

# Information sheet: Applying for university if you are an adult

If you're an asylum seeker on a bridging visa with unlimited study rights and are considering tertiary study, this information aims to help you to understand the process of applying for a university place & scholarship in Australia.

At ASC we can assist you with your applications, either online or in person. Please let us know if you need further assistance after reading this information. If you are not an existing client of ASC, please contact us by phone or email (details below) to ask for assistance.

## Some important things you need to know when thinking about university:

1. Students who are seeking asylum and are on bridging visas are considered as **international students** when applying for university. Therefore, you will have to pay international student fees (around \$30,000 per annum) to attend university, which most people seeking asylum cannot afford.
2. Some universities provide **scholarships** for people seeking asylum/refugees, that cover the full cost of the international student fee. This means that you can think about going to university even if you do not have the money for international student fees. However, it is important to note that not all universities provide these scholarships and there are a limited number available, and you must study full-time to be eligible for a scholarship.
3. When **looking for a university course**, you will need to check which universities offer scholarships for asylum seekers that cover the 'full costs of tuition fees'. Then check if the university offers a degree course that interests you, and for which you meet the admission requirements.
4. When you find a university that offers a 'full tuition fee' scholarship it means you will need to apply to the university for both:
  - a. a place in the degree course, and;
  - b. an **asylum seeker or humanitarian scholarship** from that university which covers the full cost of your tuition fees.
5. You will need to meet the **specific entry standards** that the university requires for the course you are interested in. If you have educational or work qualifications gained outside Australia, you will need to find out whether these can be used within Australia for entry to University (ASC can assist you with this).
6. Although a university may offer you a scholarship that covers all your course tuition fees, you or your family will still need to be able to cover the **costs for your living, travel and study materials**. For most students this means they will have to work while studying.

# Important resources

## Useful starting point

Read the Deakin University Guide (link below) that explains the process of both applying for a university place and scholarship. This guide, **specifically for students who are asylum seekers** (your bridging visa status) steps you through the university application process and provides a **list of universities who offer scholarships** that will cover your university fees.

[Click here](#)

## Annual guide to all university courses

The Universities Admission Centre (UAC) is the central body in NSW for finding out about universities and their degree courses. Look on their website (link below) to identify which courses you are interested in and for which you meet the entry requirements. You can only use this resource for information, you cannot apply for university places through UAC if you have not attended an Australian secondary school. You will need to apply to each university directly as an international student, for both a place and a scholarship.

[Click here](#)

## List of universities with possible scholarships

Don't forget that you need to check if the scholarship covers the full tuition fee, and that it is being offered for the year you are applying to study. Copy of Australian Scholarship list:

[Click here](#)

## Degree course choices

This information on the UAC website is primarily for Australian students who will complete their HSC (year 12 exams) but it can assist you to review the type of courses that might be open to you given the subjects/course you have previously studied (for example secondary school completed / previous higher education). You can enter your personal details and see what course options the site suggests: [Click here](#)

## Key dates for 2022- 2023 admissions (not yet available): [Click here](#)

Applications for course places and scholarships need to be lodged in the **year before starting university** in February/March of the following year. Applications for course places can be submitted throughout the year. Most asylum seeker / humanitarian scholarships are available for starting university in the first semester intake (February/March). Very few scholarships are available for commencing in second semester June/July. Most scholarships get advertised from August/September and close in early December/January. The dates change each year and have not been published, so you will need to check each university's website periodically for the opening and closing dates of their scholarship applications.

It is necessary to check two sets of dates - one for the closing date of course applications for international students and one for the deadlines for asylum seeker/ humanitarian scholarships. These dates are often different.