



Guidelines for the ParaQuad NSW Scholarships 2012

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2012 Scholarship Program

Program Objectives

Current statistics suggest that less than 35% of people living with a spinal cord injury are able to gain employment.

ParaQuad NSW wants to turn these figures around. Thanks to the ParaQuad NSW Scholarships, people with a spinal cord injury can apply for assistance with education will improve their chances of securing employment and independence.

Scholarship Program Funding Options

There are a number of 'ParaQuad NSW Scholarships' valued at up to \$5,000 each to help with education at a school, university, TAFE college or registered private college.

As a person with a spinal cord injury has many different needs to complete their studies, the scholarship funds can cover one or more of the following:

- Education fees for one year
- Course excursion funds or residential school expenses
- Carer's allowance contribution
- Hardware and tools assistance (such as scribes and typing services)
- Computer system (hardware and software required for the course)
- Introductory computer-use training tailored to the specific needs of the individual
- Textbooks and supplies (such as stationery and art supplies)
- Additional supporting tuition.

Other needs not identified above can be discussed.

Student Eligibility Requirements

Recipients are selected on the following criteria as defined by ParaQuad NSW:

- Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents (residing in NSW/ACT)
- A person with a spinal cord injury (of all ages)
- A high level of academic record
- Motivation and perseverance towards goals

Additional Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

Additional scholarship eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Should a scholarship be awarded and at some later stage it is found that the student no longer satisfies the scholarship criteria, the scholarship will be withdrawn. However, no refund will be requested (please refer “Conditions of Scholarship”).
- Scholarship payments are made on proof that the student maintains a satisfactory rate of academic progress. The scholarship is paid once only for each session of study, hence where a student needs to repeat a session due to academic failure then the scholarship will be suspended until the failed subject(s) have been passed and the student progresses to the next session.
- Should a student, in receipt of a scholarship, change their mode of study, for example from full-time to part-time, and not demonstrate strong justification for the change, then the scholarship payments will cease.
- Successful applicants, at the time of accepting an offer for scholarship funding from ParaQuad NSW, must accept the conditions of the scholarship and agree to provide personal information relevant to assessing their ongoing eligibility for the scholarship funds.

Conditions of Scholarship

Ongoing Eligibility Requirements

ParaQuad NSW is responsible for monitoring the ongoing eligibility of the scholarship recipients to ensure that each recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements for the **ParaQuad NSW Scholarships** as set out in “Student Eligibility Requirements”.

Each successful applicant will need to become a member of ParaQuad NSW; if they are not already (a membership form can be found on the website at www.paraquad.org.au).

Each successful applicant will need to provide a photo of themselves, as well as a twice-yearly report i.e on the 30th of June 2012 and the 16th December, 2012 to ParaQuad NSW on the progress of their studies and how the scholarship has helped. ParaQuad NSW may choose to use all or part of this material for promotional purposes.

ParaQuad NSW requires recipients to achieve satisfactory academic progress to continue to be eligible for the **ParaQuad NSW Scholarships**.

Deferral of ParaQuad NSW Scholarships

ParaQuad NSW may approve requests for periods of deferral in the recipient’s study and therefore funding, once ParaQuad NSW has received a full report from the educational institution in which the recipient attends through which the recipient is studying.

Termination of the ParaQuad NSW Scholarships

ParaQuad NSW may terminate the **ParaQuad NSW Scholarship** in the following circumstances:

- If the student ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified under “Student Eligibility Requirements” and “Conditions of Scholarship” of these guidelines, excluding during a period in which the scholarship has been deferred; or
- Once the full value of the scholarship has been paid; or
- If the student does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of deferral; or
- If the educational institution determines that a student is guilty of serious academic misconduct; or
- If the student fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the educational institution and ParaQuad NSW.

ParaQuad NSW may not terminate a recipient’s **ParaQuad NSW Scholarship** for any other reason. A decision to terminate a scholarship will be made by ParaQuad NSW, not any financial contributor to the scholarship program.

Payments to Students

Commencement and Mode of Payments

Scholarship payments to students will not be made prior to the student’s first day of attendance of the first term. Mode of payment will only be cheque.

Payment Arrangements

Scholarship recipients should post their receipts / invoices to ParaQuad NSW not more than **three times in the year**, starting from the end of the first term. In case this seems difficulty, especially with regard to big purchases, like computers etc, please call on 02 8741 5669 to discuss.

Original invoices received from the scholarship recipient have to be accompanied by a covering letter stating the amount they wish to claim at that point in time. Payment will be made within a week of receipt of the receipts/invoices.

Payments will be made directly to students, the educational institution, carer or tutor (once receipt or invoice has been received by ParaQuad NSW).

Rollover of Unspent Funds

All recipients must spend **all** allocated funds within the period of the scholarship, ie. February to December. All claims must be received by ParaQuad NSW no later than close of business, 30th December 2012. ParaQuad NSW **will not** accept any request to rollover unspent funds to the following year.