



Pearl Duncan

Teaching Scholarships



Are you a Queenslanders of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent?

Do you aspire to be a teacher in the Queensland education system?

Make a difference. Teach.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment is offering scholarships to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders who would like to make a difference in the lives of young Queenslanders by becoming a state school teacher.

As well as accessing generous financial benefits, scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to obtain valuable experience and consolidate their skills through teaching in a supportive environment after graduation.

The Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships are named in honour of Pearl Duncan, an Aboriginal teacher who has dedicated her life to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in education. The scholarship aims to identify high-achieving individuals who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander who are seeking to undertake an undergraduate or post-graduate degree in teaching, and provide them with financial assistance and support during their initial teacher education program.

Make a Difference. Teach

There are many reasons why people chose to become teachers and most importantly teachers in Queensland state schools. These include:

- To make a difference in the lives of young people;
- To combine creativity and intellectual challenge;
- To make a worthwhile social contribution;
- To share their passion for learning, especially in a particular area;
- Personal fulfilment and as sense of achievement;
- To work as part of a collegial, collaborative and well-connected team; and
- To work with the wider school community.

Teaching can be a lifelong career which is recognised worldwide, enabling teachers to work in a diverse range of settings and locations.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment

The Department is one of the largest human resources organisation in the Southern Hemisphere and provides services to Queenslanders across early childhood education and care, education and training.

The Department is responsible for approximately 1,300 state schools staffed by more than 40,000 teachers and attended by approximately 500,000 students.

Teachers in Queensland state schools have access to a broad range of employment conditions and benefits in addition to earning very competitive salaries, including:

- Generous superannuation schemes;



- Salary packaging;
- Locality allowance for service in specified locations;
- Flexible work arrangements;
- A work/life balance;
- Induction and mentoring;
- Professional development opportunities;
- Financial and other incentives for employment in rural, remote and regional areas; and
- Substantial leave entitlements.

What is a scholarship?

“A **scholarship** is an award of financial aid for a student to further education. Scholarships are awarded on various criteria usually reflecting the values and purposes of the donor or founder of the award.” Wikipedia - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholarship>

In the case of the *Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships*, it means the provision of financial assistance by the Department to a preservice teacher to assist them in obtaining a teaching degree a Queensland Higher Education Institution (HEI) enabling them to commence a teaching career.

Eligibility Criteria

Applications for a 2014 *Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarship* are invited from individuals who:

- Can provide written evidence of being recognised as a member of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community/ies or being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Have achieved high academic results in their senior schooling (recommended – but not limited to – OP10 or better) or in previous tertiary studies;
- Participants have nominated an approved undergraduate initial teacher education program at a Queensland HEI (full-time) as first preference with the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) to commence in Semester 1, 2014 OR
- Have already been accepted into an approved initial teacher education program (undergraduate or post-graduate) to commence or continue in Semester 1, 2014 on a full-time basis

Participants in the Remote Area Teaching Education Program (RATEP) program are eligible to apply.

Study Programs - Applications and Offers

Applicants for a *Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarship* must apply to undertake or continue an approved initial teacher education program at a Queensland HEI in 2014.

A list of initial teacher education programs approved by the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) for the purposes of teacher registration in Queensland is provided on the QCT website at <http://www.qct.edu.au/education/approved.html>

For further information about applying for particular study programs, including closing dates for applications for entry into university, please visit the QTAC website at www.qtac.edu.au or contact the relevant Higher Education Institution.

Scholarship applicants should apply for entry to an approved initial teacher education program prior to submitting their *Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarship* application.

Scholarship Support

The Department will provide *Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarship* recipients with a comprehensive support package including:

- Up to \$20,000 (based on \$2500 per successfully completed full-time semester over up to four years) to assist with study and other expenses during the recipient’s study period;
- An offer of permanent employment as a teacher in a Queensland state school from the semester following graduation as a teacher, subject to meeting the scholarship and employment conditions;

- Access to a range of departmental resources, including the Learning Place and Curriculum to the Classroom (C2C) resources;
- Access to relevant departmental professional development and induction programs;
- Access to professional networks and support from mentors, principals and colleagues within Queensland state schools.

At the end of each semester scholarship recipients will be required to provide the Department with their unofficial results transcript which will include their current and historical results, as well as confirmation of continued full-time enrolment for the following semester.

Scholarship recipients may use the scholarship funds at their own discretion, however this benefit is intended to assist with study-related expenses.

Permanent Employment with the Department

One of the key benefits for scholarship recipients is the opportunity for permanent employment as a state school teacher immediately following graduation.

There is an expectation that a scholarship recipient's first teaching appointment will be at a school outside the south-east corner of Queensland in the semester immediately following graduation - although the exact location will depend on appropriate vacancies that exist.

Opportunities for valuable experience and career advancement are available for teachers who are willing to work in rural and remote areas. These settings provide beginning teachers with a supportive school community and a developmental environment in which to commence their careers.

Teachers employed in rural and remote schools also have access to additional benefits such as relocation assistance, locality allowances, financial incentives and additional leave; some may also be eligible for departmental housing and other benefits.

Scholarship Conditions

Scholarship recipients, along with the Department, are required to enter into and sign a legal agreement that outlines the responsibilities of both parties and the conditions of the scholarship.

Scholarship recipients are required to:

- Study on a full-time basis and successfully complete all academic and professional experience requirements of an approved undergraduate study program within five years (being the duration required to complete the course plus a maximum of one year for deferral purposes);
- Obtain teacher registration with the Queensland College of Teachers and successfully complete the Department's *Application for Teacher Employment* process during the final stages of the study program;
- Commit to permanent, full-time employment as a teacher with the Department for a minimum period equal to the study period for which financial assistance was provided while gaining qualifications – up to four years; and
- Accept appointment to a Queensland state school at the discretion of the Department – but with consideration of the scholarship recipient's nominated location preferences in the *Application for Teacher Employment*.

Applications close - Monday 9 December 2013

Application and Selection Process

Where heritage can be substantiated, applicants may make application under one of four categories:

- **School leavers** - where the applicant graduates from year 12 in 2013.
- **Department of Education, Training and Employment (non-teaching) employees** - where the applicant is a non-teaching employee of the Department as at the closing date for applications.
- **Post-graduate** - where the applicant has already attained a degree and must complete the Graduate Diploma in Education (or equivalent) to be eligible for teacher registration.
- **Post-school category** - where the applicant is unable to apply in any of the above categories – often mature age applicants.

All applicants must complete and submit a *2014 Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarship Application Form* and supply supporting documentation.

Detailed information about the application and selection process is provided in the *Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarship Guidelines* available through the Scholarships and Grants link on the Department's Make a Difference. Teach website at <http://education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/teaching/> .

Applicants should ensure that all required documents are provided by the closing date, as omissions may result in the application not being considered.

Scholarship Offers

A formal scholarship offer will be made in writing to successful scholarship applicants in mid-February 2014.

Applicants will be required to respond to the offer within a specified period. Scholarship support will commence from Semester 1, 2014. Acceptance of offers cannot be deferred but commencement of study in 2014 can be deferred provided the scholarship recipient has been accepted into the preservice teacher education program and then sought deferral.

Offers are subject to scholarship recipients providing confirmation of full-time enrolment in the approved preservice teacher education program at a Queensland Higher Education Institution from Semester 1, 2014.

HECS- HELP Benefit

Eligible mathematics and science graduates who take up employment in related occupations, including teaching of these subjects in secondary school and primary school teaching, may be able to apply for a HECS-HELP benefit which will reduce their Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) repayments and/or debt.

To find out if your course is eligible for the benefit, follow the link below:

<http://www.goingtouni.gov.au/Main/Quickfind/PayingForYourStudiesHELPLoans/HECSHELPBenefit.htm>

Taxable Income

Because of the guarantee of employment following successfully completing the studies and meeting the Department's requirements to be offered employment as a teacher, **scholarship payments will contribute to scholarship recipients' annual taxable income, and may also impact entitlements to Commonwealth benefits such as Austudy, Abstudy, family benefits.**

The Department strongly recommends that scholarship applicants contact Centrelink, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and/or their taxation agent to obtain financial advice about the implications of the scholarship payments on current earnings and benefits.

More Information

For further information for the *2014 Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarship* including the Application Form and detailed Guidelines, refer to the Scholarships and Grants link on the Department's Make a Difference. Teach website located at <http://education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/teaching/> .

For specific scholarship enquiries email scholarships@dete.qld.gov.au

Applications close Monday 9 December 2013 and must be completed electronically. Application form and attachments should be lodged electronically at:

scholarships@dete.qld.gov.au

If applications cannot be lodged electronically, please post by the closing date to:

**2014 Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships
Workforce Initiatives (Human Resources)
Department of Education, Training and Employment
PO Box 15033, Brisbane City East QLD 4002**