

Nurse Practitioner Scholarship 2012

Guidelines 2011-12



Key Dates for 2012 round:

Offer opens	31 October 2011
Closing date for applications	9 December 2011
Notification of successful applicants	27 January 2012
Acceptances to be confirmed by	24 February 2012

Overview

The Department of Health (DH) is now offering scholarships for Victorian Registered Nurses (RNs) to undertake and complete a Masters program (or other appropriate units/modules at Masters Level) that leads to endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner (NP). Nursing & Midwifery Policy (NMP) administers the NP Scholarship program as part of the Victorian Nurse Practitioner Project (VNPP).

NP Scholarships of **up to** \$6000 will be awarded to successful applicants for studies being undertaken in 2012.

Previous recipients of DH postgraduate nursing scholarships or NP scholarships of \$3000 (or less) may be eligible for up a NP scholarship to a maximum value of \$3000 in this round.

NP Scholarships are a contribution towards the cost of undertaking postgraduate studies, including tuition fees and student contributions (HECS), study loans, books, equipment, travel required to attend lectures or clinical placements, child care and other related study costs.

1. Eligibility

Courses of study that may be undertaken with NP Scholarships funding are:

- A Masters program leading to NP endorsement approved by the Nursing Midwifery Board of Australia¹ or module/equivalent units of study for nurse practitioner preparation at Masters Level such as therapeutic medication management (pharmacology) and advanced clinical assessment
- Delivered by a university or accredited higher education provider at a Masters level and in general should lead to an award qualification
- Discipline specific or multi/inter-disciplinary courses
- For students enrolled or enrolling in full fee paying (FFP) or Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP - formerly known as HECS places).

NMP may request additional course information from applicants.

¹ For details of approved courses, go to: www.nmba.org.au/

2. Key Selection Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate or confirm that they meet the following key selection criteria:

- Criterion 1.** The applicant is an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and resides in Victoria.
- Criterion 2.** The applicant is currently registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia as a Registered Nurse (Division 1).
- Criterion 3.** The applicant is currently employed in a Victorian public health service or public residential aged care facility.
- Criterion 4.** The applicant has the appropriate educational preparation, experience and commitment to a clinical area (career trajectory) that indicates the applicant is positioning to be successfully endorsed as an NP in a timely way. For example, educational preparation may include participations in NP Collaborative or research paper underway or clinical practice supervision and mentorship in preparation for NP role. Commitment may include organisation preparing NP model to enhance patient care or organisational resources to support your role becoming a NPC role.
- Criterion 5.** The applicant has evidence of organizational support for their preparation as a NP, including evidence of candidacy arrangements².
- Criterion 6.** The applicant is enrolled in relevant postgraduate study in 2012.
- Criterion 7.** The applicant has not already received substantial professional development funding for this course, i.e. from employer or professional bodies (excluding loans that must be fully repaid), a previous postgraduate nursing (or NP) scholarship from DH greater than \$3000 in value or a DH palliative care scholarship (administered by Palliative Care Victoria).

3. Submission of Applications

The application must be submitted on the 2012 Application Form. Late applications, incomplete applications or applications that do not address each criterion will not be considered. Applications should be marked CONFIDENTIAL and addressed:

✉ NP Scholarships 2012
Nursing & Midwifery Policy
Level 16, Department of Health
GPO Box 4057
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

@ nursepolicy@health.vic.gov.au
Marked: NP Scholarships 2012

NMP will not confirm receipt of applications by telephone or via e-mail. If acknowledgement of receipt is required, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your application.

The closing date for 2012 applications is **9 December 2011**

4. Selection process

Selection of applicants involves assessment of applications by DH officers:

- (i) against the eligibility and selection criteria; and
- (ii) against other applications in the round.

This funding is available for RNs actively working towards becoming a NP in any clinical area, provided the organisation has committed their support to this service delivery model.

Where the number of eligible applications is greater than the available funding, scholarships are awarded based on industry need and government workforce priorities. Scholarships are granted at the discretion of the DH and the decision of the department is final.

² A **Nurse Practitioner Candidate** is a Registered Nurse engaged to study and undertake clinical experience leading to endorsement as a NP. A Registered Nurse engaged as a Nurse Practitioner Candidate (as defined) shall be classified and paid their substantive salary (*Australian Industrial Relations Commission 2006*). Appointment as Nurse Practitioner Candidate usually involves a formal employment agreement between the employer and the nurse.

5. Scholarship conditions

The following conditions of funding apply to all NP Scholarships in 2012:

Continued Employment	Successful applicants must be employed in the Victorian public health or aged care sector for a period of one year full-time, or pro rata equivalent, following the completion of the postgraduate course for which the scholarship was awarded. Students unable to fulfill this condition are required to return part or all scholarship monies to DH.
Participation in data collection	Successful applicants are required to provide their contact details to DH for a period of five years to assist in the collection of workforce planning data. This data may be collected and used to inform future policies relating to the nursing workforce and the nursing scholarship program.
Deferment from course	Students who defer their studies (for any reason) are required to notify NMP within one week of the change in study arrangements. All or part of the scholarship money will be required to be returned to DH. Students may then re-apply when they recommence the course.
Withdrawal from course	Students withdrawing from the course are required to notify NMP within one week of withdrawal. All or part of Scholarship funds will be required to be returned to DH.
Declined scholarships	May be offered to the next most suitable candidate. If there are no other candidates, notify NMP, who will recall the scholarship and funds for re-allocation.

6. Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be sent a "letter of offer" and are required to complete, sign and return the letter of offer acknowledging they accept the scholarship and scholarship conditions, along with the following documents:

- (i) Evidence of Australian citizenship or permanent residency or New Zealand citizenship as required (Applicants from New Zealand must submit a copy of their current passport)
- (ii) Copy of current NMBA registration (front and back) - showing name, registration number, endorsements and if there are conditions or restrictions on registration
- (iii) Confirmation of enrolment in 2012 Semester 1 or 2, and
- (iv) Evidence of payment or deferment of fees (full fee paying students only) either:
 - An official university letter confirming enrolment
 - An official **Student Tax Invoice** or **Statement of Account**
 - Students with CSP places need only provide evidence of enrolment.
- (v) Details of:
 - Course – enrolled units, subjects or courses for 2012
 - Enrolment status – part-time/full time course load
 - Type of place – e.g. CSP (HECS) or Full-fee paying (FFP) place
 - Banking details for payment.
- (vi) A stamped self-addressed envelope - Receipt of the signed 'letter of offer' will be confirmed by the envelope being stamped and posted back to the applicant. **(Optional)**

Successful applicants are responsible for enrolling and paying course fees (or deferring fees) or HECS by the due date, and are responsible for debts incurred in the course of study including FEE-HELP and HECS-HELP loans. Students with CSP may be eligible for a discount if the student's HECS contribution is paid ahead of the census date for each semester.

7. Disbursement of scholarship funds

Scholarship funding for successful applicants will be paid directly to the recipients' bank account and are to be used for the purpose outlined in these guidelines.

Scholarship funds will not be released until NMP receives all required documentation. Scholarships will be reallocated to other students if the required documentation is not received by the due date.

8. Further Information

For information about the DH NP scholarships, please contact:



(03) 90968227



nursepolicy@health.vic.gov.au



www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/furthering/practitioner/nurse-practitioner-scholarships

Scholarship funds are considered taxable income. For further information, consult your taxation agent or the Australian Taxation Office.

More information about FEE-HELP and HECS-HELP is available for the Commonwealth Government Going to Uni website at <http://www.goingtouni.gov.au/>