# Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Nursing Scholarship Program

## About the MCH Scholarships

The MCH nursing scholarships are designed to attract high quality nurse-midwives to increase the capacity of Victoria’s already world-class MCH nursing workforce. DHHS supports this scholarship as an initiative of the Victorian Government’s Early Childhood Reform Plan.

## Value and duration

The MCH Nursing scholarship provides funding of up to $10,000 for:

- Full-time students over one year
- Part-time students over two years

The number and value of scholarships offered will be determined based on the number of eligible applicants that have accepted either a full fee paying or commonwealth supported place (CSP).

## Eligibility

**To be eligible for this scholarship you must:**

- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, an Australian permanent resident or a permanent humanitarian visa holder
- have accepted a place as a new student, and/or be enrolled as a continuing student at La Trobe University or RMIT University in one of the following courses for Semester 1, 2020:
  - Graduate Diploma in Child, Family and Community Nursing (La Trobe University)
  - Graduate Diploma in Child and Family Health Nursing (RMIT University)
- be currently registered as a Division 1 Registered Nurse (without restrictions) with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- have current registration as a Midwife and a registered Division 1 nurse (without restrictions) with AHPRA

**You are ineligible to apply if you:**

- have previously received a MCH Nursing Scholarship from the Department of Education and Training (DET) or Department of Health and Health Services (DHHS).

It is important that the MCH Nursing workforce reflects the composition of the Victorian community. The DHHS strongly encourages applications from eligible people of any gender identity, age, religion, ethnicity, language, socio-economic background, sexual orientation and disability.

**Priorities for scholarship recipients for 2020 will include:**

- eligible applicants from rural and remote regions.
- applicants from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds:
  - Do you identify as being of CALD heritage?
  - Do you speak a language other than English at home?
- applicants who identify as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.
| How to apply (mandatory criteria) | Mandatory information required in the application form for entry into the course (those wishing to apply for a scholarship will need to complete additional requirements, including an application statement and a written reference):

**Included in the application form for entry into the course:**

1. **Evidence of Australian citizenship, Australian permanent residency, or New Zealand citizenship**
   A certified copy of one of the following:
   - Australian/New Zealand Citizenship certificate
   - Australian/New Zealand Passport
   - Australian/New Zealand Birth certificate
   - evidence of Australian Permanent Residency.

2. **Details of education and professional experience**
   - details on relevant courses completed
   - professional experience including working with children and families.

3. **Certified copies of the following current AHPRA registrations (without restrictions):**
   - Division 1 Registered Nurse
   - Registered Midwife.

**Additional requirements for scholarship applicants:**

- **Application statement** – In no more than 500 words, please detail why have you decided to undertake further study to become a Maternal and Child Health nurse. Applicants should demonstrate their intention to seek employment within the Victorian MCH Service following completion of post graduate MCH studies.

Include relevant professional experience such as:

- Experience in antenatal support for vulnerable families, parenting, home visits and breastfeeding support
- Experience working with diverse families, women or children, including those from CALD backgrounds and/or from ATSI background, and rural and remote Victorian experience
- Experience in specific areas of women’s health and/or children’s health and development

4. **Reference**
   A written reference from a professional or academic referee. The reference should include:
   - the referees contact details
   - relationship to applicant
   - length of relationship
   - why the applicant should receive a scholarship.
   - applicant’s relevant professional experience
   - reference must be on appropriate hospital/council or university letterhead from direct supervisor, signed with designation included and contact details provided.
**Please note - copies of references in email format will not be accepted**

Incomplete and incorrect applications will not be considered. Please note that it is important to apply by the deadline as late applications (even after successful enrolment) will not be accepted.

### How to Apply (additional information to be collected)

This information will be collected as part of the application process but will not influence the outcome of a student’s scholarship application.

Where did you hear about the MCH Scholarship Program:

- DHHS website
- MAV website
- Hospital
- Koori Maternity Service Network
- RMIT University
- La Trobe University
- Friend/Word of mouth
- VACCHO
- ANMJ newsletter
- MCH Bulletin
- A past scholarship recipient
- Twitter/LinkedIn
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Foundation (ANMF) VIC
- I’m a current MCH Student
- Other (Free text Box)

Do you have a clinical placement confirmed, and if so where? (If no, include free text option to place a comment here to provide a status update)

Which Local Government Area (LGA) do you reside in?

### Additional Funding Sources

Have you applied for additional funding from another source to support your study? I.e. council scholarships? If so, please name the organisation/s that you have applied to for additional funding.

### Terms and Conditions

**Responsibilities of Scholarship Recipients:**

- Scholarship recipients can take up to one year’s leave of absence after one semester of study and retain their scholarship funds.
- Scholarship recipients are not able to change courses and retain the scholarship funds. Recipients of the scholarship must retain enrolment in their postgraduate degree for the duration of the scholarship.
- Scholarship recipients maintain sole responsibility in self-assessing his or her tax position and will seek tax advice in relation to the scholarship agreement and the receipt of the scholarship.
- Scholarship recipients must maintain satisfactory academic performance which will be reviewed at the completion of each semester. If a student does not maintain satisfactory academic performance, their scholarship may be revoked, or payments suspended. For more information about academic progress including the definition of satisfactory academic progress, visit [https://www.rmit.edu.au/students/student-essentials/assessment-and-exams/academic-progress](https://www.rmit.edu.au/students/student-essentials/assessment-and-exams/academic-progress).
• Scholarship funding will be paid as installments to students via EFT transfer each semester following census date. If a student is not enrolled, withdraws or does not complete the course, the remaining unpaid scholarship funds will not be transferred to the student.
• Will not be eligible to receive any other fully funded scholarship from the Commonwealth, State or Territory government body while in receipt of this scholarship.

Scholarship recipients consent to the following:

• the Organisation providing the Department with any such information as the Department may require in order to determine if the Recipient is compliant with their obligations under the Agreement, limited to information as relevant to the scholarship such as ensuring satisfaction of Eligibility Criteria, academic progress and results (non-inclusive of personally identifiable information and contact information).
• being contacted by the University on behalf of the Department as a scholarship recipient via their email address for a period of up to five (5) years after the Term for the purposes of providing information to the Department regarding the Recipients experiences as a student, employment and experiences in the field of maternal and child health nursing.
• The scholarship recipients may be requested to attend joint promotional events or participate in promotional activities in keeping with the spirit of the scholarship as reasonably requested between the Department and the Organisation.