

Key messages, FAQs and Application Guidance for the Registered Nurse Primary Care Scholarship

Eligibility

Who can apply for the registered nurse (RN) primary and community healthcare scholarship programme?

You can apply if you are an RN who:

- Is a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- Is currently working in a primary or community healthcare setting. This includes but may not be limited to:
 - Primary care general practice
 - Aged care provider
 - Primary Health Organisation
 - Rural primary care or community care provider
 - Hauora Māori primary care services
 - Pacific primary care services
 - Home and community support services
 - Tamariki and youth services
 - Palliative care
- Holds current registration with the Nursing Council of New Zealand and
- Holds an active annual practising certificate with no restrictions.
- Is not under investigation by the Nursing Council of New Zealand.
- Intending to enrol in relevant postgraduate study.

What kind of study is eligible for the scholarship?

The registered nurse primary care scholarship supports postgraduate study which will lead to advanced practice,

- Diploma RN prescribing
- Master of Clinical Nursing leading to registration as a Nurse Practitioner with NCNZ

This is the definitive list of education programmes: [Postgraduate programmes](#)

What kind of studies are NOT eligible for this scholarship?

Any courses not listed here will be generally considered ineligible. [Postgraduate programmes](#)

All courses must be relevant to primary and community healthcare and working to achieve:

- Post Graduate Diploma RN prescribing
- Master of Clinical Nursing (which may have slightly different names at different tertiary providers)
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Application Process

Applications will be open from 29th August and close on the 30th September 2025

- Apply online
- Fill in all relevant areas
- Provide identification
- Provide evidence of New Zealand citizenship/permanent residence
- You may be asked to provide proof of employment in primary or community healthcare at the time of a scholarship offer
- Health NZ will provide you a response regarding the success of your application up to 6 weeks after the closing date of applications.

Scholarship Benefits

How much financial support will I receive?

The scholarship award is dependent on the qualification you intend to complete. The scholarship package can consist of up to \$45,000 per 120 credits which is intended to cover where eligible:

- Tertiary education fees
- Employer incentives to support release days, cover backfill, support clinical placement
- Rural employer support
- Clinical and cultural supervision
- Study related contribution to cover some course related costs
- Travel support for block courses attended outside of your district
- Completion and retention award for remaining in your primary or community healthcare settings.

Actual amounts will depend on how far through your studies you are, the credits you intend to undertake, and other support required and eligible for.

The scholarship will NOT cover:

- Retrospective funding for papers already completed
- Additional papers or any change of study program from that specified in the scholarship application
- Any study not undertaken at a New Zealand tertiary nursing education provider
- All the costs a recipient incurs. The amount paid towards study related costs is a contribution

How do I receive the scholarship money?

- Tertiary fees are paid directly to the education provider
- Employer will be paid directly (via supporting contract) to support release days, cover backfill, receive rural employer support if eligible and support your clinical and cultural supervision.
- The RN will be paid directly with a lump sum contribution towards study related costs.

- Completion and retention award payments will be paid directly to the RN once the qualification has been achieved, and the RN has continued to work in primary care for 12 months with evidence.

What can the contribution to study costs be used for?

- Accommodation
- Travel: Economy airfares and other travel-related expenses
- Required clinical resources
- Course related cost.

Accommodation, airfares and travel related expenses is to support placement outside of your normal place of work.

Key tips for applying

To improve your chances of being awarded a scholarship, ensure you:

- give us your correct details and keep them up to date. If we can't contact you, we can't support you.
- answer all questions in full, do not leave answers blank, and ensure you address all the requested criteria
- upload a full record of your enrolment, or if you have already commenced, a transcript that reflects your study units completed or credited, units underway, and units remaining.
- make a plan for your study ie - which TEO, what qualification, courses, when, how long etc
- declare any other funding or scholarships
- **Please note:** For papers which require a practicum, clinical supervision and /or secondary placement - Talk to your employer first, we can help cover associated cost of their support!

Do I need to reapply for the scholarship each semester or if I start another stage of my study?

You only need to register once for the scholarship, but you will need to give us details each time you enrol in a paper.

Please notify us of any changes, such as deferring a semester.

There is an overall scholarship time limit of 3 years for 120 credits

Contacts

Health NZ is here to help. If you have any questions about the scholarship program itself, first check the web pages, and if it is not answered you can contact us via:

Email: PrimaryCareNursing@TeWhatuOra.govt.nz

How can I get academic support during the program?

Contact your tertiary provider for academic support.

For help with your scholarship contact us at PrimaryCareNursing@TeWhatuOra.govt.nz