What is the Vice-Chancellor’s Alumni Scholarship?

Each year since 2009, the Vice-Chancellor has rallied support from the UNSW alumni community to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to gain access to higher education. These scholarships effectively widen the pipeline for students to overcome obstacles and gain a first-rate education, giving them the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Eligible students are those from low socioeconomic backgrounds, indigenous and rural communities, or students that have a disability or experience other forms of hardships.

Scholarship recipients are awarded $5,000 per year for the duration of their undergraduate degree, alleviating some of the ongoing financial concerns associated with attaining a Bachelor’s degree including fees, textbooks, travel, computer expenses, living expenses, and accommodation.

Why is it needed?

Although government funding is not keeping pace with the increasing demand, UNSW is committed to realising the potential of talented young Australians, regardless of economic circumstances. The advantages of a university degree are innumerable and with the help of our alumni community, students will have the opportunity to grow personally and professionally, build their confidence, make friends, get involved in clubs, associations and sports, and be guided toward achieving their life goals. Most importantly, students will be taught how to think, learn and acquire knowledge.

What are the criteria for the 2012 Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship Appeal?

- Scholarships are offered at the beginning of each year;
- All applicants must be Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents;
- The successful applicant must be entering their first year of any single or combined; undergraduate degree at UNSW; and
- Students must apply through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) Equity Scholarships Scheme.
What impact are donations expected to have?

Your gift will enable students experiencing hardship to receive the benefits of a first-class education.

In 2012, our goal was to increase the number of Vice-Chancellor Alumni Scholarships to 65, and not only did we reach this goal but with the enthusiasm of the UNSW alumni community we surpassed it and brought the total to nearly 70 scholarships. Over 4,000 alumni have donated to the Vice-Chancellor’s Alumni Scholarship program since the program’s inception in 2009. This tremendous show of support is encouraging, and we hope to increase the number of scholarships to 100 this year.

With over 178,000 UNSW alumni, if each alumni gave a donation of $50 each year, this would provide almost $9 million for additional scholarships—an amount unheard of at an Australian university. With the regular commitment of all our alumni, we can create opportunity for more students in need. Every gift makes a difference regardless of size.

How can I help?

In order to help these students receive the benefits of a higher education, join the growing group of UNSW alumni donors and give the gift of opportunity to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. You can donate online by visiting www.alumni.unsw.edu.au. You can also contact the Alumni Relations office at alumni@unsw.edu.au or 02 9385 3279.