

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarships 2018

Q1 What are the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarships?

The Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarships were launched in October 2014 to increase the opportunity for nurses to advance their careers and further improve services to Territorians.

There are four annual Ministerial Nurse Practitioner scholarships available to Nurse Practitioner Candidates for tuition fees, travel and accommodation up to the value of \$6,500 each.

Q2 What does 'approved' Nurse Practitioner Candidate mean?

An 'approved' Nurse Practitioner Candidate occupies a position that the health service determines is in alignment with the strategic plan for Nurse Practitioner implementation in the NT, addressing priority health outcomes, role capabilities and service requirements.

Q3 What is the study plan that is required to be attached to the application form for the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship?

The study plan is required to demonstrate a plan for extended practice clinical skills and role development. For some this may involve seeking a learning opportunity with an interstate Nurse Practitioner within your defined scope and context of practice.

Q4 Can I apply for the Nursing and Midwifery Studies Assistance Grant Scheme if I am also intending to apply for the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship?

Yes. All Nurse Practitioner Candidates who apply for the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship are encouraged to apply for Studies Assistance. If they are then unsuccessful in their scholarship application they may be eligible for Studies Assistance.

Q5 How will I know the outcome of my application for the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship?

When the assessment process has been finalised, applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application via email.

Q6 If I am awarded the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship am I also eligible for the Nursing and Midwifery Studies Assistance Grant Scheme?

No. You will only be eligible for one form of reimbursement that is either the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship or the Nursing and Midwifery Studies Assistance Grant Scheme, not both.

Q7 Does it matter how long I have lived in the NT?

Yes. In line with the *NT Health's Strategic Plan* priority objective to form local capacity building to deliver innovative sustainable services, you must have lived in the NT for a minimum of one year to be eligible to apply for the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship.

Q8 Can I apply for courses outside the NT?

No. Studies must be completed at Charles Darwin University (CDU) except in exceptional circumstances.

Q9 How much financial assistance do I apply for?

Scholarships are issued annually. You can only apply for reimbursement of expenses directly related to your studies in both Semester One and Semester Two 2018. You are expected to itemise costs and attach proof of payment to the application form for fixed costs that you have already paid for Semester One. You will then be required to repeat this for Semester Two.

Q10 Am I expected to contribute towards the cost of my study?

It is an expectation of the Department of Health that nurses and midwives will also contribute to the costs of their professional development endeavours. Department of Health staff eligible for an annual professional development allowance will be expected to contribute this allowance towards their studies. These contributions should be noted on a Statutory Declaration and the Manager's Declaration Form.

Q11 Am I eligible if I also receive any other grant, scholarship or bursary?

If you are receiving assistance from the Department of Health or other sources, you must declare this on a Statutory Declaration. Other assistance may include but is not limited to Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) By-Law 41. Receipt of other assistance will be taken into account when evaluating your application.

You may not be eligible for the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship if you are receiving scholarships from other areas, such as the Australian College of Nursing, however this will be taken into consideration by the panel and you may be requested to provide additional information.

Q12 How will my application be assessed?

An Assessment Panel will review applications based on the merit of the material provided. The Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office will allocate funding according to the assessment panel's recommendations.

Q13 How will I find out about the result of my application for Ministerial Scholarship?

When the assessment process has been finalised, applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application via email.

Q14 What if I don't agree with the Assessment Panel's decision?

If you don't agree with the result of your application, you must lodge a *Letter of Appeal* with the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health, PO Box 40596, Casuarina NT 0811, within 14 days of receipt of the email advising you of the application outcome. The *Letter of Appeal* should outline the nature and basis of the appeal. A copy of any other documentary evidence beyond the original application should accompany the letter.

The Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office will communicate the outcome of the appeal to the applicant in writing within 14 days.

Q15 How often can I apply?

You can apply for the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarships each year over the duration of your course.

Q16 Can I apply again if I am unsuccessful?

Providing you can meet the eligibility criteria you can reapply.

Q17 How will I receive my Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship?

Successful applicants will receive email advice of the amount that has been approved in principle, noting:

- payment of Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarships will be retrospective upon supplying evidence of successful completion of the units approved for funding, for example academic transcript, and
- payment is only available through direct credit to your nominated bank account via your AGS or Vendor number. If you are a non-DoH employee, a vendor application will need to be completed and returned before the due date to facilitate payment of the grant. You can download a copy of this form on the [NT Nursing and Midwifery website](#), and
- you will receive advice of payment being processed via email. Please be aware that payment may take up to 30 days, and
- applicants must advise the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office via email of any changes to their circumstances, address or contact details.

Q18 How much will I receive if I am successful?

Allocation of funds following receipt of applications and receipts will be up to \$6,500 per successful scholarship applicant for the 2018 calendar year.

Q19 Is the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship considered part of my income?

Yes. Applicants are advised that for the purposes of determining eligibility for Centrelink Benefits and tax liability, scholarships are deemed as income and should be declared in your tax return. Please consult with your accountant for tax advice.

Q20 What happens if I do not accept the Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarship?

If you do not accept the scholarship offered, please notify the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office immediately via email stating the reasons for not accepting the scholarship, as it may provide the opportunity to reallocate funding.

Contact us

Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

Phone: 1800 000 648

Email: nursingstudies.assistance@nt.gov.au