

Lucy Beeton Aboriginal Teacher Scholarships

Guidelines 2024

Aboriginal Education Services
Department for Education, Children
and Young People

Aboriginal Teacher Scholarship

The Lucy Beeton Aboriginal Teacher Scholarships have been established in recognition and honour of Tasmania's first Aboriginal teacher. Lucy Beeton was born on Gun Carriage Island in the Bass Strait in 1829 to James Beeton and Emmerenna, a Tasmanian Aborigine from Cape Portland. In 1871 she established a school in a tent on Badger Island and later successfully lobbied government to fund a teacher. Lucy continued to teach the Island children and was recognised by government for her efforts by being given a lifetime lease on Badger Island. Lucy was also an established business woman setting up the island's mutton birding trade. Lucy's interest and experience in education enabled her to influence and advance the interests of Bass Strait Aborigines. Lucy died in 1886 and was buried on Badger Island.

Currently in Tasmania, Aboriginal teachers make up less than one per cent of the teaching workforce. Through establishing the Lucy Beeton Aboriginal Teacher Scholarships, the Department for Education, Children and Young people aims to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers in Tasmania. The Lucy Beeton Scholarship aims to provide a financial incentive/support for Aboriginal people to undertake a teaching qualification at the University of Tasmania.

Goals of the Scholarship

The Lucy Beeton Scholarship is intended to increase the number of Aboriginal teachers in Tasmania by annually awarding two Aboriginal students enrolled in a teaching qualification at the University of Tasmania, a bursary of \$9,000.00 each.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Lucy Beeton scholarship, a student must:

- Meet the Tasmanian State Government requirements of *Eligibility for Tasmanian Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services*.
- Be a current resident of Tasmania.
- Be enrolled in the Bachelor of Education or Master of Teaching degree at the University of Tasmania with a full-time workload (NB Part-time workload, if approved in certain circumstances, will result in pro-rata payment).

Evidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Status

Applicants must address and provide satisfactory evidence that he/she:

- is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent;
- identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
- is accepted as such by the community in which he /she lives or has lived. (Written confirmation from local Aboriginal organisation is required.)

NB: An applicant's evidence will be confirmed in consultation by AES and the University of Tasmania with the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

How to Apply

Applicants can apply online prior to the closing date of 31 October 2023 at the University of Tasmania's Scholarship and Bursaries page:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/scholarships-bursaries>

You will be asked to provide the following:

- Statement of Purpose (Why you are applying for the Scholarship)
- Scanned electronic version of your academic transcript
- Curriculum Vitae
- Supporting documentation to verify your Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Origin.

Selection of Applicants

Applications will be reviewed/received by a Committee comprising of representatives from the Beeton family; Aboriginal Education Services, Department for Education, Children and Young People; University of Tasmania's Scholarship Office; and, the Director or nominee of the Riawunna Centre, University of Tasmania. Successful applicants will be notified in writing by the University of Tasmania Scholarships Office.

Please note preference will be given to applicants who do not have any other scholarship support.

Payment of the Scholarship

The scholarship is to assist Aboriginal students with costs associated with completing a Bachelor of Education or the Master of Teaching qualification at the University of Tasmania.

Additionally, a mentor from the Department for Education, Children and Young People will be appointed to the successful applicant to assist them with their time at the University of Tasmania and beyond.

Amounts will be as follows:

Bachelor of Education – up to 3 years duration - \$3,000 per annum

- \$1,500 on commencement of semester 1 and semester 2 each year

Master of Teaching – up to 2 years duration - \$4,500 per annum.

- \$2,250 on commencement of semester 1 and semester 2 each year

The selection committee may terminate a student's scholarship if it considers the student's progress is unsatisfactory.

If the student does not complete the study as agreed then repayment of part or all of the money advanced may be required.

Administration of the Scholarship

Administration of the scholarship will be through the University of Tasmania Scholarships Office and University of Tasmania Advancement Office.

Applications for the scholarship close 31 October 2023

Enquiries

Aboriginal Education Services, Department for Education, Children and Young People:

Phone: (03) 6165 5478

Email: aboriginal.education@decyp.tas.gov.au

Scholarships Office, University of Tasmania:

Email: scholarships.prizes@utas.edu.au

Riawunna, Centre for Aboriginal Education, University of Tasmania:

Phone: (03) 6226 2772

Email: riawunna.admin@utas.edu.au