



Department of
**Energy and Economic
Diversification**

Western Australian Premier's University Scholarships Program for 2026

- Guidelines
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1. Introduction and Background

In the 2022-23 Budget, the Western Australian (WA) Government announced \$41.2 million in funding for international education initiatives. This announcement included \$2 million over four years for the Western Australian Premier's University Scholarships Program (the Program).

The Program will run each year for four years (2022-23 until 2025-26), providing funding for up to **10 one-year scholarships annually valued at \$50,000 each, to attract two high-achieving international students** to each of Western Australia's five universities: Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle Campus), and The University of Western Australia. Each year, the Program will focus on attracting new students from priority target markets, studying in a range of fields that are linked to priority sectors and industries for Western Australia.

The sixth round of the Program will be open for Semester 1, 2026 enrolments, and the seventh round of the Program will be open for Semester 2, 2026 enrolments. While development of the scholarship criteria will be managed by the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED), the application, evaluation and decision process will be administered by each University, with students applying directly to the University of their choice.

2. Key Dates and Times

The following table outlines the indicative timeframes and may be subject to change.

Round/ Semester	Application period	Successful scholarship recipients determined	Award letter to successful recipients issued
Round 6: Semester 1, 2026	9:00 am 1 August 2025 – 3:00 pm 14 November 2025	January 2026	February - March 2026
Round 7: Semester 2, 2026	9:00 am 3 March 2026 – 3:00 pm 29 May 2026	June 2026	July - August 2026

3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to be considered for the Program in 2026, applicants must:

1. Have received a letter of offer for a new enrolment* as an onshore international student, undertaking full-time studies (minimum two years) at one of Western Australia's five Universities, commencing in Semester 1 2026 or Semester 2 2026,

or a start date after 1 January 2026 applicable to the student's course of study (for PhD students).

2. Have [met the criteria to obtain an international student visa](#) for study in Australia, arriving in the State of Western Australia (the State) and commencing studies onshore in 2026 in the semester for which they have applied.
3. Be commencing studies directly in an undergraduate or postgraduate program and not via a packaged, foundation or English language pathway.
4. Be prepared to decline any other scholarships they may have been previously granted by the University, State or Commonwealth if successful in being awarded a WA Premier's University Scholarship.
5. Be applying to the University as an international fee-paying student.
6. Be a citizen of one of the following countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, China, Colombia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, the Philippines, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Vietnam.

*Each participating University will determine which levels of study are eligible to apply.

4. Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed by their selected University on a range of factors, including but not limited to:

1. Demonstration of a high-level of academic achievement as determined by the admitting University.
2. Individual Universities may require additional qualitative assessment by requesting short-listed applicants to provide responses to qualitative questions either through written or interview form.

5. Application Process

The application and decision process for the WA Premier's University Scholarship will be administered by each participating Western Australian University. Applicants will apply directly to the University in which they plan to enrol. Each University will determine the documentation required to be provided from applicants in order to assess and evaluate applications. This will be a competitive process.

The specific Scholarship application information for each of the Universities will be provided prior to applications being opened, and will be accessible on wa.gov.au.

6. Assessment and Notification Process

Universities will assess applications according to the pre-determined and published criteria, assessing and evaluating eligible applicants once the application period closes. Once successful applicants have been determined, each University will inform DEED of the students recommended to be awarded scholarships. Successful applicants will be notified via correspondence from the Western Australian Premier, while those applications deemed unsuccessful will be advised by the University through which they applied.

All final decisions are at the full discretion of the relevant University and DEED.

7. Payments

To be eligible for the scholarship payment, students must:

- Continue to meet the eligibility application criteria.
- Have commenced their studies onshore at the University awarding their scholarship in the semester for which they applied in 2026.
- Have attendance confirmed past the census date for the semester for which they applied in 2026 at the University in which they are enrolled.
- Be an international student on an Australian student visa (subclass 500).
- Not be a recipient of any other scholarships.

Each semester in 2026, one scholarship worth \$50,000 will be provided to each Western Australian University. Scholarship funds will be held by the universities and be applied against successful applicant's fee and tuition accounts. The scholarship fund is provided as a fee discount towards eligible course fees, and will be applied against the successful student's account with the University after the University census date for the semester for which they applied in 2026. Each University will decide the frequency and value of credit towards course fees over the duration of the program. Payments are exclusive of GST.

If students do not meet all of the eligibility criteria of the scholarship program at payment date, the University has the right at its absolute discretion to retract the scholarship and reassess applications to determine a substitute recipient.

8. Terms and Conditions

Each University must acknowledge and agree to be legally bound by a Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) with DEED.

Requirements set out in these Guidelines, including requirements set out in the General Terms and Conditions of these Guidelines are reflected in each FAA.

9. Contact

All enquiries from applicants regarding the criteria and assessment method of the Western Australian Premier's University Scholarship can be directed to scholarships@jtsi.wa.gov.au.

10. Reporting

At the conclusion of each scholarship round, the Universities will provide a report to DEED outlining the number of applications received, the countries of origin of applicants, field of study, and any other details as requested by DEED to assess the impact and reach of the program, and inform future rounds of the Scholarship program.

11. General income tax information

Subject to an applicant's specific circumstances, the receipt of funding from this program may be treated as assessable income. Potential applicants are required to seek independent advice about the possible income tax implications from a qualified tax agent/advisor, or the Australian Taxation Office, prior to submitting an application. Nothing in these Guidelines constitutes legal or financial advice.

12. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

My enrolled course is shorter than two years. Can I still apply?

No, current eligibility criteria for this scholarship requires students to be studying in Western Australia for a minimum of two years or more.

I am an international student and am already studying at a WA University. Can I still apply?

No, current eligibility criteria for this payment requires students to be arriving in Western Australia in a specific semester in 2026 in order to commence their course in that semester in 2026.

If found successful with the scholarship, am I able to postpone my course into a future semester?

No, current eligibility criteria for this payment requires students to be commencing their course in the relevant semester in 2026.

If I am successful in obtaining a scholarship payment how will this be provided to me?

Funding for the scholarship will be provided to the University you are enrolled with, to be held against your student account and be used to cover course costs and other fees.

Who do I contact with any queries?

All enquiries regarding the Western Australian Premier's University Scholarship can be directed to scholarships@jtsi.wa.gov.au.

13. General Terms and Conditions

1. Cancellation and Variation

- 1.1 The Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED) reserves the right at its absolute discretion, at any time and from time to time, to (in whole or in part) cancel, vary, supplement, supersede or replace this Western Australian Premier's University Scholarships Program (Program).
- 1.2 If DEED cancels, varies, supplements, supersedes or replaces this Program, then:
 - a) DEED will advise each University that the Program has been cancelled, varied, supplemented, superseded or replaced; and
 - b) The University shall not have any recourse against DEED whatsoever including claims for any costs or expenses incurred by the Applicant in applying for, or connected in applying for funding through this Program.

2. DEED's Rights & University Obligations

2.1 Information

DEED may from time to time request information and/or documents in connection with the Program, including without limitation any information or documents (including supporting evidence) which DEED reasonably required to consider whether DEED is or should be satisfied of or with any matter in connection with the Program, and the University must promptly comply within the time period prescribed by DEED's written request.

2.2 Audits

For a period of five years after the date upon which a funding payment is made to the University, DEED may, at its absolute discretion:

- a) Conduct random or specific audits in relation to this Program;
- b) Request additional information from the University if DEED reasonably believes that any of the information provided by the University may be incomplete, false or misleading;
- c) Must fully cooperate with such requests, and promptly comply with such requests within the time period prescribed by DEED.

2.3 University warranties

Each University, in submitting information about the successful Scholarship Recipients, warrants and represents that all information and representations (in whatever form) given to DEED under, as part of or in connection with the Program, is true and correct, complete, and up-to-date, and in no way misleading or deceptive.

2.4 General

Despite anything expressed or implied to the contrary in these General Terms and Conditions, the Guidelines, or any other documentation associated with the Program, no University shall have or assert any legal (including equitable) rights under, in connection with, on account of, or associated with any of the aforesaid documents or the Program.

3. Application and Assessment Process

The University will assess their own applications according to the determined Eligibility Criteria and Selection Criteria and application process that was agreed on together with DEED and outlined in these Guidelines. The University will then decide on the successful applicants once the application period closes and inform DEED of the students to be awarded scholarships. A University may not award more than two Scholarships awarded at \$50,000 each in 2026. If students do not meet the eligibility criteria of Program at payment date, the University has the right to retract the scholarship and reassess applications to determine a substitute recipient. The University will need to inform DEED about the change and the new recipients.

- a) If DEED requests the provision of further information including how the successful applicant satisfies the Eligibility and Selection Criteria, then the University must provide the copy of the documents or information requested within the period specified by DEED.

4. Financial Assistance Agreement

- 4.1 The University will be required to enter into a legally binding Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) with the State of Western Australia, acting by and through its Department of Energy and Economic Diversification.
- 4.2 The terms and conditions of the FAA will not be negotiable.

5. Repayment

If in its reasonable opinion, DEED forms the view that the University provided incomplete, false or misleading information or that the relevant Scholarship Recipient no longer satisfies, or never satisfied, the Eligibility Criteria or Selection Criteria of the funding payment, DEED may request the University repay part or all of the funding payment as a

debt due and payable to DEED and the University must comply with such a request in a time and manner as prescribed by DEED. If Scholarship Recipients do not continue to meet Eligibility Requirements, for example by leaving the University before the end of the first two years of their Program, any unspent funds should be repaid from the University to DEED.

6. Media

6.1 All media enquiries or public announcements relating to the Program are coordinated and managed by DEED's Media team. Where possible, all media and communications will be undertaken jointly with successful applicants.

Scholarship Recipients must:

- a) Seek and obtain DEED's approval before making public statements, or contacting or responding to the media, regarding successful or unsuccessful Scholarship Recipients through the Program.
- b) Provide DEED with at least 25 business days' notice of any proposed media event.
- c) Provide any proposed media or public statement to DEED for approval prior to its release as well as make any changes or amendments to the form, content or manner reasonably requested by DEED.

7. Disclosure of Offer Information

7.1 Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)

- a) The University acknowledges and agrees that information relating to the Program may be subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)* (FOI Act). As such, DEED may be required to publicly disclose such information as required by the FOI Act. DEED may also be required to disclose information to the State of Western Australia under court order or upon request by Parliament, any Committee of Parliament or as otherwise required by law.
- b) To the fullest extent of the Law the University releases the State of Western Australia, DEED including their respective officers, employees, contractors and agents or otherwise from all liability (in negligence or howsoever arising) for any loss, injury, damage, liability, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by the University resulting from the disclosure of information from the application in part or whole.

7.2 Auditor General's Act 2006 (WA) and Financial Management Act 2006 (WA)

- a) Nothing in the Guidelines or the General Terms and Conditions shall be interpreted to affect or diminish the powers and responsibilities of the Auditor General for the State of Western Australia under the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Auditor General's Act 2006 in any way.
- b) Subject to this clause 7, the provisions of the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Auditor General's Act 2006, DEED will not make public any part of the information that the University expressly and reasonably nominates as confidential. However, DEED may require the University to withdraw any claim to confidentiality in respect of any part of the information related to the Program as a condition of acceptance of the Program.

7.3 Privacy

- a) By agreeing to participate in the Program, the University consents to the information provided by the University or collected by DEED relating to the University being used by DEED in the administration of the Program.
- b) DEED will store personal information collected in this process, supporting documentation and any Program administration, monitoring and evaluation activities in compliance with its obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth), *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (WA) and the Australian Privacy Principles.

8. Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent of the law, the State of Western Australia and DEED, including their respective officer, employees, contractors and representative, shall have no liability whatsoever (arising in negligence or howsoever) for any loss, injury, damage, liability, costs or expenses (including legal costs) suffered or incurred by the University in connection with the Program and the Department's lawful disclosure of the University's information as required for the purposes of administering the Program and any Financial Assistance Agreements relevant to this Program.

9. Laws

The Program is governed by the law of the State of Western Australia.

The University must comply with all relevant laws and rules of the State of Western Australia regarding the Program.

10. Disclaimer

10.1 Nothing in the application process or the selection process shall give rise to any legal relationship or any other obligations between the University and DEED.

10.2 Any obligations and responsibilities of the parties will be the subject of an FAA between DEED and the University.

11. Definitions

In these General Terms and Conditions:

DEED means the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification.

Department means the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification, or any such instrumentality that is responsible for the administration of these Guidelines and Terms and Conditions.

Financial Assistance Agreement means the legally binding agreement between each University and DEED relevant to this Program.

Guidelines means the document titled "Western Australian Premier's University Scholarships for 2026".

Program means the Western Australian Premier's University Scholarships Program for 2026, and associated processes, and requirements and benefits described in both the Guidelines and these General Terms and Conditions.

Scholarship Recipients means those applicants that each University has chosen to receive the Western Australian Premier's University Scholarships for 2026. There are no more than 2 scholarship recipients annually for each university.

Selection Criteria means the criteria on which a student will be selected for a Scholarship as set out in the Guidelines.

University means any of the five universities in Western Australia: Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, The University of Notre Dame Australia (Fremantle Campus), and The University of Western Australia.