



# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY SOLDIER ON - GUIDELINES

In semester 2, 2022, Soldier On is able to provide transitioning and separated veterans the opportunity to study at one of our following university partners, who are offering our participants the following fee-waived scholarships.

**Curtin University:** Up to four undergraduate scholarships, one from each department:

1. Science and Engineering
2. Humanities
3. Health Sciences
4. Business and Law

**University of Adelaide:**

1. One domestic undergraduate degree place funded for three years. This can be taken across a wide range of 3-year degree programs (with some exclusions: medicine and dentistry, for instance, do not have a mid-year intake).
2. One domestic Graduate Certificate place offered across a range of discipline areas and usually require an undergraduate qualification or industry/professional experience.
3. One domestic PhD place with scholarship on a topic area aligned with defence. This covers 3-3.5 years of PhD study. Applicants will need to meet the entry criteria (usually a Masters research qualification or equivalent or an Honours undergraduate degree) and find a topic and supervisor that/who are appropriate.

**Edith Cowan University:** six bachelor's degrees for commencement of the second semester of 2022 in any of the following areas:

- C56 Bachelor of Counselling
- C57 Bachelor of Youth Work
- K97 Bachelor of Health Science
- Y14 Bachelor of Counter Terrorism Security and Intelligence
- U67 Bachelor of Information Technology
- W87 Bachelor of Science (Cybercrime, Security and Intelligence)
- Y89 Bachelor of Science (Cyber Security)
- U65 Bachelor of Computer Science
- Y62 Bachelor of Technology (Engineering)
- Y73 Bachelor of Technology (Aeronautical)

Following are the guidelines for veterans and families to follow when applying for scholarship opportunities provided through Soldier On Australia. Please read the guidelines in full before submitting your application to ensure you have identified that you meet the eligibility criteria for your chosen scholarship and have provided all



relevant documentation. If you have any queries, please contact the Education Team at [education@soldieron.org.au](mailto:education@soldieron.org.au) putting SCHOLARSHIPS in the subject line.

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## SOLDIER ON

Soldier On is a leader in supporting those who have served and continue to serve in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel from the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army, and Royal Australian Air Force, be they, full-time members, or reservists. Immediate family members that Soldier On supports includes spouses, partners, children, stepchildren, and parents who are/were, living as a family unit.

At Soldier On, we continue to adapt to meet the needs of Defence personnel through the provision of services for the entire family, in areas that truly support connection with the greater community, through the **HELP** model of support:

- **Health and Wellbeing** – Soldier On provides in-house, evidence-based psychology treatments to Defence personnel, contemporary Veterans, and their families, who have been impacted by their service to Australia.
- **Employment** – Our dedicated Employment Officers provide one-on-one employment support to Defence personnel, contemporary veterans, and their family members by phone, email, Skype, or face-to-face meetings at one of our centres.
- **Learning** – Our incredible Education officers assist with finding the best course for personal or professional development for Defence personnel, contemporary Veterans, and their families.
- **Participation** – Soldier On offers a range of social connection activities and programs to encourage Defence personnel, contemporary veterans, and family members to reconnect with themselves and each other, and to build links with the wider community.

Led by the principles of independent, respectful, holistic, and professional support, all Soldier On programs are participant-centric, with staff supporting Veterans in a tailored and needs-based manner. Guided by the principles of Trauma-Informed Care and the program objectives of empowerment, collaboration, choice, safety, and trustworthiness, the staff builds collaborative, respectful, and professional relationships with veterans and their family members. This ensures that support is individually tailored and guided by the participant reflecting the empowering objective of the program design as they experience any number of significant challenges, including the loss of identity, purpose, and belonging for many Veterans and their families, social isolation, a higher risk of developing anxiety disorders such as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), a higher risk of some cancers, and suicide risk of up to 2.2 times higher than the same Australian group of any given age.

## PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

The opportunity to study for an undergraduate or postgraduate degree significantly increases the number of opportunities for meaningful employment options veterans can pursue upon (re)entering civilian life. The provision of scholarships within the higher education space removes the financial burden that many face when following this path. Mentoring support provided through Soldier On's Mentoring program ensures that student veterans are fully supported during their academic journey. Soldier On believes that over time this program will:

- Increase the capability of veterans and their families as well as the Defence force overall
- Improve the ADF's retention rate



- Improve the psycho/social outcomes of veterans and their families by reducing the number of medical and financial supports required.
- Enable veterans and their families to thrive (our mission statement)

## INTENT

- 1.1 The Soldier On Supported Scholarship Program provides recipients with the opportunity to apply for a fee-waived or discounted scholarship at a variety of educational levels, including but not limited to an undergraduate, postgraduate, or Ph.D., which has been supported by one of Soldier On's partners. The scholarship aims to support the facilitation of qualifications that provide upskilling for the employability of transitioning and separated veterans.
- 1.2 The Soldier On Supported Scholarship Program is the opportunity to raise the capability, retention rates, and psycho/social and financial outcomes of veterans and their families.

## AIMS

1. The Soldier On Supported Scholarship Programs:
  - a) Increases the number of opportunities for meaningful employment options for transitioning and separated veterans and their family members can pursue upon (re)entering civilian life.
  - b) Successful scholarship applicants will be paired with an employee from a Soldier On pledge company or Soldier On Staff member who will become their mentor for the duration of the program. Mentees will develop calculated goals with their mentor and then strategise and plan how to best achieve these goals. Overall, we believe this program assists the ADF community by improving their skills and professional networks to improve their chances of success through the benefits and possible outcomes of this program.
  - c) Maintaining privacy and confidentiality, Soldier On will collect evidence that demonstrates the positive benefits and challenges faced by scholarship recipients and how this program creates positives for Australian veterans and their families.

## GENERAL

- 1.1 These guidelines apply to transitioning and separated veterans, and their families. Please check the specific information for each scholarship to ensure you are applying for the correct one or contact the Education team at [education@soldieron.org.au](mailto:education@soldieron.org.au) for assistance.
- 1.2 Awarded scholarships must be undertaken at the specified educational provider, all of whom are registered by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) or are Australian Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).
- 1.3 These scholarships are intended to support study being undertaken or commenced in the relevant calendar year in line with the scholarship round.
- 1.4 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is available for all students and will be conducted by the awarding university or RTO.
- 1.5 Scholarship recipients will agree to participate in the:
  - i. Sign up as a Soldier On participant and link to wider Soldier On programs as and when suits.



- ii. Register and participate in the Soldier On Mentoring program which involves receiving mentoring throughout their studies from an external mentor in coordination with a Soldier On team member and providing a minimum of one academic year's mentoring to another scholarship recipient upon the completion of their studies
- iii. Be part of any longitudinal study.

## **PART 2 - ELIGIBILITY**

The eligibility criteria differ across the different scholarships and may be based on the following:

- a) An Australian resident
- b) University scholarships are currently for transitioning and separated veterans with a minimum of two years of service. The applicant must include a copy of official documentation showing the former member's operational service and the period/s of continuous full-time service (e.g., Discharge Certificate or Certificate of Service including the enlistment date and if relevant, discharge date).
- c) Reservists - the applicant must provide evidence of their time as a reservist which includes official documentation validating their service.
- d) Family members of serving, transitioning or separated veterans. Proof of connection will be required in the form of a copy of official documentation showing the former member's operational service and the period/s of continuous full-time service (e.g., Discharge Certificate or Certificate of Service including the enlistment date and if relevant, discharge date).
- e) Veteran applicants must demonstrate:
  - a. They have transitioned from ADF into employment but due to circumstances outside of their control, are now unemployed or underemployed, and completing a qualification as provided by the scholarship scheme will support the securement of further employment
  - b. Defence Member has been medically separated from the ADF and must acquire a new skill to gain employment that would not be constrained by the injury sustained during service.
- f) Planning to enrol or are enrolled into a qualification in Australia of one or more academic years duration in a university, TAFE, or registered training organisation (RTO).
- g) Applicants who are seeking a scholarship for a second degree may be considered for a scholarship but will be treated as a lower priority, unless applying for Soldier On assisted postgraduate or Ph.D. degrees gifted by universities.
- h) Veterans must declare any educational benefit obtained through DFTP or another source must be declared at the time of application. Successful applicants are required to notify Soldier On if they are awarded additional education/ training benefits or scholarship at any point during the term of their Soldier On scholarship including but not limited to DVA educational benefits.
- i) Applicants who are offered a scholarship will receive one offer only
- j) Applicants must demonstrate to Soldier On the career development options which may arise for the applicant upon completing the proposed course of study.
- k) Ongoing eligibility criteria exist during the term of the scholarship and successful scholarship recipients are required to achieve satisfactory academic progress (50+%) in each subject). Subjects that are failed will result in the student facing a panel (Reps: 2x university/1x Soldier



On) to explain the circumstances and paying for all subsequent attempts of that subject, as determined by the University concerned

- l) Agree to participate in all aspects of the project, including the mentoring and research that accompanies this project.

## **PART 3 – SCHOLARSHIP OFFERINGS**

### **UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS**

A selection of universities from across Australia have provided undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. fee-waived scholarships. In 2022, these are for transitioning and separated veterans only and family members. Applications open:

- Semester 1: 15 April – 31 May
- Semester 2: 15 October – 30 November

### **CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Corporate sponsors have provided scholarships in specific areas that may become available. Recipients may have additional requirements (e.g. one-year cadetship upon graduation, all placements are conducted at the corporate sponsor). Please read all accompanying information carefully about the expectations of each scholarship you wish to apply for.

NB. The information provided was correct at the time of publication.

### **VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Soldier On has partnerships with various Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) across Australia, who offer part or full scholarships. Please ask the Education Team for further details.

### **DELIVERY**

Education and training can be provided:

- Through face-to-face attendance
- Online
- Through correspondence.

## **PART 4 – LIMITATIONS ON SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applicants can apply for many scholarships; however, applicants will only be awarded one scholarship per cycle. Once a scholarship recipient has been identified they may not apply for additional scholarships.

Please contact the Soldier On Education Team ([education@soldieron.org.au](mailto:education@soldieron.org.au)) to discuss which scholarship is best for you.

## **PART 5 – APPLYING, ASSESSMENT & APPROVAL PROCESS**

### **APPLYING**

1. Applicants will be awarded one scholarship only.



2. The application process will be submitted through the Soldier On Australia website landing page available at (<https://pathways.soldieron.org.au/learning-and-education-programs/>). Each university and corporate sponsor will also have access to their individual scholarship links displayed on their websites.
3. The application form is available at <https://pathways.soldieron.org.au/learning-and-education-programs/scholarship-registration-form/> Each application must provide the following information:
  - a. CV/resume
  - b. Academic record (Highschool Cert, RTO Cert, or Tertiary transcripts)
  - c. Proof of service (ADO or Stat Dec)
  - d. Exec Summary: Answering the following questions (500 words each. 10 marks each)
    - i. How will this scholarship help you to achieve your personal goals?
    - ii. Why did you select this area of study?
    - iii. What will this scholarship allow you to achieve in the future?
    - iv. How will this scholarship allow you to achieve your short and long-term goals?
  - e. Professional references (2) from your time in the ADF. They will be asked to complete the following:
    - Name:
    - Address:
    - Email:
    - Phone:
    - Relationship:
    - Length of relationship:
    - Written statement from reference: Based on your knowledge of the applicant, how would this scholarship opportunity support them to achieve their short and long-term goals?

## ASSESSMENT

1. The Soldier On Education Team will vet all applications upon submission to ensure the correct documentation has been supplied and will maintain communication and support for the participant
2. All applications will be sent to Soldier On staff to be scored and commented on.
3. Four aspects will be scored out of 10 for a total of 50 marks
  - a. Questions (4 x 10 marks = 40)
  - b. Professional references (2 x 5 = 10 marks).

## APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITY

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they have read these guidelines, that their application meets the eligibility criteria for the scholarship they are applying for, and that the information provided in their application is true and correct. Approved applicants must advise Soldier On ([education@soldieron.org.au](mailto:education@soldieron.org.au)) of any changes in circumstances relating to:

- a) change of residential location
- b) change in employment status
- c) change to an approved study.



Applicants should be aware that Soldier On will disregard applications that contain false or misleading information. In the event an applicant receives a scholarship using false or misleading information Soldier On reserves the right to withdraw the offer.

### **ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS**

All applications submitted will be assessed by the Soldier On Education team to confirm eligibility and submit all required documents.

### **THE OUTCOME OF APPLICATIONS**

Soldier On will email applicants with advice on the outcome of their applications within 28 days of the closing date.

### **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE**

If you require assistance in completing the Soldier On Scholarship application process, contact Soldier On at [education@soldieron.org.au](mailto:education@soldieron.org.au)

### **NOTIFICATIONS**

Applicants are responsible for confirming with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) if their DVA entitlements will be affected by receiving an education or training benefit/scholarship.

Applicants are responsible for confirming with COMSUPER if their pension entitlements will be affected by receiving an education or training benefit/scholarship.

Soldier On accepts no responsibility if DVA or COMSUPER entitlements are affected by an applicant accepting a Soldier On National Scholarship.

## **PART 6 – DEFERRAL PROCESS**

The deferral of a scholarship will only be accepted under the university's decided criteria.

Any period of deferral will be agreed to by the University concerned, Soldier On, and the corporate sponsor (if applicable) during this consultation process.

## **PART 7 – RETURN OF SERVICE TO CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Corporate sponsors have indicated that they wish to support veterans and their families to secure meaningful, ongoing employment and see this as a viable option for achieving that outcome.

Recipients who receive a corporate-sponsored scholarship will be subject to several additional conditions provided by the corporate sponsor. Please read the scholarship information carefully which will provide the necessary information for each scholarship, which differs depending on the organisation's expectations (e.g. placement during study at the organisation; commitment of one year's work year after graduation, etc.). If you have any questions, please contact the Soldier On Education Team at [education@soldieron.org.au](mailto:education@soldieron.org.au) for clarification.

N.B. All details were correct at the time of publication.



## **PART 8 – BREAKING ROSO (PRO-RATA)**

If a candidate leaves a corporate-sponsored scholarship before the completion of the study, they are financially responsible for all costs provided to date by the corporate sponsor.

## **PART 9 – LENGTH OF STUDY**

Each qualification length is determined by the university and training provider. The scholarship is for the full qualification unless the scholarship was awarded after the commencement of the qualification (e.g., Student veteran is in year 2/3 when awarded scholarship).

Scholarships may be applied for at any time during the period of study.

## **PART 10 – SUBJECT FAILURE**

- The candidate must pass all courses to receive funding for the subsequent year of study
- If the candidate fails a subject, they will need to justify to a panel from Soldier On, the relevant University or education partner, and the corporate sponsor (where applicable), why they should continue. They will become responsible for all subsequent costs associated with the failed subject.
- If the candidate leaves a corporate-sponsored scholarship before the completion of the study, they are financially responsible for all costs, as determined by the corporate sponsor.

As at 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022.