1 PURPOSE
The purpose of the Commonwealth Scholarships is to provide financial assistance to suitably qualified undergraduate students.

Two categories of scholarship are available:
• Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships (CECS); and
• Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships (CAS).

A Flinders University student may not hold a Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship and a Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship concurrently.

2 DEFINITIONS
Full-time student load: in respect of a scholarship, is at least 75% of an equivalent full-time study load (EFTSL) in the scholarship period for which the scholarship is being paid.

Internal student: a student who, for the majority of units of study in which they are enrolled in the scholarship period, is required to attend on a regular basis, the Flinders University campus or an approved cross-institutional campus.

Scholarship period: a six month period from either 1 January to 30 June or 1 July to 31 December

3 ELIGIBILITY
3.1 To be eligible for consideration for the award of a Commonwealth Scholarship in 2008, a student must by the first census date of the scholarship period:
• be an Australian citizen or the holder of a permanent humanitarian visa; and
• be undertaking an undergraduate course of study leading to a higher education award at Flinders University; and
• be enrolled as a full-time student; and
• be in receipt of a means tested Commonwealth income support payment (such as Austudy, ABSTUDY, Youth Allowance, etc) or be able to demonstrate financial hardship.

3.2 In addition to the eligibility requirements above, to be eligible for consideration for the award of a Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship,
• a student must have, within the four years immediately preceding the commencement of the current higher education course of study, either:
  (a) lived in a rural or regional area of Australia for at least three years; or
  (b) completed the final two years of schooling in a high school or college in a regional or remote area; or
  (c) it was necessary to live away from their regional or remote home to complete the whole or the majority of their secondary schooling at a high school or college in a major city; or
  (d) lived in a regional or remote area of Australia for a total of at least two years, and the student has relocated from the regional or remote area of Australia to undertake vocational education and training (eg TAFE) for a maximum of two years duration immediately preceding the commencement of their undergraduate course; and
• it was necessary to move away from the regional or remote area in order to undertake their higher education study; and
• as a result of moving away from the regional or remote area, the student incurred additional accommodation costs; and
• the student is enrolled as an internal student.
Note that students in the graduate entry courses, BAcc, BCompSc, BEd(JP/P), BEd(Sec), BEd(SpecEd), BMBS, BNg, BSpecEd, may not be eligible to receive a Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship.

3.3 A Commonwealth Scholarship may not be held by a student who:
   • is enrolled in less than 75% of an equivalent full-time study load (EFTSL) unless there are exceptional circumstances which prevent the student from studying full-time (see 5.3 below); or
   • holds a bachelor degree or higher level award unless each such award is a prerequisite to their current undergraduate course of study and there is no alternative pathway into that course of study. (For the purposes of this clause students in the graduate entry courses, BAcc, BCompSc, BEd(JP/P), BEd(Sec), BEd(SpecEd), BMBS, BNg, BSpecEd, are eligible.)
   • has already received a Commonwealth Scholarship for the maximum duration.

3.4 Students who undertake an approved component of overseas and/or cross institutional study will not be precluded from accessing a Commonwealth Scholarship provided the overseas and/or cross institutional study will count towards the course requirements.

4 APPLICATION

Applications for 2008 Commonwealth Scholarships will open in January 2008, with a closing date of the end of the first week of Semester 1, 2008. Application forms will be available from the Higher Degree Administration and Scholarships Office and can be downloaded from the University web site.

5 SELECTION

5.1 Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria in Clause 3 above will be ranked on the basis of academic merit which will be determined for students new to Flinders University in 2008 by the Selection Score used to gain entry to their course of study eg TER, STAT score and GPA, and for continuing Flinders students the GPA for the most recent 36 units of study. Where a continuing Flinders student has not completed 36 units of study the Selection Score used to gain entry to their course of study will be used to assess academic merit.

5.2 Special consideration will be given to Indigenous students to ensure a fair proportion of the Commonwealth Scholarships is awarded to Indigenous students.

5.3 A Commonwealth Scholarship may be offered to a part-time student if the student can provide sufficient evidence that his or her personal circumstances prevent full-time study. Circumstances include significant carer responsibilities, a disability or a medical condition that precludes full-time study.

5.4 Successful applicants will receive a letter of offer detailing the conditions of the scholarship before the end of April, 2008. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing before the end of May, 2008.

6 VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The value of a Commonwealth Scholarship in 2008 is:
   Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship - $2,162 a year; and
   Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship - $4,324 a year.

These amounts will be indexed in subsequent years.

7 TENURE AND PAYMENT

7.1 Commonwealth Scholarships are tenable for a maximum duration of eight scholarship periods. No extension is possible.

7.2 The tenure of the scholarships will be adjusted for periods of approved leave of absence and for any previous Commonwealth Scholarship support a student has received.

7.3 Payment of the scholarships will be as follows: one payment totalling 50% of the annual value in each scholarship period on or after
the standard semester census dates (31 March and 31 August in 2008) and are subject to the student maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the University's Policy on Student Progress and maintaining ongoing eligibility requirements.

7.4 The University will monitor the ongoing eligibility requirements of scholarship holders.
7.5 Scholarship holders must advise the Higher Degree Administration and Scholarships Office of any changes to their circumstances that would make them ineligible for the scholarship.

8 OTHER AWARDS

Scholarship holders will normally only be permitted to hold other scholarships and awards to a maximum total value of $1,000. Scholarship holders must immediately advise the Higher Degree Administration and Scholarships Office if they are offered other scholarships and awards to a total value greater than $1,000. The University may in special circumstances give approval for a scholarship holder to accept other scholarships and awards to a total value greater than $1,000.

9 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Scholarship holders who suspend their studies for a scholarship period must apply in writing to the Higher Degree Administration and Scholarships Office to defer their scholarship. Applications must be made prior to the standard semester census dates.

10 TRANSFER OF AWARD

10.1 A Commonwealth Scholarship is transferable between undergraduate award courses at Flinders University.
10.2 Students cannot transfer a Commonwealth Scholarship awarded by another Higher Education Provider to Flinders University. Students transferring from another Higher Education Provider who meet the eligibility criteria may apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship at Flinders University and must declare any previous Commonwealth Scholarship support they have received.

11 TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

A Commonwealth Scholarship will be terminated:

- if the student ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in Clause 3 above; or
- if the student fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress; or
- once the maximum duration of the scholarship has been reached; or
- if the student does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of approved leave; or
- if the student has committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to, the provision of false or misleading information in relation to the Commonwealth Scholarship. In the event of a student providing false or misleading information, the University is required to report the matter to the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations.

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The rules contained in this document comply with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations conditions of award and must be adhered to by scholarship holders. Scholarships are reviewed on a scholarship period basis. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations may amend the conditions of award from time to time.

Queries about the Rules should be directed in the first instance to:
Higher Degree Administration and Scholarships Office
Flinders University
Ph: (08) 8201 3115
Fax: (08) 8201 5175
Email: scholarships@flinders.edu.au

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