

2024 Rural Allied Health Undergraduate/Entry Level Scholarships

Guidelines

To maintain and improve the health status of rural communities, the NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarships have been established to assist NSW students enrolled in one the following:

- The second last or final year of an **Undergraduate** course in the following disciplines:

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

OR Either year of a **Masters (entry level)** course in any of the above listed disciplines.

Applicants will also be considered where the study load may vary in a Masters degree.

NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarships provide financial assistance to allied health students with a rural background who demonstrate an interest in a rural career. NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarships assist students to complete study in their chosen field and defray the expenses associated with undertaking tertiary studies.

Up to 20 NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarships, valued at up to \$10,000 are on offer in 2024.

Over one quarter of the people of NSW live outside the three major cities of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. Rural NSW is characterised by diversity with major regional centres and coastal cities, small towns and remote communities.

NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarships provide financial support to students and assist with strategies for recruitment of allied health professionals to rural and remote areas.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Up to 20 NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarships up to \$10,000 each are available in 2024.
- Further financial assistance of up to \$1,000 will be given to assist with relocation costs and/or establishment costs for scholarship students who take up a position in rural NSW within one year of completion of the course.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU

- You are required to have completed at least one clinical or vacation placement in a rural or remote community in your area of study (or propose to undertake a rural placement in 2024).
- You are expected to be a member of the Rural Health Club or other relevant rural health organisation.
- You are encouraged to seek employment in rural or remote NSW after graduation.
- You are expected to refund the scholarship to the Health Education and Training Institute should you withdraw from your undergraduate course.
- You are expected to participate in any promotion of the scholarship program
- You are expected to participate in any future evaluation of the program.

HECS INFORMATION

A NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship may be used to pay HECS fees or to assist with living expenses.

CENTRELINKS PAYMENTS

You may need to consider the impact of this scholarship on any other payments you are currently receiving.

If you are in receipt of Youth Allowance or AUSTUDY payment through Centrelink, you are obliged to notify Centrelink of your acceptance of a Scholarship as it may affect your entitlement to payment. Call 13 24 90 or visit your local Centrelink office for more information.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship Applicants must:

1. **Be an Australian citizen** or permanent resident and a resident of NSW
2. **Have resided in a rural or remote area in NSW** for a minimum of five consecutive or eight cumulative years since the age of five **and** whose immediate family currently resides in a rural* or remote area of NSW.

* The term “rural” refers to areas covered by rural Local Health District:

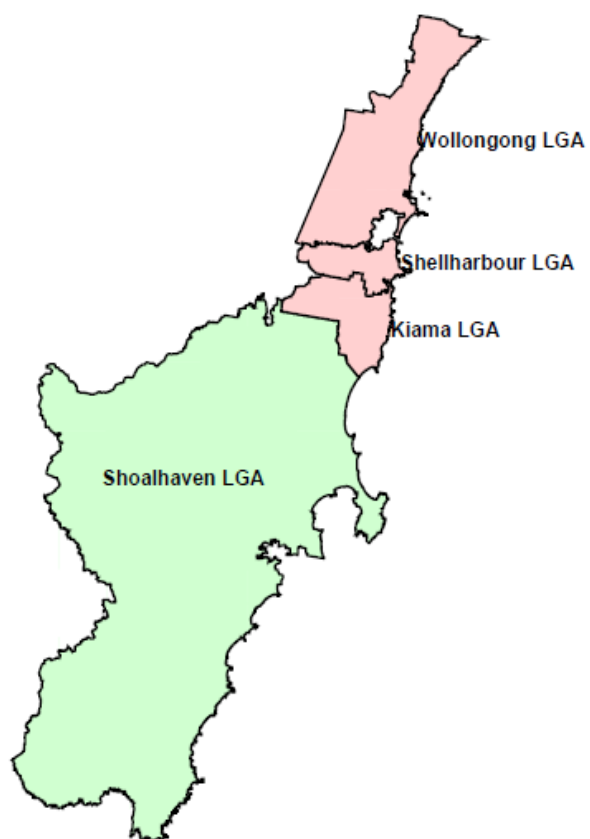
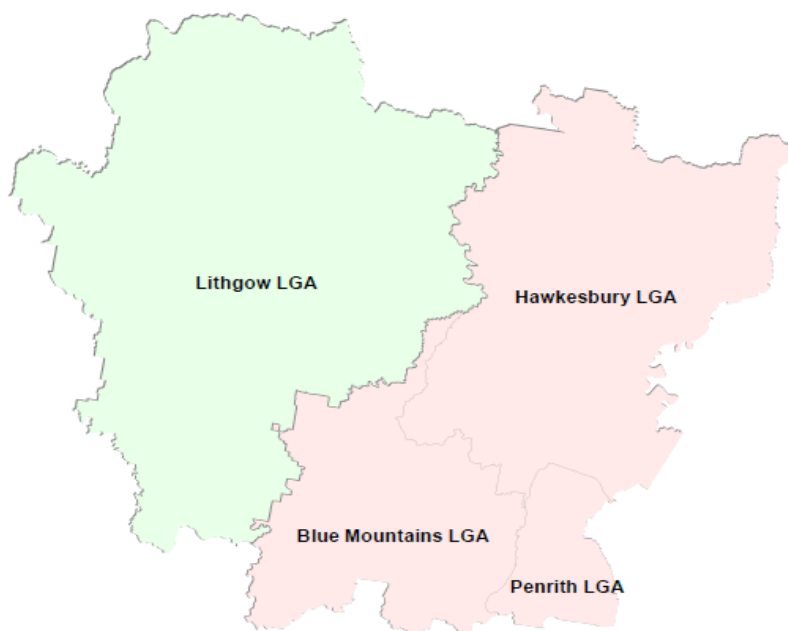
- Far West
- Western NSW
- Northern NSW
- Mid North Coast
- Murrumbidgee
- Southern NSW
- Hunter New England (*excluding: Cessnock, Maitland, Port Stephens, Newcastle, and Lake Macquarie LGA*)
- Illawarra Shoalhaven (*excluding: Kiama, Wollongong and Shellharbour LGA*)
- Nepean Blue Mountains (*Lithgow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

NSW Rural map



Hunter New England Rural map



Illawarra Shoalhaven Rural mapNepean Blue Mountains Rural map

3. **Be enrolled as a full time student** in the **second last or final year** of an undergraduate course leading to eligibility to practice in the one of the following professions:

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

OR Either year of a **Masters (entry level)** course in any of the above listed disciplines (leading to eligibility to practice in that profession). Applicants will also be considered where the study load may vary in a Masters Degree.

Applicants who already have an undergraduate degree in the same discipline (that would qualify them to practice in NSW) are not eligible.

Current NSW Health employees are not eligible to apply.

4. Provide evidence of successful completion of the course to date.
5. **Have undertaken** a rural or remote clinical or vacation placement **or** be scheduled to undertake a rural or remote placement in 2024.
- You must provide details of the clinical placement undertaken to date **or** provide a letter from the University advising that you will be undertaking a rural placement as part of the course.
6. **Not be a recipient** of a previous NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship (past recipients are ineligible to re-apply) **or** be in receipt of any other scholarship or grant valued at more than \$6,000 per year.
7. **Demonstrate** links with rural community/communities through participation in local community organisations, groups or volunteer work.
- You must provide evidence of your links by:
- Completing the Community Reference from Rural Community Representative form (this is attached to the application form), **and**
 - Providing other evidence such as membership confirmation, certificates or other documentation regarding your participation.
8. **Demonstrate** knowledge of the professional and personal issues involved in rural practice by completing the questions in the application form.
9. **Be a member of a University Rural Health Club.** Check the National Rural Health Students' Network website for details of Rural Health Clubs in NSW universities www.nrhsn.org.au
- If there is no Rural Health Club, you are expected to be a member of other relevant rural health organisation/s such as Services for Rural and Remote Allied Health, Friends of the National Rural Health Alliance.
10. **Agree to:**
- Provide all forms and documentation as per the guidelines.
 - Refund the scholarship funding to Health Education and Training Institute should you withdraw from your undergraduate course.
11. **Provide proof** of full-time enrolment in your course for 2024.

HOW TO APPLY?

Complete the [online application form](#).

1. Upload your enrolment details (PDF file less than 500KB and optional – otherwise required by 5th April 2024. Please email to HETI-Scholarships@health.nsw.gov.au).
2. Upload details of your Rural Clinical Placements, including date and location undertaken to date or to be undertaken during this academic year (docx file less than 250KB) **or**
3. Upload a letter from the University advising that you will be undertaking a rural clinical placement in the final years of your course (docx file less than 250KB)
4. Upload your document detailing your links with rural communities, including participation in local organisations and/or community groups of volunteer work (docx less than 250KB)
5. Complete and upload your [support letter](#) from a Rural Community Representative (someone other than family member)
6. Upload details of membership (e.g., confirmation letter or membership card) of University Rural Health Club or other rural health groups or organisations (PDF file less than 500KB)
7. Upload an essay (docx file less than 500KB) to address the following:
 - Rural practice includes the spectrum of small remote single practitioner communities to large regional centres where tertiary services are provided. Describe your understanding of some of the key factors in planning and delivering health services in rural and remote communities.
 - Rural practice has challenges that differ from those experienced in a metropolitan environment. Describe what you think are the challenges for allied health professionals of rural health practice compared to metropolitan practice.
 - As a Scholarship applicant it is anticipated that you will consider returning to rural practice. Describe what assistance you feel is required to assist the return of rural new graduates, such as yourself, to a rural area, following graduation.

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 Undergraduate/ Entry Level Scholarships	
Rural Allied Health Undergraduate/Entry Level Scholarships opens	22 January 2024
Scholarship closes	5 April 2024
Applications reviewed	April 2024
Notification to applicants	By 31 May 2024
Acceptance of scholarship by applicant	Within 7 days
Payment	By 30 June 2024

WHO DECIDES?

A Selection Panel will determine the 2024 NSW Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship recipients. The Selection Panel's decision is final and there is no appeal mechanism.

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 the end of May 2024.

Payment will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer into the recipients selected account by the end of the financial year.

CONTACT

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