



Southern Cross Nursing Scholarship – Undergraduate Scholarship Regulations

Closing: 31 October 2024 (for Semester 1 2025)
31 May 2025 (for Semester 2 2025)

BACKGROUND

The Southern Cross Health Trust (“**Trust**”) and Southern Cross Healthcare Limited (“**Southern Cross Healthcare**”) would like to support the growth, education and leadership of the nursing profession in Aotearoa New Zealand. Southern Cross Healthcare recognises that nurses are critically important to the public and private healthcare system. Studying towards a nursing qualification requires dedication and commitment, and students can experience challenges while studying that create barriers to enrolling in and completing a nursing qualification. The scholarship programme is designed to support selected AUT students to complete their studies, provide extension learning opportunities and provide the opportunity to learn about Southern Cross Healthcare.

PURPOSE

The Trust is offering scholarships for study at AUT in the [Bachelor of Health Science \(Nursing\)](#) to students who are passionate about pursuing a career in nursing and are experiencing personal challenges or disadvantage, including financial and family circumstances.

AMOUNT AND TYPE OF AWARD

The scholarships will be known as “*Southern Cross Nursing Scholarship – Undergraduate*”.

In 2025, fifteen Scholarships are available providing:

1. 5 x one-year scholarships available to students entering their first year of study (“**First Year Scholarship**”) at a total value of \$4,000 per scholarship.
2. 5 x one-year scholarships for students entering their second year of study (“**Second Year Scholarship**”) at a total value of \$6,500 per scholarship.
3. 5 x one-year scholarships for students entering their final year of study (“**Third Year Scholarship**”) at a total value of \$10,240 per scholarship.

Each Scholarship includes the following benefits:

Financial benefits

| First Year Scholarship | Second Year Scholarship | Third Year Scholarship |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1,000 towards tuition fees for the first year of study.• \$500 per week of clinical placement towards living (5 weeks)• \$500 towards personal health and wellbeing expenses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1,000 towards tuition fees for the second year of study.• \$500 per week of clinical placement towards living expenses (10 weeks).• \$500 towards personal health and wellbeing expenses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1,000 contribution towards tuition fees for the third year of study.• \$500 per week of clinical placement towards living expenses (17 weeks)• \$500 per year towards personal health and wellbeing expenses• Funding of the Nursing Council Examination Fee (estimated at \$240) |

All financial benefits will be paid by the Trust direct to the AUT Foundation, who will then disburse the scholarship moneys to the recipients via AUT scholarships office.

The AUT Foundation will distribute the clinical placement living expenses and health and wellbeing payment to students through AUT scholarships office. 50% will be paid during the first semester and 50% paid during the second semester. The Nursing Council Examination fee will be paid in the second semester of the final year of study. Payments will be deposited into the student's personal bank account.

Non-financial benefits (all Scholarships)

- Priority clinical placements in Southern Cross Healthcare hospitals and subsidiaries subject to separate written agreement between Southern Cross Healthcare and recipients including relevant background checks where appropriate.
- The opportunity to explore a part-time role under separate employment contract in a Southern Cross Healthcare hospital or healthcare service provider that offers flexibility during clinical placement. ***Note: clinical placement cannot be in the same facility as the part-time role.***
- The opportunity for a 'Buddy' relationship to be facilitated with a Southern Cross Healthcare nurse.
- Additional group learning opportunities such as online/in-person workshops with senior leaders about specific topics, clinical learning sessions, visits to Southern Cross Healthcare's National Support Office.

The continuation of the overall Scholarship Programme will be confirmed on an annual basis by the Trust and Southern Cross Healthcare.

TENURE

- The tenure of the First Year and Second Year Scholarships is one year of full-time study in the Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing). If the Scholarship Programme is continued in 2026, and the recipient passes all papers, the recipient may apply for another year of funding.

- The tenure of the Third Year Scholarships is for one year of full-time study in the Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing) (conditional on the recipient passing all papers in each year of study).

The continuation of the First Year Scholarship and the Second Year Scholarship ("Scholarship Programme") will be confirmed on an annual basis. Subject to such confirmation of the continuation of the Scholarship Programme, the recipients of the First and Second Year Scholarships may reapply for another year of funding.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Students who demonstrate passion for nursing and are experiencing personal challenge or disadvantage that may prevent them from undertaking or completing their studies are invited to apply.
- To be eligible for Scholarship One, the applicant must:
 - be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and have lived in New Zealand for at least the previous two years;
 - have applied to study at AUT in the Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing) (full-time study) in the semester following the application;
 - have a provisional or firm offer of place commencing in the next semester;
 - be from a diverse or underrepresented group or from a background of hardship, and who have, or may experience barriers to their access to education because of this (see Additional Information).
- To be eligible for Scholarship Two or Three, the applicant must:
 - be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and have lived in New Zealand for at least the previous two years;
 - be currently enrolled in the AUT Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing) programme (full-time study); and
 - have a provisional or firm offer of place commencing in the semester following year.
 - be from a diverse or underrepresented group or from a background of hardship, and who have, or may experience barriers to their access to education because of this (see Additional Information).

Selection Criteria

The Scholarships seek to improve social and cultural mobility in nursing education and contribute to the diversification of the profession. The intention of the Scholarships is to assist nursing students who identify with a diverse or underrepresented group or from a background of hardship, and who have, or may experience barriers to their access to education because of this (see Additional Information).

Additional Information

1. Scholarships will be offered to students who demonstrate financial hardship and/or are from communities who have been historically underrepresented in the nursing profession.

2. The Scholarships will be awarded based on the applicant's description of their experience in coming from a background of hardship and/or diversity.
3. The applicant's personal history and circumstances, financial needs, academic achievement, and career plans will also be taken into account by the selection panel. Involvement in extra-curricular/co-curricular activities will be of interest to the panel.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Application for this scholarship is on-line through the on-line AUT scholarships portal. Applicants will be asked to provide their AUT Student ID in the box provided on the application form. This can be obtained by enrolling at AUT online www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/apply-to-aut

Applicants will be asked to upload:

- A transcript of their NCEA results (or equivalent secondary qualification) to date or transcript for any previous tertiary study not completed at AUT.
- A brief personal statement either written (max 500 words) or via a recorded video explaining why they believe they should receive this scholarship
- Applicants should describe any cultural or other community activity or personal circumstance relevant to the eligibility category they are applying under, as well as future career goals.
- A short CV (max. two pages).

OTHER INFORMATION

Students accepted for a scholarship are encouraged to:

- Participate actively in the non-financial benefits of the programme.
- Consider applying for a job with Southern Cross on completion of their studies.

Students accepted for a scholarship are expected to:

- Pass all exams and assessments.
- Provide updates and stories relating to study to Southern Cross with support from AUT Foundation including an end of year update for each year of study under the scholarship.
- Provide feedback to Southern Cross that can be used to improve the programme.
- Advise appropriate parties of any issues relating to their study or the scholarship so that appropriate support can be provided.

SELECTION PROCESS

- For students joining the BHSc (Nursing) in semester 1:
 - Applications open on: 18 August 2024
 - Applications close on: 31 October in the semester preceding the award.
- For students joining the BHSc (Nursing) in semester 2
 - Applications open on 18 March 2025
 - Applications close on 31 May 2025
- Applications will be considered by a selection panel including representation the Trust, Southern Cross Healthcare and AUT.
- Applicants will be short-listed and will be interviewed by the selection panel.

- The decision of the selection panel is final.
- Applicants will be formally notified of the outcome of their application by the Scholarships Office.
- If the panel is of the opinion that there is no applicant of sufficient merit applying for the scholarship, then no award will be made, and applications may be reopened.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE AND APPOINTMENT

- The award of this scholarship is conditional on the student being enrolled in the Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing) in the year of award.
 - The recipient will enrol in no less than 120pts each year during the tenure of the scholarship.
 - The recipient must agree to allow the Trust and Southern Cross Healthcare to use their name and photograph for the purpose of publicising the scholarship.
 - The recipient may only hold other scholarships with the approval of the AUT Foundation and Southern Cross Health Trust and must declare to Scholarships Office all scholarships, awards and grants held at the date of application and for which the recipient receives payment while also receiving payment for the Scholarship. No Scholarship offered by another healthcare organisation may be entered into while receiving payment for this Scholarship.
 - Deferral and suspension requests must be made in writing to the Scholarship Office.
 - Academic progress will be monitored each semester.
 - If the recipient does not complete at least two consecutive semesters of study at AUT while on award they may be required to pay back the full value of the scholarship received.
 - Recipients are required to comply with the regulations for this Scholarship and must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment or funding status.
 - AUT Foundation in consultation with Southern Cross Health Trust and Southern Cross Healthcare has the power to terminate or suspend a scholarship if it receives an unsatisfactory report on the academic progress of a recipient or if the recipient has failed to comply with any of the conditions on which the Scholarship was awarded and may require repayment of any award sums disbursed.
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