

UWA Diversity and Merit Awards Eligibility and Application Guidelines 2010

These Awards are subject to final drafting and approval by University Committees.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Eighteen awards of \$2000 each will be made in the following categories¹:

- One award for the highest-ranking student to gain admission via the '2 subject + STAT' route
- One award for the highest-ranking student to gain admission via the 'STAT alone' route
- Two awards for the highest-ranking Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students²
- Two awards for the highest-ranking students from a low income background²
- Two awards for the highest-ranking students with a disability (The Just Ability Awards)²
- Two awards for the highest-ranking students from a non-English speaking background²
- Two awards for the highest-ranking female students studying a course within the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics
- Six awards for the highest-ranking students from a rural or remote region²

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA APPLYING TO ALL CATEGORIES

1. To be eligible for consideration for an award, students must:
 - be permanent residents or citizens of Australia; and
 - have applied through TISC for a place at UWA, nominating an appropriate UWA course as their first preference for the first round of offers
2. Students will only be eligible for one 'UWA Diversity and Merit Award'.
3. Students who are awarded a 'Group of Eight' Scholarship will not be eligible to receive a 'UWA Diversity and Merit Award'.
4. Where two awards are offered within one category, one award each will be made to the highest-ranking school leaver applicant and the highest-ranking non-school leaver applicant to commence as a student at UWA in 2010.
5. Awardees who wish to defer their enrolment at UWA will be awarded their Diversity and Merit Award the following year when their enrolment is confirmed.
6. Where a Diversity and Merit Award is not made, the award will be reallocated to another category at the University's discretion.

AWARDS FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS

Additional eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for consideration for these awards, students must additionally:

- identify themselves as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in either their TISC application or their application to the UWA School of Indigenous Studies; and
- identify themselves on their application form as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander according to the Commonwealth definition.

Applications:

- TISC applicants as well as students applying for entry to UWA via the School of Indigenous Studies may be considered for the award.
- To be considered for this award, students must complete the relevant application form and supply appropriate supporting documentation if required.
- Applications must be received by the UWA Prospective Students Office by 5pm, Friday 30 October 2009.

AWARDS FOR STUDENTS FROM A LOW-INCOME BACKGROUND

Additional eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for consideration for these awards students must additionally:

- be in receipt of a means-tested Commonwealth Income Support Payment, eg Youth Allowance, Austudy, Abstudy, Disability Support Pension or another income-tested benefit or pension in 2009;
- be eligible for one of the above benefits or pensions in the year they commence at UWA.

Applications:

- To be considered for this award, students must complete the relevant application form and supply appropriate supporting documentation.
- Applications must be received by the UWA Prospective Students Office by 5pm, Friday 30 October 2009.

THE JUST ABILITY AWARDS

Additional eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for consideration for these awards students must additionally:

- have a disability as defined under the Equal Opportunity Act of Western Australia.

Applications:

- To be considered for this award, students must complete the relevant application form and supply appropriate supporting documentation along with their application form.
- Supporting documentation should include a letter from the applicant's specialist medical practitioner.
- Applications must be received by the UWA Prospective Students Office by 5pm, Friday 30 October 2009.



AWARDS FOR STUDENTS FROM A NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUND

Additional eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for consideration for these awards students must additionally:

- have a language other than English as their first language;
- have been a resident in Australia no more than seven calendar years immediately prior to the date on which applications close to study at UWA in Semester One, 2010 (that is, they arrived in Australia on or after 30 October 2002);
- have spoken a language other than English as their major language of communication and/or instruction for a total period of more than seven years prior to the date on which applications close to study at UWA in Semester One, 2010 (that is, they have spoken English as their major language of communication and/or instruction only since 30 October 2002); and
- demonstrate the educational disadvantage they have experienced as a student in Australia from a non-English speaking background.

Exemption from the criteria

If applicants do not meet the above criteria, they may still apply for the award if there are exceptional circumstances to support their application. Such circumstances are set out below. The application must include a clear description of the circumstances, and must be endorsed by the applicant's school principal (or other relevant educational authority).

It is possible that exemption from the criteria will be granted to an applicant:

- (a) who was born outside Australia and had little or no formal education prior to arriving in Australia; or
- (b) who was born outside Australia and has had a disrupted formal education; or
- (c) who is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, or from Cocos Island or Christmas Island, for whom standard Australian English has been the medium of instruction, but for whom standard Australian English is a second language/dialect, and whose exposure to standard Australian English is limited to the school context because of geographical isolation.

Applicants who wish to be granted exemption from the criteria need to write a personal statement requesting the exemption, and also provide a statement from their school principal (or relevant educational authority) endorsing their application. These documents and any other supporting documentation should be attached to their application form and clearly labelled.

Applications:

- To be considered for this Award, students must complete the relevant application form and supply appropriate supporting documentation.
- Supporting documentation should include a copy of the applicant's date of arrival in Australia from their passport.
- Applications must be received by the UWA Prospective Students Office by 5pm, Friday 30 October 2009.

AWARDS FOR FEMALES STUDYING IN A NON-TRADITIONAL DISCIPLINE

Additional eligibility criteria:

This award will be limited to students who enrol in the following courses:

- Bachelor of Engineering (including combined degrees)
- Bachelor of Computer Science (including combined degrees)
- Bachelor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences (including combined degrees)

Applications: No formal application is required as students eligible for consideration will be identified from information provided in their TISC application with awards made automatically to the highest-ranking students who meet the eligibility criteria.

AWARDS FOR STUDENTS FROM A RURAL BACKGROUND

Additional eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for consideration for these awards students must additionally have completed at least the whole of Year 12 as a TEE student and obtained TER in one of the following rural regions:

1. Pilbara/Kimberley
2. Goldfields/Mid-west
3. Midlands/Narrogin/Esperance
4. Albany/Bunbury/Warren-Blackwood/Fremantle-Peel³.

These regions are as defined by the districts of the Education Department of Western Australia (EDWA). Details of the districts are available at <http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/>.

- For the purpose of these Awards, 'rural' is defined as being further than 75km from Perth.
- Students completing TEE and who obtain a TER through a School of Isolated and Distance Education are eligible for this award if they reside in a rural area.
- One award will be made to the top-ranked school leaver student in each of the four regions listed above.
- Two awards will be reserved for the top-ranked non-standard (non-school leaver) students who fulfill the above criteria.

Applications:

No formal application is required as students eligible for consideration will be identified from information provided in their TISC application with awards made automatically to the highest-ranking students who meet the eligibility criteria.

1 According to advice received from the Federal Government funds received under this award will be included as income in means-tested Commonwealth Income Support Payments.

2 Refer to 'additional eligibility criteria' for specific information about these Awards.

3 Within the Fremantle-Peel District, the only schools considered 'rural', for the purpose of this Award, are Waroona DHS and Pinjarra SHS.