

2024 Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarships

Guidelines

The NSW Rural Allied Health Scholarship Program offers postgraduate scholarships to support the retention of allied health clinicians working in rural NSW.

Scholarships of up to \$10,000 are available to fulltime or part time allied health clinicians employed by, and currently working in, a rural located public health service, to assist with educational expenses directly associated with postgraduate study.

Successful applicants will receive a one-off payment of:

- \$2,500 for a single subject
- \$5,000 for a Graduate Certificate or Diploma
- \$9,000 for an Undergraduate Degree
- \$10,000 for a Masters or PhD

The number of scholarships allocated is subject to the total funds available within the 2024 Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship budget. Applications close on Friday 5th April 2024. It is anticipated at least 20 NSW Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarships will be offered.

Applications close on Friday 5th April 2024

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship applicants must:

1. Be an employee of, and based at, a **rural located** public sector health service within a NSW Local Health District (including temporary employees who have been working for the health service for at least 12 months).

The rural Local Health Districts are:

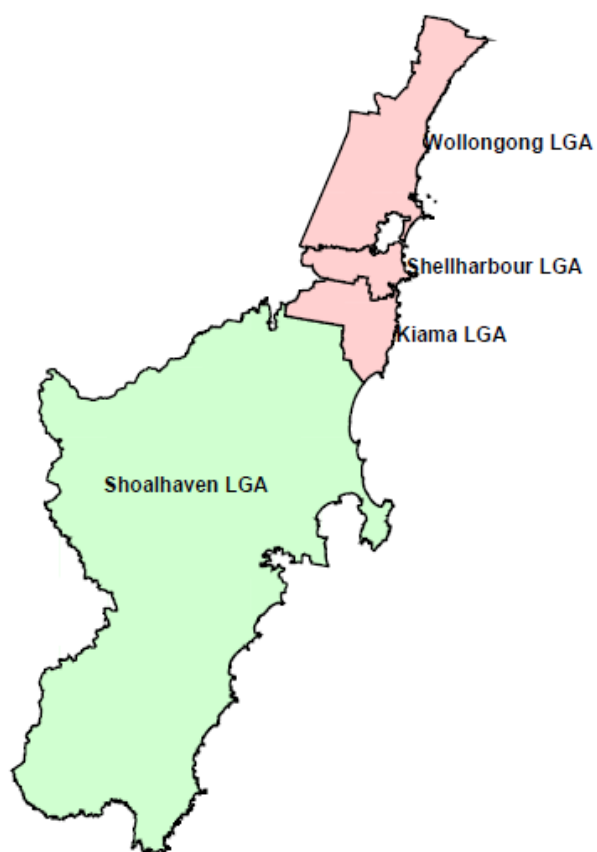
- Far West
- Western NSW
- Northern NSW
- Mid North Coast
- Murrumbidgee
- Southern NSW
- Hunter New England (excluding: Cessnock, Maitland, Port Stephens, Newcastle, and Lake Macquarie LGA)
- Illawarra Shoalhaven (excluding: Kiama, Wollongong and Shellharbour LGA)
- Nepean Blue Mountains (Lithgow LGA only)

NSW Rural map



Hunter New England Rural map



Illawarra Shoalhaven Rural mapNepean Blue Mountains Rural map

2. Possess an **undergraduate/graduate entry qualification** in one of the following allied health disciplines:

- Audiology
- Art Therapy
- Child Life Therapy
- Counselling
- Dietetics & Nutrition
- Diversional Therapy
- Exercise Physiology
- Genetic Counselling
- Music Therapy
- Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Occupational Therapy
- Orthoptics
- Orthotics and Prosthetics
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Psychology
- Radiation Therapy
- Radiography
- Sexual Assault
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology
- Welfare

OR Be employed as an allied health assistant or employed in a recognised allied health role e.g., welfare worker

3. Be an Australian citizen or have permanent residence.
4. Be currently enrolled, or planning to enrol by **1 June 2024**, in further studies at an approved Australian University or institution offering equivalent tertiary qualifications.
5. Not be in receipt of any other scholarship or funding assistance (valued at more than \$6,000) for this course of study. Recipients of the Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship or the Mental Health Post-Graduate Scholarship are not eligible.

Scholarships are offered for students enrolled, or proposing to enrol by 1 June 2024, in a single subject, undergraduate degree, postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma, Masters or PhD in 2024.

ELIGIBLE COURSES

- **Single Subject:** The Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme recognises that some clinicians may wish to develop skills in a particular area, but not undertake a full course leading to the award of a higher degree. Clinicians can apply for funding to undertake a single subject offered by a tertiary institution relevant to their current work.
- **Undergraduate Degree:** Applications for scholarships for undergraduate degrees would generally only be considered where the applicant does not currently have a tertiary qualification and is seeking to obtain a qualification relevant to their employment e.g. welfare worker undertaking a course in social work.
- **Postgraduate Certificate:** In a subject deemed relevant to public health care by the selection panel.
- **Postgraduate Diploma:** In a subject deemed relevant to public health care by the selection panel.
- **Masters Degree:** In an area deemed relevant to public health care by the selection panel.
- **PhD:** In a subject deemed relevant to public health care by the selection panel.

Only single subjects or courses offered by a tertiary institution recognised under the Higher Education Act 2001, or equivalent courses offered by organisations registered and accredited for the delivery of higher education courses, are eligible. Short courses and conferences are not eligible for funding under this program.

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS ASSESSED?

Applicants who meet the selection criteria will be prioritised based on:

- Employment in a public health service in one of the following LHD:
 - Far West
 - Western NSW
 - Northern NSW
 - Mid North Coast

- Murrumbidgee
- Southern NSW
- Hunter New England (*excluding: Cessnock, Maitland, Port Stephens, Newcastle, and Lake Macquarie LGA*)
- Illawarra Shoalhaven (*excluding: Kiama, Wollongong and Shellharbour LGA*)
- Nepean Blue Mountains (*Lithgow LGA only*)
- Relevance of the proposed studies to rural and remote allied health practice.
- Commitment of the applicant to rural allied health practice and education.

Priority will also be given to applicants who have limited access to, or who have not previously received, financial support (e.g. scholarships) for postgraduate education.

OBLIGATIONS

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a contractual agreement for the following obligations:

- Successful completion of the subject or course - applicants must provide the Health Education and Training Institute with proof of completion of the subject or course.
- Successful applicants who withdraw or fail to complete the subject or course for which they receive funding must notify the Health Education and Training Institute as soon as possible. Full or partial repayment of the scholarship funding may be required after review of individual circumstances.

HOW TO APPLY?

Complete the [online application form](#).

1. Upload your enrolment details and course results (PDF file less than 500KB and optional – otherwise required by 5 April 2024). Please email to HETI-Scholarships@health.nsw.gov.au.
2. Your proof of employment letter (PDF file less than 500KB) must be uploaded with your application form.
3. Complete the [support letter from your manager/supervisor](#) before uploading it with your application form.
4. Upload an essay (docx file less than 500KB) to address the following:
 - Why have you chosen this course of study, and what do you hope to achieve from completion of the course?
 - How will the skills and knowledge you gain from this postgraduate study benefit your local health district and local community?

Applications must be received by Health Education and Training Institute by midnight, Friday 5 April 2024.

No applications will be accepted after this time.

SCHOLARSHIP TIMEFRAMES

EVENT	DATE
Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarships	
Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship opens	22 January 2024
Scholarship closes	5 April 2024
Applications reviewed	April - May

Notification of outcome to applicants	By 7 June 2024
Acceptance of grant by applicant	14 June 2024
Payment transferred	22 June 2024

WHEN WILL I KNOW?

All applicants will receive a confirmation email about the outcome of their applications from the Health Education and Training Institute by early June 2024.

Payment will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer into the recipients selected account generally within three months after the closing date.

The decision of the Health Education and Training Institute is final and there is no appeal mechanism.

CONTACT

For inquiries or assistance with applications please contact HETI-Scholarships@health.nsw.gov.au