UTR2.221 – AUGUSTUS SHORT SCHOLARSHIPS FUND

Background –

A. In 2013 this fund was renamed from the ‘Scholarships for Students of Disadvantage’ to the ‘Augustus Short Scholarships’ in keeping with Dr Augustus Short’s strong belief in preparing young leaders shaped by education rather than by birth or wealth.

B. This fund was originally launched in 2002 with the aim of providing outstanding students with the opportunity of gaining a university education and making a significant contribution to the community by providing a vehicle with which to overcome access issues.

C. The fund is comprised from various donations and grants from the public, government and other organisations.

D. In March 2016, the Vice-Chancellor approved for the D&A Scholarships Fund to be transferred to the Augustus Short Scholarships Fund.

E. Founded in 1874, the University of Adelaide is Australia’s third oldest university and the first to be established in South Australia. The first Vice-Chancellor of Adelaide, Dr Augustus Short was elected to his role in December the same year, however Short’s contribution to the University and Adelaide more broadly, was far beyond his capacity as Vice-Chancellor and later Chancellor. Short championed the value of education, and it was Short who first seriously proposed that the colony of South Australia required a higher standard of education in the form of a university.

F. Short’s founding vision for the University of Adelaide remains true in the ideals and traditions adopted today. As a place for higher learning we believe in our cultural value to the community and we remain earnest in the goal to prepare the educated leaders of tomorrow. The University can undertake its valuable work today in education and research because of the generosity, tenacity of belief and spirit of its pioneers and early founders; visionaries such as Dr Augustus Short.

C. The University accepted the donations upon the trusts specified by the donors and the donations therefore became the capital subject to those trusts (‘capital sum’).

Investment of the fund

1. The fund is to be amalgamated for the purposes of investment, and held in a common fund, and the net income earned by the common fund shall be credited, rateably, to the funds so amalgamated and thereafter distributed according to the wishes of the donors.

Obligations

2. In administering the fund, the University must adhere to the terms specified and is obliged:-
(a) to invest the capital sum according to the directions of the donor; and

(b) to establish a fund to be administered according to the wishes of the donors.

The Augustus Short Scholarship Rules

Scholarship Value: $6,425pa (indexed at 2.8%)
Scholarship Duration: Up to four years
Payment details: Two equal instalments, one each in April and September, of $3125 subject to confirmation of continuing eligibility after each of the census dates and recipients’ satisfactory academic progress with their studies.

Scholarship conditions:-

The award of this scholarship is subject to the following general conditions:

• Recipients are Australian Citizens, permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand Citizens.
• Recipients must not have undertaken previous study at tertiary level.
• Recipients must be enrolled in undergraduate level program of study at the University of Adelaide.
• Recipients must be enrolled in a Commonwealth Supported place.
• Recipients must be enrolled on a full time basis (i.e. not less than 75% of an equivalent full time study load in an undergraduate level program at each of the census dates (31 March and 31 August). **NOTE THAT THE DIPLOMA OF LANGUAGES IS NOT A BACHELORS LEVEL PROGRAM.** The Diploma of Languages is not a Bachelor’s level program and therefore subjects taken as part of the Diploma of Languages cannot be counted towards study load for the Augustus Short Scholarship. In order to receive the Augustus Short scholarship, students must ensure that they are undertaking at least 75% load in a Bachelor’s level undergraduate program. The Diploma of Languages should only make up 25% of study load.
• A recipient whose enrolment is below a full-time recipient load must advise the Scholarships Office. Recipients will be ineligible to retain their scholarship unless the University is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances, which prevent the recipient from studying on a full-time basis. Recipients are required to provide details and supporting documentation of significant factors which prevent them undertaking full time student load.
• Recipients are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress over the duration of the scholarship. Satisfactory academic progress means that recipients are expected to obtain at least a Grade Point Average of at least 5.0 each semester in order to receive the subsequent scholarship payments.
• Recipients must continue to meet the low socio-economic criteria by:
  • Continuing to be in receipt of a means-tested Commonwealth income support payment (such as Austudy, ABSTUDY, Youth Allowance, etc). Documentary evidence to substantiate this may be required from time to time; OR
- Continuing to be in the same circumstances that satisfied the University following a comprehensive assessment, that there were other adverse circumstances which resulted in financial disadvantage. Documentary evidence to substantiate this may be required from time to time.

- Recipients may not normally transfer to a program other than the program for which the scholarship was awarded, other than in exceptional circumstances.

- The initial scholarship offer cannot be deferred. The scholarship must be taken up in the year of offer. Following the successful completion of one (1) year of undergraduate study as a Commonwealth supported recipient, Recipients may apply in writing for deferral of the scholarship. The maximum period for deferral is 12 months, unless the University is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist. Recipients must advise the Scholarships Office of their return after deferral.

- The recipient may be required to attend a presentation of the award and other relevant scholarship functions.

- A review of academic progress will be carried out each semester to ensure that the recipient continues to meet the conditions of the Scholarship. Should academic progress not be satisfactory, the recipient fail to maintain full time enrolment for two consecutive semesters or withdraw from the program, the Scholarship will be terminated and payments will cease.

- Recipients must notify the Coursework Scholarships Office in writing should:
  * they discontinue their studies, or
  * they defer or are approved for a leave of absence, or
  * they change their program of study, or
  * any circumstances affect their eligibility for the scholarship

- Recipients will authorise the University to obtain such additional information deemed necessary to ensure that they continue to meet the scholarship eligibility conditions.

- It should be noted that this scholarship may count as income for means tested income support benefits and therefore may affect any Centrelink or similar payments. Recipients should seek advice from Centrelink if they are in receipt of any benefits.

- The University and the scholarship donor do not promise that this scholarship will be tax free to recipients. Recipients should seek independent advice on the tax implications of this scholarship.

28 April 2016