



| NSW Department of Education

Rural Scholarship Program 2021

Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology)
Charles Sturt University

education.nsw.gov.au



At the NSW Department of Education we are committed to ensuring that every student, at every school in every part of the state has the support they need to help them learn and grow into confident, and capable adults.

Our school-based and state-wide teams work together to hear and understand students' needs, concerns and aspirations, and work with them to provide support specific to them as individuals.

If you believe you have the ability and drive to be a positive influence in the life of a young person when they need it most – then you are the professional we are seeking.

Applications for a scholarship are invited from psychology graduates who are looking for a career working as a school psychologist in rural and remote NSW public schools

Please take the time to read about our rural scholarship program for the Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) through Charles Sturt University.

If you would like further details about this exciting opportunity, please call Vicki Melitas, Psychology Service Development Coordinator, on 7814 2988 or email vicki.melitas@det.nsw.edu.au

Contents

.....

Welcome	1
Role of School Psychologists	1
The Graduate Scholarship Program	2
Rural scholarships	2
The Graduate Scholarship Program (continued)	2
Employment and Assignment	2
Deed of Agreement	2
Am I eligible for this Graduate Scholarship Program?	3
Application Process and documentation	3
Employment Conditions	4
Remuneration	4
Hours of work	4
Recreation leave	4
Other forms of leave	4
Application checklist	5
Application timeframe	6
Apply online	6
Appendix 1: Work Location Nomination Form	7



Welcome

Welcome to the NSW Department of Education's Rural Scholarship Program for 2021.

The Rural Scholarship Program delivered through the Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) program at Charles Sturt University is part of a suite of scholarships offered by the Department to support psychology graduates in becoming school psychologists.

On successfully completing the Master of Professional Psychology Program at Charles Sturt University, you will join a team of dedicated professionals providing mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people in rural and remote NSW public schools.

Role of School Psychologists

School Psychologists apply their psychological expertise to achieve cognitive, emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing.

As active members of a school community, School Psychologists provide counselling and psychological assessment of students. They complement and enhance the work of teachers to strengthen student learning and wellbeing outcomes. School Psychologists provide psychological counselling services to allocated schools from Preschool to Year 12 in public schools throughout NSW.

School psychologists will not be required to teach or undertake teaching duties as defined by the Teacher Accreditation Act 2004 as amended.

School psychologists:

- apply psychological expertise to enhance and support the cognitive, emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing of students
- support the school leadership team to build and sustain a strong culture of wellbeing
- provide counselling using evidence-based interventions to improve the wellbeing of students
- undertake cognitive, emotional and behavioural assessment to contribute to the development of appropriate school-based support for students
- work collaboratively with learning and support teams, parents and carers and other agencies to enhance learning and wellbeing outcomes for students
- respond as part of a team to assist schools experiencing emergencies.

The Rural Scholarship Program

The NSW Department of Education Rural Scholarship Program offers scholarships for psychology graduates in the full-time Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) program at the Charles Sturt University and the opportunity to work as school psychologists in rural and remote NSW public schools.

Rural scholarships

(Rural scholarships apply to locations in rural and remote areas of NSW)

Rural scholarships provide:

- up to \$25,000** tuition allowance for full-time, full-fee paying students
- \$6,000* employment allowance
- \$1,500 textbook and incidentals allowance
- supervised work placements in schools during 2021
- supervised internship from 2022
- comprehensive induction program
- ongoing employment in NSW public schools in rural or remote areas as a school psychologist upon satisfactory completion of the internship.

Employment and Assignment

Upon successful completion of the Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) rural scholarship program, you will be offered full-time employment first as an intern (temporary employee) and then as an ongoing employee (conditional on successful completion of the internship). You will be employed by the NSW Department of Education under the [Government Sector Employment Act 2013](#) (GSE Act).

Under the GSE Act, the department may, from time to time, assign an ongoing school psychologist to other school psychologist roles based on workforce need within your deed of agreement. The department will consult with you prior to such re-assignment.

Deed of Agreement

Successful applicants will be required to sign a Deed of Agreement with the NSW Department of Education before receiving scholarship benefits. The Deed of Agreement commits applicants to:

- successfully completing the Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) rural program through Charles Sturt University
- successfully completing all requirements for the one-year internship as a school psychologist at a NSW public school (or schools) in an agreed rural and/or remote NSW location/s (subject to placement availability)
- accept ongoing employment as a school psychologist and an assignment to a rural and/or remote NSW public school (or schools) in an agreed location/s (subject to workforce need)
- remain in full-time school psychologist employment in a rural and/or remote NSW public school for a minimum period of three years following the completion of the Master of Professional Psychology

**The scholarship benefit will be adjusted based on the university's tuition fees for the program

*Additional benefits may be available to interns and employees working in certain rural or remote NSW locations.

**The scholarship benefit will be adjusted based on the university's tuition fees for the program.



(School Psychology) rural scholarship program. This comprises of :
3 years of continuous service in a Specified Role, comprising:

- 1 year Internship
- 2 years as school psychologist with General Registration

Conditions of financial liability apply if conditions of the Deed of Agreement are not fulfilled.

Am I eligible for this Rural Scholarship Program?

To be eligible to apply for the *School Psychologist Graduate Scholarship*, you must have:

- completed a four year sequence of Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) approved psychology studies
- met requirements to undertake the Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) program at Charles Sturt University
- completed an application for the Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) program at Charles Sturt University
- obtained or be able to obtain a NSW Working with Children Check clearance
- Australian citizenship, permanent resident or a New Zealand citizenship documentation
- a current and valid NSW driver's licence.

Application Process and documentation

Consistent with NSW Government policy, any person who falsifies their record of academic and/or professional qualifications to gain employment may be dismissed and/or prosecuted.

Please ensure you have completed all sections of the on-line application and provide:

1. a supporting statement (up to 450 words) addressing the following questions:
 - a. *Why are you applying for this scholarship?*
 - b. *What is your understanding of the role of the school psychologist? (Refer to the Role Description of a School Psychologist - attached.)*
 - c. *Describe the qualities, skills and experiences that will contribute to your future work as a school psychologist.*
2. two referee reports supporting your application
3. completed *School Psychologist Work Locations Nomination Form*
4. resume, certified copies of your academic transcripts to date and evidence of enrolment in a Master of Professional Psychology program
5. National Criminal History Check – Guide to identity documents
6. your NSW Working with Children Check ('WWCC') clearance number by
 - a. applying for a Employee WWCC clearance online at www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check and then paying at Service NSW
 - b. completing the Declaration for Child-Related Work Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC)
7. completed the Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check - Informed Consent Form (NCCHC) , and
8. completed Pre-Employment Health Declaration Form

Applicants may be invited to an interview and undertake capability based assessments as determined by the selection panel.

Employment Conditions

Remuneration

The following table outlines the current and 2020 annual salary rates of school psychologists. The Graduate starting salary for the beginning of the internship is set at Step 1. In addition, you will receive an employer contribution to superannuation currently at 9.5%.

Salary Step	Effective 1/01/2019
Step 1	\$70,652 (internship)
Step 2	\$74,288
Step 3	\$77,932
Step 4	\$81,576
Step 5	\$85,214
Step 6	\$88,853
Step 7	\$92,492
Step 8	\$96,138
Step 9	\$105,376

Hours of work

The hours of work for a full-time employee are 35 hours per week, excluding breaks.

School psychologists work administrative hours of seven hours per working day not including breaks.

School psychologists are employed under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* (GSE Act) and are not entitled to the student vacation periods. Unless they are taking approved leave such as recreation leave or flex leave (where the school psychologist is permitted to work flexible hours) during the student vacation periods, school psychologists will be required to be on duty.

Recreation leave

Full-time school psychologists are employed under the GSE Act for 52 weeks a year.

Full time employees are entitled to four weeks annual recreation leave. Part-time employees are entitled to recreation leave on a pro rata basis. School psychologists will start accruing recreation leave as soon as they are employed.

Given the operations of schools, the most likely times that a School Psychologist may take available recreation leave will be during the student vacation periods.

Other forms of leave

The entitlements of school psychologists to other forms of leave such as sick, extended, family and community services leave, are as contained in the [Crown Employees \(Public Service Conditions of Employment\) Award 2009](#).

Application checklist

Yes or No Please complete all of the following when submitting your application

Apply online at www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au. Requisition [00007SXM](#).

[Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check \(NCCHC\)](#)

[Declaration for Child-Related Work - National Criminal Records \(NCR\)](#)

[Proof of Identity](#)

Evidence of name change required for first & family name changes

Evidence of Australian Citizenship, permanent residence, or visa permitting employment in Australia

Submit the [Work Location Nomination Form](#) (Refer to Appendix 1)

Submit two [Referee Reports](#) with your application

Complete the [Pre Employment Health Declaration](#)

Submit a Resume with your application

Yes or No Eligibility requirements

Have a completed four year sequence of Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) approved psychology studies

Have met requirements to undertake the Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) program at Charles Sturt University

Have applied for the Master of Professional Psychology (School Psychology) program for 2021 at Charles Sturt University

Be willing to work in a rural and/or remote geographic area of workforce need (refer to Work Location Nomination Form: Appendix 1)

Have or be able to obtain a NSW Working with Children Check

Be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or a New Zealand

Hold a current and valid NSW driver's license

Application timeframe

Applications Open	Monday 27 July 2020
Applications Close	Friday 9 October 2020*
Interviews	16 – 23 November 2020
Applicants notified of outcome of application	27 November to 4 December 2020

* No further applications will be accepted after this time

Lodge your application

Please ensure all relevant items listed under “Application Documentation” (see page 6) have been completed, with proof of identity documents certified, before you lodge your application.

Apply online

Please apply online at www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au.

Job reference: [00007SXM](#).

Applications close at 11:59pm, Friday 9 October 2020.

For more information about the Graduate Scholarship Program, please contact

Vicki Melitas
Psychology Service Development Coordinator
Telephone: (02) 7814 2988
Email: vicki.melitas@det.nsw.edu.au



Appendix 1: Work Location Nomination Form

School Counselling Services - Work Locations Nomination Form

Applicant details

Last name

Given names

Telephone

Email

Work location preferences

Please nominate locations from the list below to indicate where you would like to be considered for employment. Please note that placements will be determined by workforce need.

I am prepared to work anywhere in the State

I agree to be appointed in at least one of the following school education areas:

Bourke Broken Hill Deniliquin Griffith Moree Orange
Queanbeyan Taree

AND/OR

I agree to be appointed in one of the following three school education areas:

(Must select at least three of the following Rural priority school education areas)



Rural Priority Areas:

Albury	Clarence	Moree	Taree
Armidale	Coffs Harbour	Muswellbrook	Tweed Heads
Ballina	Deniliquin	Newcastle	Wagga Wagga
Batemans Bay	Dubbo	Orange	
Bathurst	Griffith	Port Macquarie	
Bourke	Lake Macquarie	Queanbeyan	
Broken Hill	Lismore	Shellharbour	
Central Coast	Maitland	Tamworth	

Note: The schools in these locations are listed on a spreadsheet that can be downloaded from: <http://www.teach.nsw.edu.au/documents/schstaffingareas.xlsx> (case sensitive). It is important that you consult this spreadsheet for a list of schools within these locations before completing this form.

We acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal people and pay our respect to Country.

Say hello

 @NSWDepartmentofEducation
 @NSWEducation
 @NSWEducation
education.nsw.gov.au

GPO Box 33
Sydney NSW 2001
Phone: 1300 679 332
© May 2020
NSW Department of Education
ISSN: 2206-0170

