

Guidelines for the ParaQuad NSW Scholarships 2020



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2020 Scholarship Program

Program Objectives

The ParaQuad NSW Scholarship Program provides people with spinal cord injury the opportunity to apply for assistance with education to improve their chances of securing employment and independence.

This is important as current statistics show that less than 35% of people living with a spinal cord injury are able to gain employment.

Scholarship Program Funding Options

There are a number of 'ParaQuad NSW Scholarships' valued at up to \$5,000. The scholarship program aims to help with education at university, TAFE College or a registered training organisation.

A person with spinal cord injury has many different needs to complete their studies; the scholarship funds can cover one or more of the following:

- Course / tuition fees (beginning February as per the application form)
- Course excursion funds or residential expenses on campus
- Carer's allowance contribution not funded by another source
- IT Requirements e.g. computer, support system (hardware and software required for the course)
- Introductory computer-use training tailored to the specific needs of the individual
- Textbooks and supplies (such as stationery and art supplies)
- Additional support e.g. tuition, scribe and typing services
- Travel costs up to \$500 to cover transport costs to and from place of study
- Any request for an item over \$2000 should be accompanied with a letter outlining the reason for the purchase

Other needs not identified above can be discussed.

Student Eligibility Requirements

Recipients are selected on the following criteria as defined by ParaQuad NSW:

- A member of ParaQuad NSW (membership forms available at: www.paraquad.org.au/get-involved/membership)
- Australian Citizens (or Permanent Residents) and residing in NSW/ACT and NT
- Must be 16 years of age or over. Any exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis

- A person with spinal cord injury or other related disability
- Appropriate level of academic record
- Provide evidence of tertiary enrolment and/or acceptance letter
- Preference will be given to applicants on a low income (please refer to 'Low Socio-economic Background Criteria')

Low Socio-economic Background Criteria

Scholarship applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- The student is in receipt of a pension or allowance under the Social Security Act 1991, or Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986, or ABSTUDY; or
- All applications will be considered; however, preference for funding will be given to individuals whose family income does not exceed \$120,000 per annum.

Additional Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

- ParaQuad NSW Scholarships may only cover supports which have not already been covered by the NDIS.
- Successful applicants must accept the conditions of the scholarship and agree to provide personal information relevant to assessing their ongoing eligibility for the scholarship funds.
- Scholarship payments are made on proof that the student maintains a satisfactory rate of academic progress. The scholarship is paid once only for each session of study, hence where a student needs to repeat a session due to academic failure then the scholarship will be suspended until the failed subject(s) have been passed and the student progresses to the next session within that academic year.
- Should a student in receipt of a scholarship, want to change their mode of study, for example from full-time to part-time, they must notify ParaQuad NSW in writing. This may affect their continuing eligibility.

Should a scholarship be awarded and at some later stage it is found that the student no longer satisfies the scholarship criteria, the scholarship will be withdrawn.

Conditions of Scholarship

Ongoing Eligibility Requirements

ParaQuad NSW requires recipients to maintain an overall passing grade throughout the course to continue to be eligible for the **ParaQuad NSW Scholarships**.

ParaQuad NSW is responsible for monitoring the ongoing eligibility of the scholarship recipients by:

- Monitoring the current ParaQuad NSW membership of recipients
- Monitoring the receipt of signed agreement forms

- Ensuring photo identification has been supplied
- Ensuring the provision of twice-yearly reports, in June and December of the academic year including the provision of a paragraph written by each recipient, describing their study progress and how the scholarship has assisted them. ParaQuad NSW may choose to use all or part of this material for promotional purposes.
- Scholarship recipients are encouraged to be involved in ParaQuad NSW activities, including articles for the ParaQuad News magazine, website, social and other media, volunteering at events and promoting their ParaQuad NSW scholarship in all possible areas.

Deferral of ParaQuad NSW Scholarships

ParaQuad NSW may approve requests for periods of deferral in the recipient's study and funding, once ParaQuad NSW has received a full report from the educational institution through which the recipient is studying. The recipient should resume study within the academic year for the scholarship funds to continue. The scholarship funds will not roll over to the following academic year.

Termination of the ParaQuad NSW Scholarships

ParaQuad NSW may terminate the **ParaQuad NSW Scholarship** in the following circumstances:

- Once the full value of the scholarship has been paid; or
- If the student ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified under 'Student Eligibility Requirements' and 'Conditions of Scholarship' of these guidelines, excluding during a period in which the scholarship has been deferred; or
- If the student does not continue study; or
- If the student fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the educational institution and ParaQuad NSW.
- If the educational institution determines that a student is guilty of serious academic misconduct.

A decision to terminate a scholarship will be made by ParaQuad NSW.

Payment of Scholarship Funds

Scholarships funds will not be paid until after the recipient has commenced attendance at the first day of the first term to which the Scholarship funds apply.

Payments will be made by electronic funds transfer directly to the recipient, the educational institution, carer, tutor, or supplier only when receipts or invoices have been received by ParaQuad NSW.

Payments will be made no more than twice per year (in June and December), and to ensure swift payment recipients must:

- Submit receipts to ParaQuad NSW showing proof of payment
- Accompany these receipts with a completed claim form stating the amount they wish to claim and including bank details
- ParaQuad NSW will then process payments within one week of receiving the receipts and completed claim form

Scholarship recipients should contact the Scholarship Co-ordinator if they have any questions or problems regarding their reimbursements by calling (02) 8741 5640.

Rollover of Unspent Funds

All recipients must spend **all** allocated funds within the period of the scholarship i.e. from February to December. All **claims** must be received by ParaQuad NSW no later than close of business, **18th December 2020**. ParaQuad NSW **will not** accept any request to rollover unspent funds to the following year.

For all enquiries: scholarships@paraquad.org.au

Phone: 02 8741 5640

**Please note that 2020 Scholarship Applications
must be received by 10 February 2020**