FACS
Grants for Graduation 2014/15
Guidelines

These guidelines provide information about the FACS Grants for Graduation program 2015. This program is delivered by The Smith Family.

WHAT IS GRANTS FOR GRADUATION?

Grants for Graduation is a one year trial scholarship program funded by Family and Community Services and delivered by The Smith Family. The project aims to assist young people from social housing and those on the housing register (waiting list) or in crisis accommodation to undertake tertiary education.

As well as providing financial assistance, Grants for Graduation will assist scholarship recipients with access to support and mentoring.

Scholarships of up to $5000 will commence in financial year 2014/15.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR A GRANTS FOR GRADUATION SCHOLARSHIP?

You can apply for a FACS Grants for Graduation scholarship if you meet the following eligibility criteria:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. You are able to provide evidence that you live in, have lived in or are eligible for social housing:
   - you are currently living in public housing, community housing, Aboriginal housing (AHO housing), Aboriginal Community Housing or Land Council housing; or
   - you have lived in public housing, community housing or Aboriginal housing within the past 5 years; or
   - you are a member of a household that is currently on the NSW Housing Register (waiting list); or
   - you are currently living in crisis accommodation/supported accommodation.

2. You are aged 16 to 25

You must be between 16 and 25 years old as of 1 June 2014.

3. You are an Australian citizen or permanent resident

You must be either an Australian citizen or permanent resident to be eligible for a scholarship.

4. You are enrolled as a full-time or part time student in an approved university, TAFE or vocational course
Enrolment
You must be enrolled in one of the following:

- An undergraduate course in a university (full or part-time)
- A TAFE course, of at least 6 months duration (full-time)
- A vocational course, provided by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), of at least 6 months duration (full time).

An enrolment confirmation from the institution where you are studying must be provided with your application and at the beginning of any future semester of study. If you are enrolling in a course at the time of application the enrolment confirmation for your course must be provided before you can receive your first payment.

Full-time or part-time study
You must be enrolled full-time or part-time in your course as outlined above. Part-time students must be enrolled in the minimum hours required for part-time study for their course. Part-time students will be entitled to a pro rate equivalent of a full scholarship e.g. students completing half of a full-time load will receive half of the amount for a full-time load ($2500).

6 month courses
Students enrolled in courses of six (6) months will be eligible for a pro rata equivalent of a full year scholarship ($2500).

5. Able to demonstrate personal and financial circumstances that support the claim for a scholarship

The focus of Grants for Graduation scholarships is to provide financial assistance and support to encourage young social housing residents, those on the housing register (waiting list) or in crisis accommodation, to engage in and complete tertiary education.

Examples of personal and financial circumstances that may contribute to the claim for a scholarship include:

- Resident of a disadvantaged social housing estate
- Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islander (or both)
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Young parent
- Single parent
- Long term medical condition or disability
- Family caring responsibilities
- Living in overcrowded circumstances
- From a single parent family or a family where one or both parents are unemployed
- Difficult home environment or family disruptions
- English language difficulties
- From a rural or remote area

Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of your application rather than on academic merit and will be available regardless of which institution the student enrolls in. Scholarships will be available to new students and students already enrolled in an approved course. Access to mentoring and support services will be provided to all recipients.
6. Able to demonstrate ongoing satisfactory progress (i.e. pass course requirements) to receive progress payments.

Students will be required to provide evidence of progress in their course for each semester.

Students who fail to meet requirements of their course to a pass level will be asked to show why they have not completed their course as required. If a satisfactory explanation is not received, the scholarship may be withdrawn. To continue with the scholarship a plan is required, demonstrating how the student intends to meet course requirements in the future e.g. academic supports, mentoring, etc.

INEligibility

Applicants will not be eligible for a FACS Grants for Graduation scholarship under the following circumstances:

1. The applicant has already completed a bachelor degree or higher

FACS Grants for Graduation scholarships are not available to people who have already successfully completed a bachelor degree, or higher degree. They aim to assist young people who meet the criteria to complete an initial qualification.

2. The applicant is already receiving a scholarship or bursary of more than $5000 a year

FACS Grants for Graduation scholarships are not available to people who are already receiving a significant scholarship to complete their course. The intention is to assist young people who meet the criteria who are not already receiving assistance to complete their course.

3. The applicant provides false or misleading information in their application

Any applicant who provides false or misleading information in their application will be deemed ineligible to receive a FACS Grants for Graduation scholarship.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications must be submitted through the following email address: housingNSW@thesmithfamily.com.au

The following documents must be included with your application:

- Completed application form
- 2014 Enrolment Confirmation (unless you are awaiting confirmation of your enrolment)
- Written reference (from school, GP, employer, student counsellor, or church etc. If you need assistance to identify a referee, please contact The Smith Family on 02 6766 4990.)

To request an application pack please email your full name and email address to housingNSW@thesmithfamily.com.au
Applications must be submitted by: **FRIDAY 20th June 2014**

Completed applications must be sent:

By email to  housingNSW@thesmithfamily.com.au or

By post to  Grants for Graduation  
PO Box 10500  
Tamworth  
2340

**Late applications will not be considered. No extensions are available.**

Enquiries can be made by telephoning:  02 6766 4990

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by Friday 4th July 2014.

**ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

FACS *Grants for Graduation* scholarship applications will be assessed by a Selection Committee that include representation from:

- The Smith Family
- FACS

And at least one member of the following organisations:

- A community housing representative  
- Aboriginal Housing Office  
- TAFE/University representatives  
- Y Foundations

The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

No appeals will be accepted.

**PAYMENT PROCESS**

Payments will be made by EFT to the nominated bank account

**Full-year scholarships**

Payment will be made in three instalments after receipt of any required documentation.

- 1st payment of $2000 (or pro-rata amount for part-time students)  
The first payment will be made after the census date for the relevant semester, pending receipt of all required documentation.

- 2nd payment of $1000 (or pro-rata amount for part-time students)
This will be paid on completion of the first semester of study following receipt of the scholarship, submission of a statement of academic progress and completion of the on-line evaluation.

- **Final payment of $2000 (or pro-rata amount for part-time students)**
  This will be paid at the end of one year, on submission of a statement of academic progress and completion of the on-line evaluation.

**Part – year scholarships (6 month courses)**

Payment will be made in two instalments after the receipt of any required documentation.

- **1st payment of $1500**
  The first payment will be made after the census date for the relevant semester, pending receipt of all required documentation.
- **2nd payment of $1000**
  This will be paid on completion of the semester, submission of a statement of achievement, and completion of an on-line evaluation.

**MENTORING/SUPPORT**

Grant recipients will be linked with academic mentoring through their educational institution and/or through The Smith Family or other NGO programs. All students will have support from The Smith Family’s Program Coordinator who will answer questions and assist with referrals to help you succeed in study.