



2021 NSW RURAL ALLIED HEALTH POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

GUIDELINES / APPLICATION FORM

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 2021 Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship budget. Applications close on Friday 2 April 2021. It is anticipated at least 20 NSW Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarships will be offered.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

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*)

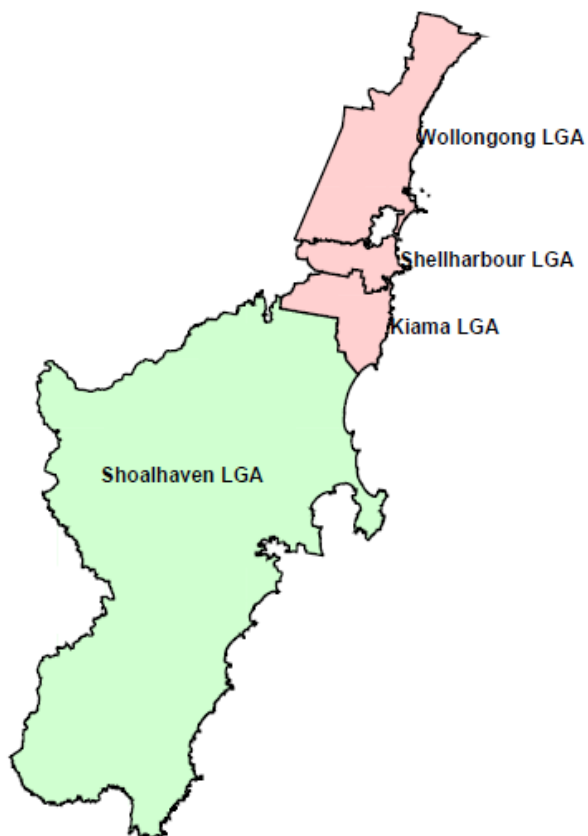
NSW Rural Map



Hunter New England Rural map



Illawarra Shoalhaven Rural map



Nepean Blue Mountains Rural map



Clinicians providing outreach services from a metropolitan centre are not eligible.

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
- Orthotics
- Orthotics & 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 eg welfare worker

3. Be an Australian citizen or have permanent residence.
4. Be currently enrolled, or planning to enrol by **1 June 2021**, 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 2021, in a single subject, undergraduate degree, postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma, Masters or PhD in 2021.

Recipients are awarded one scholarship per program of study

For example:

Ms Jones is awarded a \$6,000 scholarship in 2021 towards her Graduate Diploma in Counselling. She finishes the Graduate Diploma in 2023 and decides to continue studying by upgrading to a Masters in Counselling. Ms Jones cannot apply for another scholarship because the first scholarship was also for Counselling, which is in the same program of study.

Recipients will be awarded one scholarship in a three-year period

For example:

Ms Jones enrolls in a Graduate Diploma in 2021 and plans to study the course over three years. As she was awarded \$6,000 for study in 2021, she cannot apply for another scholarship until 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 eg 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 (eg 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.

INCOME TAX ADVICE & FRINGE BENEFITS TAX (FBT) ADVICE

No withholding tax has been deducted. Please seek independent tax advice on implications.

An FBT issue may arise with employees of the NSW public health system who receive funding from the NSW Ministry of Health. Please seek independent advice regarding your personal circumstances where necessary.

SELECTION PROCESS

A Selection Panel comprising representatives of the Health Education and Training Institute and the NSW Health Ministry will select the 2021 NSW Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship recipients. The Selection Panel's decision will be final and there will be no appeal mechanism.

**Applicants must complete the application form and provide all requested documentation. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Late applications will not be considered.**

HOW TO APPLY?

Complete the [online application form](#). Please note this online application is not supported by mobile devices, laptops or applications made within the NSW Health network.

1. Upload your enrolment details and course results (PDF file less than 500KB and optional – otherwise required by 2 April 2021). 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 post-graduate study benefit your local health district and local community?

**Applications must be received by the Health Education and Training Institute by midnight, FRIDAY 2nd APRIL 2021.
No applications will be accepted after this time.**

WHEN WILL I KNOW?

All applicants will receive a confirmation email about the outcome of their application from the Health Education and Training Institute by the end of May 2021.

Payment will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer into the recipient's 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.