Professional Development Opportunity

HECS Scholarships for Staff Employed within the Tasmanian Education Sector

Take advantage of a professional or personal development opportunity that provides university study covered by a HECS scholarship, in a choice of more than 100 courses.

Professional or personal development is an ideal way of keeping your knowledge and skills updated, as well as improving your career opportunities – whether you are just beginning your career, an experienced teacher or work in an administrative capacity.

The University of Tasmania is committed to providing ongoing support and learning opportunities for eligible teaching and general staff working in education. This commitment flows through to employees with an initiative that offers HECS scholarships for university study valued at up to $2,520 per year.

All eligible staff will be entitled to a HECS scholarship for study of up to 25% of a full-time university load per annum, throughout 2014. This may be made up of two 12.5% units or one 25% unit each year.*

Which courses can I choose from?

Eligible employees may choose from units in any of the University's undergraduate courses or those postgraduate coursework programs that are offered on a Commonwealth supported basis. Commonwealth Supported Places are available in all undergraduate degrees and many postgraduate programs. The HECS scholarships can be applied to units undertaken for professional or personal development as well as units undertaken for general interest†.

In addition, eligible employees within the Tasmanian Education sector undertaking the Bachelor of Education (Applied Learning) or the Bachelor of Education (Professional Honours) have access to a full HECS scholarship (maximum 100% load) for 2014.

How do I qualify for a HECS scholarship?

This opportunity is extended to all teaching and non-teaching staff within the Tasmanian education sector who:

- are employed by the Department of Education (DOE), Tasmanian Catholic Education Office (TCEO) and other Catholic schools, Tasmanian Academy, TasTAFE, Tasmanian Skills Institute or one of the many Independent schools throughout the state; and
- are employed on a continuing basis (full-time or part-time) or who are on a fixed-term contract of 12 months or more; and
- will continue to be employed within the sector while undertaking the HECS scholarship units; and
- are eligible for a Commonwealth supported place under the HECS-HELP system (see www.studyassist.gov.au for eligibility guidelines); and
- are not currently receiving any other University of Tasmania HECS scholarships.

How do I get started?

There are a number of steps to take in order to get started on your study and HECS scholarship at the University of Tasmania:

- Decide which course you are interested in – if you are unsure, contact the University Info Centre on 1300 363 864 or Course.Info@utas.edu.au for information and course advice.
- Submit your application online at www.utas.edu.au/apply

The HECS Scholarship is available for study until 31 December 2014.

*Information on current course fees can be found at www.futurestudents.utas.edu.au/course-costs.
†UTAS reserves the right to limit enrolments in high demand units and courses, so act early to avoid disappointment.
Once you have received your offer of a place, follow the instructions provided to accept the offer and arrange to attend a Ready for Uni workshop. Here you will receive necessary information and have the opportunity to complete your enrolment for the units you will be studying.

When completing your enrolment in the eSTUDENTCENTRE (www.studentcentre.utas.edu.au/enrolments) you must also complete the HECS scholarship application (accessed via the ‘Scholarships’ option listed on the side menu). You will be required to enter your name, email address and phone number, as well as your employer name and your staff ID number (to ensure eligibility, the university will verify your name and staff ID with your employer).

The scholarship deduction will appear on the fees invoice sent to you by the University of Tasmania.

Staff who have been away from study for a number of years should plan to attend ‘UniStart’ – an introduction to study at University of Tasmania. This four-day course takes place just prior to the start of each semester, and is also available online.

Who can I contact for more information?

For more information about the HECS Scholarships and course information, including general information, contact the Uni Info Centre on 1300 363 864 or email Course.Info@utas.edu.au

The University of Tasmania reserves the right to amend scholarship allocation against units if necessary for administrative purposes. A maximum of 100% load per year applies for eligible staff studying for professional and/or personal development.

Judith-Anne Mcdonald
Art Teacher
Master of Art, Design and Environment

What made you decide to undertake postgraduate study?
I’m fairly goal orientated and wanted the stimulation of further study to explore my own talents and become involved in the visual arts scene – to become a practicing, exhibiting artist. Being a Plein Air painter, the Art, Design and Environment program suits my needs because of the wilderness field trips that lead into studio practice.

How do you manage study with your work and other commitments?
School is very supportive in terms of enabling the flexibility for me to meet both teaching and study obligations. Of course, whatever study I do for personal reasons will feed back into my teaching, so the school benefits too. The Art School is also supportive in facilitating flexible arrangements – the lecturers understand the demands on the mature aged student.

What would you say to others thinking of doing postgraduate study at UTAS?
I would say – go for it! It’s extremely rewarding on a personal and professional level. The Head of School will help you to arrange a flexible schedule that combines study with work and family commitments.

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