

Jennifer James Memorial Scholarship for Research: Bachelor of Nursing (Honours)

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES 2023

Introduction

The Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, ACT Health Directorate, promotes a culture of innovation, learning and development through the provision of various scholarships and programmes made available to all nurses across the ACT.

The Jennifer James Memorial Scholarship for Research has been on offer since 2014 to honour the memory of Professor Jennifer James who was the youngest Director of Nursing at Canberra Hospital in the mid to late 1970s. The scholarship is provided to enable students to complete a Bachelor of Nursing (Honours).

This initiative is available to Registered Nurses 1.1 to 1.8 and provides successful candidates the opportunity to complete the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) course part-time with a paid study component for 2 years.

Aims and Outcomes

The aims of the Jennifer James Memorial Scholarship for Research are:

- To attract and retain high performing nurses in the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD), Canberra Health Services (CHS) and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB),
- To increase the capacity of the registered nurse workforce in research and related skills (e.g., research appraisal and project management),
- To facilitate supervised research, service evaluation and quality assurance initiatives in the ACTHD, CHS and CPHB,
- To enhance the professional development of registered nurses in the ACTHD, CHS and CPHB,
- To promote a culture of inquiry and practice informed by evidence, and
- To ensure best practice in nursing models of care and service provision to patients.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Jennifer James Memorial Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be permanently employed as a Registered Nurse 1.1 to 1.8 within the ACTHD, CHS or CPHB,

- Have graduated within the last ten years, and
- Be willing to enrol in and committed to completing the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) course with the University of Canberra on a part-time basis for two years.

Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) with the University of Canberra

The Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) is a 24-credit point (cp) course that aims to enhance the research skills of participants to develop new, more effective nursing practice solutions, providing them with a pathway to higher degrees by research if desired.

Successful candidates will undertake the Honours course, which involves a supervised research thesis, on a part-time basis enrolling into at least three credit points per semester to complete the course within two years.

Tuition fees for the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) course as well as associated course costs, textbooks, equipment, and research project related costs are met by the student.

Paid Study Component

Successful candidates will be eligible for one paid study day per week, from the first week of semester one in the first year of study to the final week of semester two in the second year of study (inclusive of winter terms and summer break between the first and second year of study) to assist with completing coursework and research components of the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours).

The recipient's work area is required to invoice the SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre within 10 working days of the end of each quarter (3 monthly) for reimbursement of the equivalent of one full shift per week. **If the invoices for reimbursement are not submitted on time the work area risks losing their funding for the quarter.**

The scholarship does not cover course fees or other student and administration fees, textbooks, equipment, or research project related costs.

Conditions

The following conditions apply for successful candidates of the Jennifer James Memorial Scholarship for Research. Candidates must:

- Be enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) course at the University of Canberra and is expected to successfully complete all requisite units of the course,
- Be enrolled in **at least** three (3) credit points per semester,
- Undertake a research project that is negotiated with their Director of Nursing (DON),
- Meet regularly with their academic supervisor, as agreed by the academic supervisor,
- Present a copy of their results **each semester** to their DON and the SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre,
- Have a current Performance Management Agreement (PMA) that identifies specific learning goals to identify opportunities for skill and knowledge development, and
- Present their final project to staff members at the SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre Grand Rounds, or another appropriate forum.
- Provide a short-written reflection (no longer than 500 words) to the SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre to include:

- Personal and Professional learnings from taking part in the Honours Program, and
- How learnings from the program will be implemented in the student's workplace and career.

Leave

The scholarship candidate is responsible for negotiating annual and other leave over the period of the scholarship to ensure all requirements of the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) course are met. Long service leave and purchased leave will not be supported for the duration of the scholarship.

Assessment of Applications

Opportunities for the Jennifer James Memorial Scholarship will be advertised within ACTHD, CHS and CPHB, with applications considered on merit by a panel of senior nurses and at least one nursing academic. Granting of the scholarship will be based on written responses to selection criteria, academic transcripts and an interview where necessary. Scholarships are often made available to new graduate nurses and in this case the application process for the scholarship will be integrated with the application for a new graduate position.

The scholarship usually aims to support nurses to enrol in semester one (February) of the academic year. In some circumstances the scholarship may be offered for a second semester commencement.

Should an applicant be dissatisfied with the panel's decision, an appeal process has been established.

Written requests for review of panel decisions must:

- Be provided within two weeks of the applicant receiving notification of the panel's decision,
- Identify the basis of the appeal, and
- Be addressed to the Clinical Chair in Nursing, SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre: synergy@act.gov.au.

The decision of the Clinical Chair in Nursing is final.

Agreements

Successful recipients will receive a Scholarship Agreement. Recipients are required to sign the Agreement, have their signature witnessed, and return it to the SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre by the due date specified in the letter of offer.

The recipient's DON will receive a Letter of Agreement for Funding. The DON is required to sign the Letter of Agreement for Funding and return it to the SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre by the specified due date. The Letter of Agreement includes the commitment of the candidate's work area to invoice SYNERGY every quarter.

Extension and Suspension

All requests for variation to the Scholarship Agreement must be notified in writing to the DON of the health service and SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre.

Intermission from the academic course can be negotiated in extenuating circumstances. The scholarship candidate must discuss this with their academic supervisor as well as their DON. Leave for

one semester only can be accommodated and such leave can be applied for one time only. In this case, the paid study day will be suspended for the period of intermission and the scholarship candidate will be rostered to practice for their full FTE equivalent. The paid study day will be reinstated in Week One of the first semester of study following intermission.

If the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) is not completed within the agreed period, a request is to be made in writing for an extension of time for submission of results. An extension of time to complete the academic course does not automatically include additional scholarship funding.

Illness which reduces the effective tenure of the Scholarship will not automatically entitle the recipient to an extension of the original period of the Scholarship. ACTHD, CHS and CPHB may, on formal application, agree to a scholarship extension if the extension can be met by the health service's operational requirements.

Termination

A SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre Scholarship may be terminated at any time:

- If in the opinion of the ACTHD, CHS or CPHB, the recipient's performance is unsatisfactory in accordance with fair performance management principles,
- If the scholarship recipient terminates enrolment or does not enrol in the required units of study within the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) course,
- If the recipient fails to complete or pass units of study within the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) course, and/or
- If the recipient fails to observe the conditions of the Scholarship Agreement.

Contact

SYNERGY Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre: synergy@act.gov.au