s motivation to work in the public mental health system. Responses where AI is picked up and which have not been personalised may be subject to lower rankings and/or negative scoring at the discretion of the assessment panel during the ranking process.

Tips to support your scholarship application

1. **Know the key dates.** The scholarship applications will close at 11:59pm AEST on 6 December 2024. Late applications will not be considered.
2. **Review the assessment criteria a few times.** Applicants should familiarise themselves with the assessment criteria and spend some time thinking about how they satisfy it.
3. **Refer to Appendix 1 to aid your responses to the assessment criteria.** Examples have been provided which are strong versus weak to assist you to submit a competitive application.
4. **Answer the question.** Ensure that in providing a written response, the assessment panel has a clear understanding of your experience and motivation in relation to the posed question. For example, for question 1 'Motivation', provide clear detail so that it is clear why you are working as a mental health nurse, and any personal/professional experiences that have led you to this career.
5. **Personalise your responses.** Reliance on artificial intelligence (AI) generated responses is discouraged by the department. If AI is used, responses should be personalised to show unique attributes of the applicant and a true understanding of the applicant's motivation to work in the public mental health system. Responses where AI is picked up and which have not been personalised may be subject to lower rankings and/or negative scoring at the discretion of the assessment panel during the ranking process.
6. **Use past experiences as examples.** Applicants are encouraged to share their experiences which have motivated them, including any self-directed voluntary initiatives such as additional courses completed, leadership positions or other specific examples which have led them to this career in mental health. These do not need to be limited to paid roles in the mental health sector.
7. **Ensure the use of language is respectful, professional and contemporary.** For more information regarding the correct use of language and terminology, refer to the 'Language and definition' section of the [Mental health lived experience engagement framework](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/mental-health-lived-experience-engagement-framework) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/mental-health-lived-experience-engagement-framework>>.
8. **Spend some time refining written responses.** Keep responses as concise as possible noting the word limit of 200 words per question. Remember to use examples to demonstrate strengths, and your passion and commitment to working in the mental health sector. A peer review is highly recommended to ensure that your responses are clear and understandable.
9. **Ensure your application has been reviewed and endorsed by the Director of Mental Health Nursing or Senior Mental Health Nurse at your place of employment.** Applicants must get their application reviewed and endorsed for both the quality of their application and organisational support of their postgraduate studies. This includes that the language used in their application is respectful, professional, and contemporary and that the application is clear in answering the posed questions. A template of the required endorsement letter is provided on the application form on ACN's website.

Scholarship awarding process

An overview of the scholarship process is laid out below.

1	<p>Eligibility check</p> <p>Applicants screened to ensure eligibility requirements are met.</p>
2	<p>Applications assessed</p> <p>Applications are assessed against the assessment criteria.</p>
3	<p>Weightings applied</p> <p>Weightings are added to qualifying applicants.</p>
4	<p>Scholarship assessment</p> <p>Scholarships are granted at the discretion of an assessment panel through a competitive process.</p>
5	<p>Applicants notified</p> <p>Applicants are notified of their outcome by mid-March 2025.</p>
6	<p>Scholarship payments scheduled</p> <p>Payments are expected to be made by the ACN in April 2025, after the first semester census date (31 March 2025).</p>

Successful applicants

Scholarship offers can be accepted prior to course enrolment however, proof of 2025 enrolment in a postgraduate course must be provided prior to receiving any scholarship funds.

Unsuccessful applications

An unsuccessful application is either unsuccessful because they were ineligible, or they were not recommended by the assessment panel.

Upon request from the applicant, ineligible applicants will be advised on the specific eligibility criteria they did not meet and applicants who have not been recommended by the assessment panel can request further feedback where appropriate.

Assessment panel

The assessment panel will comprise of at least three members appointed by the department. Assessment panel members hold appropriate expertise including lived and living experience and representation from the Office of the Chief Mental Health Nurse.

Responsibilities, conditions, and commitments for scholarship recipients

Scholarship recipients are required to meet several conditions to maintain eligibility.

Scholarship agreement

If your application is successful, you will be notified via email. An acceptance pack detailing the required paperwork to be submitted as well as a copy of the scholarship’s terms and conditions will be provided by the ACN upon successful notification of receiving this scholarship. You will be required to respond to this email **within a specified time frame**, indicating your acceptance of the scholarship offer. If you do not respond with your acceptance of the scholarship offer, the offer will be withdrawn after the specified time frame and after appropriate attempts have been made to confirm your acceptance.

Successful applicants will be required to sign a scholarship acceptance form prior to the commencement of the scholarship. Your response will form an agreement between you and the Victorian Government on the terms contained in your application form and these guidelines.

Scholarship recipients can accept their scholarship offer prior to enrolling in their course. However, scholarship recipients will need to provide proof of enrolment in a postgraduate course prior to receiving the scholarship funds.

Supporting documentation for successful applicants

To begin receiving funds, scholarship recipients must provide the ACN with evidence in the form of supporting documentation.

Required supporting documentation	
Upon commencement of course	
1	Evidence of Australian citizenship, permanent residency or New Zealand citizenship (New Zealand Citizens must submit a copy of their current passport).
2	Copy of current Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia registration – front and back showing name, registration number, endorsements and if there are conditions or restrictions on registration.
3	Evidence of enrolment for 2025 in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an official university letter confirming enrolment OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an official Student Tax Invoice or Statement of Account for semester 1 or 2, 2025 This must include the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the names of enrolled units, subjects, or courses for semester 1 or 2, 2025 • the enrolment status – part time / full time study load • the type of place / student status – eg. Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP), Higher Education Loan Program (HECS-HELP) or Direct Payment to Academic Institution.
For subsequent semesters (to enable payment for additional units)	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evidence of enrolment in each subsequent semester (per point 3 above) • evidence of completion of prior funded units.

Funding disbursement

Once the required evidence has been provided to the ACN, scholarship recipients will receive funds for their 2025 units via a direct electronic transfer to their account. It is important to note that funds will only be provided **after the census date** (31 March 2025) in the semester you are commencing your course..

Funding will be disbursed to the recipient each semester based on evidence of enrolment and completion of prior funded units. Evidence of the completion of prior funded units will be required before the ACN can pay a recipient for additional units.

Enrolment process

Scholarship recipients are responsible for enrolling and paying course fees (or deferring fees) or HECS-HELP by the due date and are responsible for debts incurred during study including FEE-HELP and HECS-HELP loans. More information about FEE-HELP and HECS-HELP is available at the Commonwealth Government's [Study Assist website](https://www.studyassist.gov.au/) <<https://www.studyassist.gov.au/>>.

Taxation queries

Scholarships may be classed as taxable income depending on your financial situation. Please note the department cannot provide advice to applicants/recipients about taxation.

For further information consult your tax agent or visit [Australian Taxation Office website](https://www.ato.gov.au/calculators-and-tools/is-my-scholarship-taxable/) <<https://www.ato.gov.au/calculators-and-tools/is-my-scholarship-taxable/>>.

Scholarship conditions

Continued employment

It is expected that recipients intend to remain in a Victorian public mental health service for a period of one year full-time following the completion of the postgraduate course for which a scholarship has been awarded.

Students unable to fulfil this condition may be required to refund all or part of the scholarship funds to the department. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Deferral from course

If a student is required to defer their studies for any reason, they must notify the ACN within 14 business days of the change in study arrangements. All or part of the scholarship funds may be required to be returned. These types of circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are at the absolute discretion of the department.

Withdrawal from course

Scholarship recipients withdrawing from the course are required to notify the ACN within 14 business days of withdrawal. All or part of scholarship funding may be required to be returned. Students are encouraged to be aware of their university's fees policy as most universities will not refund course fees if the student withdraws or defers after the census date.

Consent to share student information

By submitting your completed application, you consent to the ACN sharing information provided by you with the Victorian Department of Health and between the Victorian Government and external parties for application assessment, evaluation and administration purposes as well as for validating enrolment and other eligibility requirements, including:

- your education provider
- Victorian Government departments including but not limited to the Department of Health, the Department of Government Services (DGS), the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

By accepting a scholarship, you are also consenting to your application information being utilised in monitoring and evaluation of the program.

Applications and claims for scholarship payments may be subject to audit by the Victorian Government or its representatives for a period of up to three years following the completion of the scholarship to determine whether the application and information provided during the term of the scholarship was accurate and complete, consistent with these program guidelines.

The department may, at any time, remove your application from the assessment process or terminate a scholarship agreement if, in the department's opinion, you may bring the department, a Minister or the Victorian Government into disrepute.

You are responsible for informing the ACN via email of any changes to your circumstances, including:

- changes to contact details, such as address, mobile number, email and bank account details
- significant changes to your enrolment, such as withdrawal or deferral from your placement or course.

Fraudulent claims

By submitting your application form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true, accurate and not misleading about a material fact.

If any information in the application or claims for payment are found to be false, misleading or fraudulent the amount of scholarship funding paid to you under the scholarship program will be repayable on demand. The Victorian Government reserves the right to take further action, including referring the scholarship recipient to the relevant law enforcement agency. Providing inaccurate, untrue, or misleading information may be an offence and serious penalties may apply.

Program surveys and evaluation

By accepting a scholarship, you are consenting to your application information being utilised for monitoring and evaluation of the program. You are also agreeing to receive requests to participate in additional evaluation activities, such as to complete survey questions or participate in interviews or focus groups. These requests may be made for a period of up to three years after applying for a scholarship. All information utilised in monitoring and evaluation will be deidentified and treated in accordance with the privacy statement detailed below.

Privacy statement

In applying for a scholarship you will be providing personal and sensitive information which will be collected and used by ACN as the program administrators. Your personal and sensitive information is collected for the purpose of assessing eligibility, administering claims and payments and other functions necessary for the effective delivery of the program, including monitoring and evaluation.

By applying for a scholarship, you consent to the sharing of information as outlined in the Terms and Conditions section above and in the application form. The ACN, as program administrators may contact you to clarify your submitted information, and for program review, reporting, monitoring, audit and evaluation purposes.

ACN and the department will complete a range of eligibility assessments that may include data matching to clarify the accuracy and quality of information supplied by you. The data matching may occur on enrolment information and personal and sensitive information provided in your application, your supporting evidence and any claim or payment forms.

As part of application verification and to enable payment of scholarships, the department and/or ACN will share your personal and sensitive information with other Victorian and Commonwealth Government agencies. As part of the verification process, the department and/or ACN may contact your education provider to confirm your enrolment, commencement and other course related milestones.

Personal and sensitive information, including demographic information, that is collected as part of the application process will be utilised to assess your eligibility. The department will only have access to deidentified application data. Deidentified demographic information may also be used for evaluation and reporting purposes on behalf of the Victorian Government. No identifying information is used in reporting; all reports will be presented with aggregated data.

Other than as set out in these guidelines, your personal and sensitive information will not be shared with any other external parties, without your consent, unless otherwise authorised or required by law. In the circumstances your information is shared with external parties apart from those listed above, the department and/or ACN will use best endeavours to inform you of the nature and purpose of sharing that information prior to doing so.

If there is an intention to include personal and sensitive information about a third party in the application, you must ensure the third party is aware of and consents to the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal and sensitive information that you provide about yourself, or a third party, will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred and stored in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic), the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic), the Public Records Act 1973 (Vic) and other applicable legislation.

If you do not provide all the information requested of you, your application may be unable to proceed.

You have the right to request access to your personal and sensitive information that is collected at any time. If you identify information that is incorrect, you may request for it to be corrected.

For enquiries about access to, or correction of, your personal information you can email the ACN at scholarships@acn.edu.au. If you have concerns regarding your privacy and/or how your personal and sensitive information has been used, please [email the Department of Health at <privacy@health.vic.gov.au>](mailto:privacy@health.vic.gov.au).

A link to the ACN's privacy collection notice can be found on the [ACN's website](https://members.acn.edu.au/Public/Join/Privacy_Collection_Notice.aspx) <https://members.acn.edu.au/Public/Join/Privacy_Collection_Notice.aspx>.

Please visit the department's [privacy policy](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/department-of-health-privacy-policy) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/department-of-health-privacy-policy>> for more information. It contains information about how you can access and correct the personal information you may give us, how you can lodge a complaint regarding the handling of your personal information and how any complaint will be handled by the department.

Other information

The department reserves the right to amend these guidelines at any time as it deems appropriate (subject to appropriate notice being given either by publication on the ACN website, the Department's scholarships website or by email to applicants and recipients).

Contact

Please review the frequently asked questions and program guideline appendices if you have questions or require further detail. Please contact the ACN on 1800 061 660 or scholarships@acn.edu.au.

Frequently asked questions

What degrees are considered eligible?

Eligible courses include a Graduate Diploma for Mental Health Nursing or a Master of Mental Health Nursing delivered by a university or [accredited higher education provider](https://www.teqsa.gov.au/national-register) <<https://www.teqsa.gov.au/national-register>>.

Please note: No other courses other than the courses listed above (such as Master of Applied Mental Health) are eligible. If you are studying something other than the courses listed, you may be eligible for other scholarships outlined on the following pages:

- The [Mental Health and Wellbeing Workforce Scholarship Program](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-workforce/mental-health-and-wellbeing-workforce-scholarship-program) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-workforce/mental-health-and-wellbeing-workforce-scholarship-program>>
- [Postgraduate scholarships for nurses and midwives](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing-and-midwifery/scholarships-for-postgraduate-nurses-and-midwives) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing-and-midwifery/scholarships-for-postgraduate-nurses-and-midwives>>
- [ACN's website](https://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships) <<https://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships>>.

Can I apply if I have previously received this scholarship?

No, you cannot apply for this scholarship if you have already received the full course fee scholarship.

Can I apply if I have already received the postgraduate mental health nursing scholarship (worth \$3000.00)?

Yes, you can apply for this scholarship if you have received the \$3000.00 scholarship previously.

When do scholarship applications close?

Applications close at 11.59pm AEST on Friday 6 December 2024.

Can the scholarship be paid before the census date?

No. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they pay any fees for their courses by the agreed due date with the education provider or with the Australian Taxation Office. Scholarships are only paid **after the census date** and after all appropriate paperwork has been submitted.

Can the scholarship be paid directly to my university or to the ATO?

No. Scholarships are provided directly to the applicant via direct deposit. Applicants are responsible for paying any fees/student loans.

Are late applications accepted?

No. All applications must be submitted by the closing date, after this time the application portal will no longer be available.

Am I able to make any changes once I have submitted my application?

No, you cannot make any changes once an application is submitted.

If your contact details change prior to notification, please email the new details to the scholarships team at scholarships@acn.edu.au.

When will I be notified if I am successful?

Applicants will be notified of their outcome by mid-March 2025.

What happens after I receive a scholarship?

Once the required evidence and supporting documentation has been provided to the ACN, scholarship recipients will receive funds for their 2025 units via a direct electronic transfer to their account following the census date.

Generally, funding will be disbursed to the recipient incrementally based on evidence of enrolment for each semester. Evidence of the completion of prior funded units will also be required before the ACN can pay a recipient for additional units.

Scholarship recipients will be required to provide the ACN with evidence via supporting documents to begin receiving funds (including evidence of previous university qualifications if relevant, proof of enrolment in a postgraduate course at an accredited university, and proof of Australian citizenship, permanent residency, or New Zealand citizenship).

Appendices

Appendix 1: Example responses

Question	Weak example	Strong example
<p>1. Provide a 200-word statement describing what motivated you to pursue a career in mental health nursing.</p>	<p>i have been mental health nurse for more than 5 years and seen how effective nurses would be in the recovery journey. i cannot explain these feelings and are lived experience that I will never forget. Mental health nursing is not for everyone although it is challenging. This requires determination, braveness and assertiveness. With the new MH act and its recovery and client focused practices which put the patient holistically centre at what we do.</p>	<p>Growing up in rural Victoria as a homosexual individual, I've been impacted by the limited mental health resources available to support marginalized people in my community. I understand the stigma surrounding mental health treatment, coupled with the ever-rising youth suicide rate for cross-sectional populations. With 1 in 3 persons who identify as LGBTIQ+ having suicidal ideation, I've been in a position where I've supported peers and managed my own mental health struggles. I've drawn on my lived experience of someone suffering from anxiety and depression and how I've navigated my mental health journey to help others. Through this support, I realized my passion for Mental Health as a career and my need to complete further study to expand my knowledge and skills. By working in the mental health sector, I hope to have a beneficial impact and advocate for marginalized cross-sectional people in rural communities.</p>
<p>2. Provide a 200-word statement describing your commitment to working in the public mental health sector and your career goals over the next five years.</p>	<p>I have been a nurse for over 15 years and have been aspiring to meet my patients goals the best way I could. Doing this extended learning will help me to attain these goals which are closer to my client's recovery.</p>	<p>I am currently working in the XX team for XX Hospital. I have a specific interest in working with Adolescents, Borderline Personality Disorder and Schizophrenia. XX Hospital is expanding their mental health workforce who treat consumers who are admitted with these mental health diseases. I plan to further up-skill in that area to meet the increasing need. After completing the Graduate Diploma in Mental Health, I plan to complete training in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy to offer evidenced based psychological interventions. My long-term goal will be to complete the Master of Nurse Practitioner so that I can offer a holistic treatment to mental health consumers.</p>