

# 2010 RURAL ALLIED HEALTH UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

In 2010 scholarships are available to support students commencing allied health undergraduate studies.

## Background

The Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program aims to encourage students from rural areas of Victoria or Victorian border towns to participate in undergraduate allied health studies in a metropolitan or rural location. Students are supported through the provision of financial assistance to assist them in meeting the additional costs that they may face while making the transition into undergraduate studies.

## Scholarship Details

Scholarships of \$5,000 for bachelor level degrees are available to students at the commencement of their course. Scholarships for 2010 will be available to Victorian students in the following eligible disciplines:

- Art Therapy
- Audiology
- Biomedical Science
- Dietetics
- Health Promotion
- Hospital Pharmacy
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Medical Radiation (Diagnostic Imaging, Radiation Therapy, Nuclear Medicine)
- Music Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Orthoptics
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Prosthetics/Orthotics
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology

For the purposes of taxation, money from the scholarship scheme is considered income.

## Selection criteria

Applications for scholarships will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The applicant's academic record
- The applicant's demonstrated understanding of rural communities and practice
- The applicant's demonstrated interest in, and commitment to rural practice in Victoria
- The applicant's financial status. Preference will be given to applicants whose financial situation may be a hindrance to their undergraduate studies

## Eligibility

Scholarships will only be offered to those students:

- From rural Victoria or communities adjacent to the Victorian border relating to Victoria. Rural Victoria **excludes** metropolitan Melbourne, Geelong and the Bellarine and Mornington peninsulas
- Who propose to enter into an eligible undergraduate course at a metropolitan or rural university in 2010
- Who have resided in rural Victoria in the year prior to entering an undergraduate course. For example, applicants originally from rural Victoria who have resided in metropolitan Melbourne in the year prior to entering an undergraduate course are excluded from applying for this scholarship
- Either undertaking first time undergraduate studies, or graduate entry into the first year of an undergraduate course
- Who are Australian citizens or permanent residents
- Who are undertaking their first year of studies in 2010

## Undertaking

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a written agreement stating that they will:

- Give preference to working in public practice in rural Victoria after completing their studies
- Participate in a rural students club at their university (where available) or nearest affiliated rural health club
- Promote rural practice as a viable career choice to rural students
- Provide notification of withdrawal from, or changes to their course of studies
- Participate in tracking and evaluation exercises in relation to their receipt of the scholarship
- Repay scholarship funding received if they fail to comply with the conditions of the agreement



### **Applications must be accompanied by**

- An essay of 500 words explaining:
  - Your understanding of rural communities, what the difficulties accessing health services may be in these communities and what rural practice may entail
  - Why you would like to practice in rural Victoria
  - Why you are interested in your chosen area of study
  - How this scholarship will assist you in beginning your tertiary studies
- Curriculum Vitae
- VCE examination results
- Full information about the course to be undertaken

**Please note that scholarship funding is capped therefore not all applicants that meet the criteria will necessarily be granted a scholarship.**

### **How to apply**

Application forms for 2010 scholarships are available from VHA at [www.vha.org.au](http://www.vha.org.au), under *Scholarships*.

**Applications close Friday 12 March 2010**

Short-listed applicants may be required to attend an interview in Melbourne on a date advised by the Victorian Healthcare Association.

### **Privacy**

All information is strictly confidential, however your contact details may be used for future program evaluation and quality assurance.

### **Information**

For further information contact Vivien Forrest at VHA on 9094 7777 or email enquiries to [scholarships@vha.org.au](mailto:scholarships@vha.org.au).

