



NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship 2017

Application Guidelines

The closing date for 2017 applications for the NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship is Monday 20 February 2017.

Late applications will not be accepted.

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The NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship is supported by The Nationals Senator for New South Wales, Senator John Williams, and is administered by the National Rural Health Alliance. The Scholarship is only valid and payments will only be made during Senator Williams full year term in the Senate.

NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship 2017

Introduction

The NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship is available to assist a student from regional New South Wales offset the costs of commencing dentistry studies at an approved university in Australia. The scholarship is designed to assist a student with strong links to regional communities to train for a professional dental career in regional New South Wales.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student commencing the first year of an accredited Australian dentistry degree in 2017. The duration of the scholarship is one year.

The NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship is supported by The Nationals Senator for New South Wales, Senator John Williams, and is administered by the National Rural Health Alliance.

Applying for the NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship

The Application Form is available online at <http://ruralhealth.org.au/nsw-rds>

Applications must be submitted on the NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship 2017 Application Form by **Monday 20 February 2017**. Late applications will not be accepted.

To complete and submit Application Form electronically (preferred):

- save a copy of the blank form on your computer;
- complete the questions (**you must enable macros in Microsoft Word 2007 or later to enter data on the form. It cannot be completed electronically in earlier versions of Microsoft Word**);
- save your completed form on your computer; and
- send your completed form as an email attachment to nsw-rds@ruralhealth.org.au

If you are unable to complete the application form electronically, you can print the form, complete it by hand and send it by mail to the address below.

Before you submit your application check it carefully to ensure that you have answered all the relevant questions accurately and completely. Keep a copy of your application for your own records.

Incomplete applications will not be assessed.

Do not send any other documents with your application form. An applicant who is offered a scholarship will be asked to provide certified copies of specified documents so that the claims made in their application may be verified. The scholarship will be awarded only after the information provided by the applicant in their application form has been verified. The successful applicant will be also required to submit a signed statutory declaration attesting that the information set out in their application is accurate and complete. Be aware that it is an offence to wilfully make a false statement in a statutory declaration.

For further information please contact:

Email	nsw-rds@ruralhealth.org.au
Free call	1800 460 440
Phone	(02) 6285 4660
Fax	(02) 6285 4670
Mail	NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship National Rural Health Alliance PO Box 280, DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600
Web	http://ruralhealth.org.au/nsw-rds

Privacy

Any information provided to the National Rural Health Alliance by an applicant in connection with their application for the NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship will be dealt with in accordance with the National Privacy Principles of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship 2017 an applicant must:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia;
- have lived in regional New South Wales (see **Glossary**, p.5-6 for definition) for a minimum of five years from the age of five up to the date of entry to dentistry school; and
- be commencing full time study in an accredited Australian dentistry degree in 2017 (see **NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship - Eligible courses in 2017**, p.6).

Selection criteria

The successful applicant will be selected on the basis of their:

- residency history in regional New South Wales from five years of age, including attendance at a primary school in a New South Wales regional area;
- financial need, assessed on the basis of taxable income for the current and previous two years and/or eligibility for Australian Government student income support; and
- demonstrated commitment and aspiration to living and working in regional New South Wales.

Assessment of applications and selection of the successful applicant

All applications submitted by the closing date will be assessed according to the eligibility and selection criteria set out in these guidelines.

- 1 Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria.
- 2 Eligible applications will be assessed against to the selection criteria. A short list of applications will be produced for consideration by the selection committee.
- 3 Short-listed applications will be considered by the selection committee. As part of this consideration, the selection committee may seek additional information from selected applicants. A scholarship may be offered to one applicant on the basis of this consideration.
- 4 The applicant who is offered a scholarship will be asked to provide specified documentation so that the claims made in their application may be verified. The NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship for 2017 will be formally awarded to this applicant provided that the documentation verifies the information in their application.

A detailed list of the documents which an applicant who is offered a scholarship may be required to provide is available on request from the National Rural Health Alliance.

Should the applicant who is offered a scholarship decline this offer or have the scholarship offer withdrawn, the scholarship may be offered to another eligible applicant.

All applicants will be notified in writing by mail of the outcome of their application. The decision of the selection committee is final and no subsequent appeals or requests for applications to be reconsidered can be accepted.

Selection committee

The selection committee will comprise:

- one nominee of Senator John Williams; and
- two nominees of the Executive Director, National Rural Health Alliance.

Scholarship value and requirements

The scholarship will provide \$4,800 in 2017. The scholarship will be paid in eleven instalments from March 2017. Nine instalments of \$480 will be paid monthly from March to November. One instalment of \$240 will be paid in December and a final instalment of \$240 will be paid once the scholarship holder has fulfilled the completion requirements of the scholarship, outlined below.

The scholarship holder will have access to mentoring support by an experienced dentist currently practising in regional New South Wales. This mentoring is intended to provide exposure to rural dental practice and a source of advice and experience outside the formal university environment.

The scholarship holder will be encouraged to participate in activities to reinforce his/her connections to regional New South Wales, such as participating actively in university rural health club programs.

The scholarship holder will be required to:

- continue to be enrolled full-time in dentistry in 2017;
- be a member of the university rural health club at their enrolled university;
- sign a scholarship agreement which sets out the terms under which the scholarship is offered;
- submit a progress report at the end of First Semester; and
- on completion of the scholarship, submit a final report and a copy of their academic results for 2017.

Withdrawal of scholarship

If the scholarship holder does not complete first year dentistry in 2017 through withdrawing or taking an intermission from university, or if they fail and are excluded from their course before the completion of first year, the scholarship will be withdrawn. If the scholarship holder ceases to be enrolled at university, they should inform the National Rural Health Alliance as soon as possible. They would not be required to repay funds received before the date that they ceased to be enrolled at university; however, they would be required to repay any scholarship funds they have received while they are not enrolled at university.

Tax status of the NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship

The scholarship administrator is not able to offer taxation advice. Applicants are advised to seek guidance from the Australian Taxation Office or a registered tax agent on the taxation status of the scholarship as it relates to their particular circumstances.

Effect of the scholarship on Youth Allowance and other Centrelink benefits

Applicants for the NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship should seek advice from Centrelink on how receiving scholarship payments may impact on entitlements for student income support benefits provided through Centrelink.

Glossary

Terms used in the NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship Application Form and Guidelines

Assessable income: income you must declare to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), including income that is below the tax free threshold. This income includes:

- Employment income – such as salaries and wages, allowances and other employment income, lump sum payments;
- Australian Government payments – such as Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY payments;
- Some scholarships, bursaries, grants and other educational awards (please note that many scholarships are not taxable; applicants should seek advice about the taxation status of *other scholarships* they are receiving or check the Australian Taxation Office’s ‘Is your scholarship taxable?’ tool <http://www.ato.gov.au/Calculators-and-tools/Is-your-scholarship-taxable/>);
- Pensions and annuities – such as Australian Government pensions, pensions paid as superannuation income streams, annuities;
- Investment income – such as interest, dividends, rent and rent-related payments, income or credits from any trust investments product;
- Business, partnership and trust income – including family trust distributions;
- Income from capital gains;
- Foreign income.

Certified copy: a copy of an original document that has been certified as a true and correct copy of the original document. A person who is authorised to witness a statutory declaration (see below) may certify a copy.

Dependent child: a child who is under 22 years of age and is wholly or substantially dependent on his/her parent(s)/guardian(s).

New South Wales regional area: locations in New South Wales identified as being within the ASGC Remoteness Areas (RA) categories 2-5. It excludes Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and other urban areas in New South Wales. The RA classification of specific locations can be checked online on the RA Locator provided by the Department of Health (<http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/Publishing.nsf/content/locator>).

Parent(s): unless otherwise noted, references to parent(s) also apply to guardian(s).

Partner: a person to whom the applicant is currently married, or has been living with in a marriage-like relationship (a de facto relationship), for 12 months or more.

Principal home address: the address where the applicant usually lives, or has usually lived in previous years. A number of exceptions apply:

- If the applicant’s parents are separated or divorced, the address of the parent with whom the applicant would have normally lived for the most time in months in each calendar year;
- For an applicant who attended boarding school, the address of the applicant’s parent(s)/guardian(s)’ place of residence during that time;
- During periods that an applicant was over 17 years of age and dependent as defined by Centrelink, the address of the applicant’s parent(s)/guardian(s)’ place of residence.

For periods that the applicant was independent as defined by Centrelink, the principal home address is his/her usual place of residence.

Rural health club: a university club which encourages and supports students with a background and/or interest in rural health. For more information and links to each university's rural health club go to <http://www.nrhn.org.au>

Statutory declaration: A statutory declaration is a written statement that allows a person to declare something to be true. When you make a statutory declaration, you are declaring that the statements in it are true. If you intentionally make a false statement in a declaration, you can be charged with an offence. The penalty for making a false statement in a statutory declaration is a maximum of four years imprisonment. A Commonwealth statutory declaration form and a list of persons authorised to witness a statutory declaration (under the Commonwealth *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*) is available at <http://www.ag.gov.au/Publications/Pages/Statutorydeclarations.aspx>

Taxable income: income you must declare to the Australian Taxation Office (assessable income) including income that is below the tax free threshold, minus all deductions that are allowable under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*. These deductions include all normal business expenses, certain special deductions of a capital nature and non-business deductions. An individual's taxable income is shown on their Australian Taxation Office Notice of Assessment.

NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship - Eligible courses in 2017

University	Course	Course type, Duration
Charles Sturt University, NSW	Bachelor of Dental Science	Undergraduate, 5 years
University of Sydney, NSW	Doctor of Dental Medicine	Graduate entry, 4 years
Griffith University, QLD	Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Science/Graduate Diploma in Dentistry	Undergraduate degree (3 years), followed by 2-year Graduate Diploma
James Cook University, QLD	Bachelor of Dental Surgery	Undergraduate, 5 years
University of Queensland, QLD	Bachelor of Dental Science	Undergraduate, 5 years
University of Adelaide, SA	Bachelor of Dental Surgery	Undergraduate, 5 years
La Trobe University, VIC	Bachelor of Health Sciences in Dentistry/Master of Dentistry	Undergraduate, 5 years
University of Melbourne, VIC	Doctor of Dental Surgery	Graduate entry, 4 years
University of Western Australia, WA	Doctor of Dental Medicine	Graduate entry, 4 years