

# Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships



## For young people in out-of-home care

**NSW Government's Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships mean you can get the skills you need to get the job you want and your course fees will be covered.**

Young people (aged 15-30) who meet the Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarship criteria are eligible for a government subsidy which covers their Smart and Skilled course fee.

### Who is eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship?

To be eligible as a young person in out-of-home care, your training must commence on or after 1 January 2016, and you must meet the Smart and Skilled eligibility criteria. You must be:

- an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, humanitarian visa holder or New Zealand citizen; and
- no longer at school; and
- living or working in NSW; and
- aged 15 years or over

OR

- A NSW apprentice or new entrant trainee undertaking a qualification on the NSW Skills List.  
\* citizenship and residency status requirements to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship can be found at:  
[www.training.nsw.gov.au/aacs/advice\\_instructions/citizenship\\_residency.html](http://www.training.nsw.gov.au/aacs/advice_instructions/citizenship_residency.html)

You must also:

- want to study a Smart and Skilled subsidised Certificate I, Certificate II, Certificate III or Certificate IV level qualification on the NSW Skills

List (see the Course Finder at [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au](http://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au)) AND

- be aged between 15 and 30 years old when you start training AND
- **meet the out-of-home care criteria:**
  - **be aged 15-17 years and currently in out-of-home care, or**
  - **be aged 18-30 years and previously in out-of-home care.**

### What is meant by 'out-of-home care'?

The term 'out-of-home care' is defined in section 135 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1985* and refers to children or young people who are cared for by a person other than their parent, in a place that is not their usual home.

Children and young people enter out-of-home care because they are in need of care and protection.

There are two main types of out-of-home care:

- **Statutory care** - where the Children's Court has made a Care Order placing the child or young person in the parental responsibility of the Minister for Family and Community Services
- **Supported care** - where the Secretary of Family and Community Services forms the opinion that the child or young person is in need of care and protection.

Children and young people in out-of-home care usually reside with relative/kinship carers, foster carers or in residential care services.

## Where can I train and what qualifications can I do?

You can enrol in any Certificate I to Certificate IV qualification on the NSW Skills List - including those that support apprenticeships and traineeships - with a Smart and Skilled Training Provider of your choice.

Information on Certificate I to Certificate IV qualifications on the NSW Skills List and the Smart and Skilled Training Providers approved to deliver them can be found at [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au](http://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au).

## How much is the Fee-Free Scholarship worth?

The Fee-Free Scholarship covers the fee you would have otherwise paid for the course had you not received the scholarship.

Training Providers may still charge fees for 'incidental expenses', such as for essential tools or for field trips. Training Providers must let you know of any additional fees for incidental expenses at enrolment.

## How do I apply for a Fee-Free Scholarship?

You do not need to lodge a formal application for a Fee Free Scholarship.

If you meet the Fee-Free Scholarship eligibility criteria (see above), the Smart and Skilled Training Provider you choose will tell you if you are eligible.

There are 50,000 scholarships for 2015/16.

Your training provider will confirm if you have been provided a Fee-Free Scholarship at enrolment.

## How will the Fee-Free Scholarship be provided?

If you are eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship, your student fee will be paid directly by the NSW Government to your Smart and Skilled Training Provider.

## Student Declaration

If you are seeking a Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarship as an out-of-home care student, you must declare that you are currently, or were previously, in statutory or supported out-of-home care. The student declaration at enrolment will ask you to confirm that the information provided,

including your out-of-home care status, is true and correct.

You may also be asked to provide evidence to support your claim.

**For students aged 15-17 years currently** in out-of-home care, the following evidence is acceptable:

- A copy of the Children's Court Care Order, or
- A copy of the 'Confirmation of Placement' letter, or
- A letter from Family and Community Services or the Out-of-Home Care Designated Agency verifying that you are in statutory or supported care, or
- Any other evidence which clearly shows that you are in out-of-home care.

**For students aged 18-30 years previously** in out-of-home care, the following evidence is acceptable

- A copy of the expired Children's Court Care Order, or
- A copy of the 'leaving care' letter from the Minister for Family and Community Services, or
- A letter from Family and Community Services verifying you were previously in statutory or supported care, or
- Any other evidence which clearly shows that you were previously in out-of-home care.

### For more information:

For more information see [smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships](http://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/for-students/fee-free-scholarships) or contact 1300 772 104 or [smartandskilled.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:smartandskilled.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au).

Training Providers should contact Training Market Customer Support on [training.market@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:training.market@industry.nsw.gov.au) or call (02) 9266 8008.

© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development 2016. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (February 2016). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development or the user's independent advisor.