2021 - Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) Program

Status: Closed
Applications open: 15/01/2021
Applications close: 8/04/2021

About this scholarship

Description/Applicant information
The Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) Program has been developed by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) to assist school leavers from outer regional and remote areas who relocate more than 90 minutes (one-way) from their home to undertake full-time, higher level tertiary education (Certificate IV or above).

The TAP is a one-off, non-indexed, means-tested payment of $5000 which is intended to assist students with the additional costs associated with relocating to undertake tertiary study. The TAP aims to encourage individuals in outer regional and remote Australia to access high-level tertiary study (Certificate IV or above) in the year immediately following Year 12, rather than taking a gap year.

Please note: Your application for the Tertiary Access Payment cannot be considered until you submit a completed application with all the required accompanying documents attached. Payments are allocated in order of submission of a complete application, that is, a first-come, first-served basis.

Student type
- Current Students
- Future Students

Faculty
- Centre for Aboriginal Studies
- Faculty of Business and Law
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Science & Engineering
  - Science courses
  - Engineering courses
  - Western Australian School of Mines (WASM)

Course type
- Undergraduate

Citizenship
- Australian Citizen
- Australian Permanent Resident
- New Zealand Citizen
- Permanent Humanitarian Visa

Scholarship base
- Need Based

Value
The Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) Program will provide the following support for up to a maximum of one year (based on full-time study):
A total value of up to $5,000 paid as a cash stipend of $3,000 in semester 1 and a stipend of $2,000 in semester 2.
The payment can be used to assist with relocation and accommodation costs.
Please note there are limited number of scholarships available and the scholarship will be awarded until funding is exhausted or applications close, whichever comes first.

Scholarship Details
Eligible courses

- All undergraduate degrees

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to apply for the The Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) Program:

- Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, Australian permanent humanitarian or New Zealand citizen
- From an outer-regional, remote or very remote area (use the Student Regional Area Search tool to check eligibility)
- Relocating at least 90 minutes (one-way) by public transport from their family home to study at Curtin University
- Completed year 12 in 2020 and commence an eligible course in semester 1, 2021 (or the first available semester of their chosen course if the course has a mid-year, or later, start)
- Enrol full-time (at least 75 credits) and be studying face to face, or in dual delivery method, for at least part of the course in semester 1, 2021
- Parent(s) or guardian(s) have a combined income of less than $250,000
- Not have applied for, or received the Tertiary Access Payment at this or any other education provider
- To encourage students to enter tertiary education immediately following secondary school, the minimum age for a student to be eligible for the TAP is 16 years, unless an Applicant is independent, in which case it is 15 years, and the maximum age is 22 years at time they commence their course, noting some students may have taken a break during their secondary studies for reasons outside of their control such as medical reasons or emergencies, or have completed their Year 12 qualification over multiple years.

Please note there are limited number of scholarships available and the scholarship will be awarded until funding is exhausted or applications close, whichever comes first.

Applicants must submit the following supporting documentation:

- Evidence of Australian citizenship, permanent residency (if Newly Arrived Resident’s Waiting Period has been served), holding a permanent humanitarian visa or being a New Zealand citizen meeting Australian Residence rules under section 7 of the Social Security Act 1991
- Proof of residence in an outer regional, remote or very remote area in Australia
- Indicative evidence of where the applicant will relocate to at point of application, followed by confirmation of the new address by semester 1 census date
- Evidence of parental income such as a 2019-2020 Notice of Assessment (NOA) for each parent or guardian
  - If tax returns are not available, then other forms of evidence can be used such as payment summary, payslips, letter from employer or accountant.

Enrolment requirements

Recipients must meet all of the following:

- Remain enrolled in initial course of study for the duration of which the scholarship has been awarded
- Maintain an enrolment of at least 75 credits each semester at Curtin University
- Remain on an academic status of good standing and pass all units each semester

Changes to Enrolment

If a recipient intends to change their enrolment, they must also apply in writing to the Scholarships Office (scholarships@curtin.edu.au) for approval BEFORE the change. The Scholarships Office will advise how the change will affect their scholarship.

Withdrawal or Terminated from units or course: A recipient who withdraws from their units or course of study, or has been terminated from their studies will become ineligible for the continuation of the scholarship, will not receive any further payments and will be required to repay to Curtin University the stipend awarded for that study period if applicable.

Cancellation of Scholarship: Notwithstanding any provision above, Curtin reserves the rights, at its sole discretion, to cancel the award of, or continuity of, the scholarship where the sponsor ceases to fund the scholarship.

How to apply

Application process

Step 1: Access online application form

- Download and complete the Parent/Guardian Application Form (top of this page) - your parent/guardian will need to sign this as part of your application
- Applications are to be submitted using the online application form. Access the form by clicking on the ‘Apply Online’ button on the top right-hand side of this page
  - You will also need to attach your completed Parent/Guardian Application Form to your online application form
Step 2: Complete
- Complete the application form online
- Application form can be saved at any point of the process
- Multiple scholarships can be applied for at one time
- Tips on how to complete your application can be found under the Applying for scholarships link on the scholarships website

Step 3: Submit
- Closing date is listed at the top of the page
- Incomplete applications will not be assessed
- Once submitted, application status will change to submitted

Step 4: Receipt
If you are applying through a future student account:
- Application receipt will be sent to the email address provided when you created your Curtin account, once your application has been submitted
If you are applying through your current student account:
- Application receipt will be sent to student email once application has been submitted

Step 5: Assessment
- Applications will be assessed based on meeting all eligibility criteria at the time of application and receipt of an eligible course offer before an outcome is determined

Step 6: Outcome
- Unsuccessful applicants notified of outcome via Scholarship Channel (Student OASIS)
- Successful outcomes will be sent via the email address listed on your application form

Step 7: Acceptance
- Successful applicants must accept the terms and conditions and provide the requested supporting documentation by the deadline given

Please note:
- Scholarship will be awarded if there are applicants of sufficient need
- Scholarship is not deferrable
- Scholarship will commence from first semester of study
- Scholarship is not transferable to another university

Need more information?

Enquiries
Scholarships Office
E: scholarships@curtin.edu.au
T: 1300 222 888
Visit our Frequently Asked Questions
Application advice:
http://scholarships.curtin.edu.au/apply/
Top tips for a good scholarship application:
http://scholarships.curtin.edu.au/apply/top_tips.cfm

Further information
Detailed information on the payment, eligibility criteria, how to apply and how payments are made are outlined in the Tertiary Access Payment University Program Guidelines or the Tertiary Access Payment Services NUHEP and VET Program Guidelines.

Centrelink
For advice on your Centrelink payments and how your scholarship could affect your payment please see Department of Human Services or contact a Centrelink Office. If you require a letter about your scholarship for Centrelink, please contact the Scholarships Office.

Taxation
Generally scholarship money paid to full-time students is not treated as taxable income, however if your study load is less than 75 credits (part-time) your scholarship money is not tax exempt. Other than the full-time study requirement, the general rule is that scholarships are exempt from taxation unless:
• It is a condition of the scholarship that a recipient is required to undertake activities that are of use, help or benefit to the scholarship provider - then the student is rendering a service by agreeing to undertake those activities;
• An award is received by a student where the scholarship is not provided principally for educational purposes.
• During or upon completion of the degree for which the scholarship is awarded a recipient is required to become, or shall continue to be, an employee of the funding body; or

The Australian Tax Office has a tool to help you determine if your scholarship is taxable. For expert advice please contact the Australian Taxation Office or your accountant when completing your annual Tax Return. If a letter regarding your scholarship is required for taxation purposes, please contact the Scholarships Office.