

# GW NSW Joan Bielski AO Memorial Scholarship - GUIDELINES

The aim of this scholarship is to enable a mature woman to attend university **for the first time** and complete **a first degree**. The intention of the award is to support a woman who was prevented from going to university by circumstances at the time of leaving school.

**Duration:** A maximum of three (3) years

**Value:** \$6000 per semester – First instalment paid on receipt of Semester 1 results.

**Condition of continuing payment:** Must maintain a good academic record for the award to continue.

## Conditions of scholarship:

- Woman born before 1 January 1990.
- Enrolled in **first year** in a university listed on the Australian Universities' List in NSW or ACT in a Government supported place and **without previous university attendance**.
- Resident of NSW or Canberra
- Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Requirement to supply first semester results.
- Must be enrolled in Semester 1, 2026

**Level of study:** Undergraduate only

**Attendance:** Full time only. Part time students demonstrating exceptional circumstances that prevent them studying full time may occasionally merit consideration, but preference will always be given to Full Time students. Applicants who are studying online are eligible to apply but preference will be given to those studying on campus.

## Financial hardship is an essential prerequisite.

Other disadvantages that will be considered are previous impediments to attending university, such as:

- English as a second language
- Family crisis or difficult family environment
- Disrupted schooling
- Geographical isolation
- Family/Carer responsibilities
- Disability or medical condition

Eligible if receiving other awards equal to or less than \$6000 pa. Full details of other awards applied for or already approved must be included in application.

## Applications must include:

- **Proof of age**
- **Proof of qualification for and admission to course**
- **Proof of citizenship**
- **Proof of hardship** - Documentation to demonstrate real and enduring financial hardship, (e.g. Centrelink means-tested income support payments,) and evidence of other hardship
- **Academic referee** with contact details (Short listed candidates will be asked to attend an interview and a further personal referee will be requested at this time)
- **A single A4 page summary** of educational history so far and reasons for wanting to attend university and reasons it has proved impossible earlier. What difference do you hope a university education and degree will make to your life and future?

Applications should be addressed to the Scholarships Convener and sent in PDF format to:  
[admin@gwnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@gwnsw.org.au)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 2nd 2026**