

MEDIA RELEASE



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Applications open for the 2027 cohort of Snow Scholars

Applications are now open for the University of Canberra (UC) Snow Scholarships, a life-changing opportunity for passionate and purpose-driven students who face barriers to higher education living in Canberra or regional and rural New South Wales. Snow Scholarships are delivered through a close partnership between Snow Foundation and UC. Applications opened on 13 April and close 12 July. The successful applicants will commence their studies at UC in Semester One, 2027.

The first intake saw more than 240 applications and a diverse group of 18 Snow Scholars accepted, including five from First Nations families – they began their studies at the University in February this year.

Snow Scholars receive financial support of up to \$30,000 per year to support their living expenses, on-campus accommodation and travel along with dedicated wrap-around academic, personal and leadership support designed to help students unlock their potential.

Snow Scholarships are a catalyst for change, backing students who are curious, resilient, and driven to pursue their studies and make a positive difference. Ideal candidates bring a passion for learning, a commitment to their community, and the ability to lead with integrity and respect. For students who are eager to learn and contribute, this is a perfect opportunity to flourish.

“UC is built on genuine connection and a commitment to supporting our students’ to achieve their aspirations. The doors to education should be open to everyone regardless of their background or circumstances and not limited to just those with the access or connections,” Professor the Honourable Bill Shorten, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Canberra said.

“It has been inspiring to meet our first cohort of Snow Scholars this year and to see them settle into university life on our campus. They all have rich stories of how they have overcome challenges and are now looking forward to the future and their studies here at UC. I encourage anyone who has the drive to come to university to apply.”

Scholars will benefit from being part of an inclusive cohort, reflective of diverse backgrounds, experiences, genders, identities, ages, and academic achievements, giving them the opportunity to thrive through the empathy and understanding of their peers, the UC team and fellow students.

With deep roots in Canberra and the NSW South Coast, Snow Foundation has long supported people facing barriers. The Snow Scholarships build on this legacy – backing youth with potential and a passion to create positive change, through a decade-long commitment.

“Seeing our first Snow Scholars settle into university life has been incredibly special. They’ve already formed a strong, supportive community—encouraging one another, sharing their experiences, and making the most of every opportunity,” Georgina Byron AM, Snow Foundation CEO said.

“We’re now excited to welcome the next cohort, who will join and build on that community. If you’re someone with drive, curiosity and a desire to make a positive difference, we encourage you to apply.”

The Scholarships have been specifically designed for applicants who:

- face financial hardship; and/or
- live with a disability or ongoing medical condition; and/or
- have experienced unforeseen challenges.

Around 16 Scholarships may be awarded each year, including approximately a quarter for First Nations scholars, and a quarter for outstanding academic achievement whilst upholding a commitment to gender equity and an inclusive selection process. All scholars are selected on their leadership potential and commitment to social purpose.

For more details about the Snow Scholarship program, visit the [University of Canberra website](#).

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About Snow Foundation

Snow Foundation is a family philanthropic organisation deeply connected to Canberra and the NSW South Coast. Founded by brothers Terry and George Snow, the Foundation believes in giving to the communities in which they live and work. From the beginning, Snow Foundation has supported people facing barriers – especially youth, women, LGBTIQ+ and First Nations people. The Snow Scholarship reflects this commitment, 3 empowering youth, backing their potential, and supporting individuals who want to make a difference in the world around them.

About University of Canberra

UC is Canberra's university, dedicated to providing immersive student experiences and outcomes focused on meeting Australia's workforce needs. We offer world-class teaching in an inclusive, safe and welcoming campus environment. At UC, students can find their career inspiration, uncover their talents and make life-long connections.