



Southern Cross Nursing Scholarship – Postgraduate (Master)

Scholarship Regulations

Closing: 31 May 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

Southern Cross Health Trust is offering scholarships for study at AUT in the [Masters of Nursing Science](#) 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 – Postgraduate (Master)”. In 2025, two Scholarships for Masters of Nursing Science are available:

1. 1 x one-year scholarship for students entering their first year of masters study (“**First Year Scholarship**”) at a total value of \$9,000
2. 1 x one-year scholarship for students entering their second year of masters study (“**Second Year Scholarship**”) at a total value of \$9,240

Each Scholarship includes the following benefits:

Financial benefits

First Year Scholarship	Second Year Scholarship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000 per academic year towards tuition fees for the first year of study • \$500 per week of clinical placement towards living expenses (15 weeks). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000 per academic year towards tuition fees for the second year of study • \$500 per week of clinical placement towards living expenses (15 weeks).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500 towards personal health and wellbeing expenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500 towards personal health and wellbeing expenses. • Funding of the Nursing Council Examination Fee (estimated at \$240).
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All financial benefits will be paid by the Trust direct to the AUT Foundation, who will then disburse the scholarship moneys to the recipients.

The AUT Foundation will distribute the clinical placement living expenses and the health and wellbeing payment to students. 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

- 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 Scholarship is one year of full-time study in the Masters of Nursing Science. If the Scholarship Programme is continued in 2026, and the recipient passes all papers the recipient may apply for a second year of funding.
- The tenure of the Second Year Scholarship is for one year of full-time study in the Masters of Nursing Science (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 recipient of the First Year Scholarship may reapply 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 the First Year Scholarship, 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 Master of Nursing Science programme (full-time study) in the semester following the application;
 - have an offer of place to study Master of Nursing Science; and
 - 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 the Second Year Scholarship, 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 Master of Nursing Science programme;
 - have applied to study at AUT, Master of Nursing Science programme (full-time study) in semester one of the year following application; and
 - 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. The 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 academic results from bachelor's degree
- 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

- Applications open on: 18 March 2025
- Applications close on: 31 May in the year preceding the award.
- Applications will be considered by a selection panel including representation from Southern Cross Health 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 Master 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 Southern Cross Health 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 Scholarships 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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