

Providing opportunity through education

For many regional Australians, education is the key to unlocking a successful and fulfilling future and one which will enable them to contribute positively to their community. However, for some students the path to success isn't an easy one. Around one in five USC students come from low-socioeconomic backgrounds and 45% are the first in their family to attend university. Many struggle to balance the challenges of paid work, family commitments and other responsibilities with their studies. These students also experience a unique set of challenges to completing a degree because they often lack the support network and resources required to succeed. While these individuals have the most to gain from a tertiary education, they are at greatest risk of not completing university due to financial limitation.

USC welcomes support for scholarships to help make university education more affordable and accessible, especially for students who face hardship. Financial support encourages academic excellence, provides security and gives students the freedom to focus on their studies. Donors have the satisfaction of knowing that their contribution is helping a student realise their full potential through education. Providing quality tertiary education opportunities also helps build connections with regional business and industry groups, contributes to the economy and keeps students connected locally.



Overview

Downing & Lindner Taxation and Business Services are seeking to support tertiary education for local Sunshine Coast students who demonstrate academic potential but face financial and other barriers to completing a degree. The proposed scholarship will support eligible USC students with a scholarship valued at \$5000 per annum for up to four years of study. The scholarship will offset some living and study related costs, giving students the freedom to focus on their education without having to work excessive hours, removing some of the barriers that may hinder academic achievement. In order to fund the proposed scholarship, Downing & Lindner have offered to match donations from Rotary Club of Nambour 76, subject to approval by the Club.

The following details outline the eligibility, selection criteria and management of the proposed scholarship for your consideration. USC looks forward to developing this partnership to create educational opportunities for local students and welcomes any feedback in relation to this proposal.

Scholarship Details

1. Award Name

Name of Scholarship (TBC)

2. Purpose of the Award

This scholarship will be available to students from the Nambour region commencing an undergraduate degree at the USC Sunshine Coast Campus. The Scholarship will offer financial assistance to encourage students with academic potential and financial need to complete tertiary education to achieve their academic and career goals.

3. Number and Value of Scholarships

One scholarship will be offered annually. Each scholarship will be valued at \$5,000 per year for the standard duration of an undergraduate program up to a maximum value of \$20,000 per scholarship. Recipients will receive payment in regular fortnightly instalments totalling \$2,500 per semester of full time study.

100% of funds contributed will go directly to student recipients, all administration will be managed by USC.

4. Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Commencing full-time in first undergraduate program at USC Sunshine Coast Campus;
- Have graduated in the previous two years from a high school located in one of the following postcodes: 4559 or 4560; or
- Resided for a minimum of two years in one of the following postcodes: 4559 or 4560;
- Permanent resident of Australia, Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or Permanent Australian Humanitarian Visa Holder.

5. Selection Criteria

The scholarship will be awarded based on the following selection criteria:

- Financial need;
- Academic merit;
- Leadership skills demonstrated through academic, extra-curricular or community involvement.

6. Selection Process

USC Student Services and Engagement (SSE) will manage all aspects of the selection process, including: online applications, developing a shortlist of applicants, organising a selection panel and notification to Scholarship recipients and unsuccessful applicants. Downing & Lindner will not be involved in any aspect of the selection process and the decision of the USC selection panel will be final.

7. Conditions of the Scholarship

Recipients will be required to maintain full-time enrolment in their academic program at USC throughout the period of their scholarship and maintain a minimum GPA of 4.0, monitored by USC Student Services and Engagement. In accordance with USC's Scholarship Policy, taking a break from study will suspend the scholarship and the maximum leave of absence is two semesters. A recipient may take up the scholarship on their return to study, subject to demonstration of ongoing eligibility as outlined above.

8. Monitoring and Reporting

USC Student Services and Engagement will monitor recipient enrolment and the donor will be advised if a recipient ceases their enrolment at USC or otherwise becomes ineligible for continued scholarship payments. USC will provide an annual report including scholarship recipient information.

9. Promotion and Recognition

The Scholarship will be advertised online and in relevant USC promotional materials relating to Scholarships, as well as via social media and other channels where appropriate. Donor representatives will be invited to an annual USC event at which there will be an opportunity to meet the scholarship recipient. Other activities may be organised as requested by the donor.

Next Steps

An agreement will be created to be approved by both parties.

Any questions regarding this proposal should be directed to:

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