

EQUITY Scholarship Program

VIT - Bachelor of Information Technology and Systems (BITS)

VIT aims to ensure that Australians from low socio-economic status backgrounds, who have the ability to study at VIT, get the opportunity to do so, through our Scholarships program.

Equity Scholarships are available for new, first year undergraduates, enrolling in the VIT Bachelor of Information Technology and Systems (ICA70112) who are commencing their studies in 2017 onwards.

We invite eligible prospective VIT students to apply for this opportunity directly with VIT.

Eligible Course (2017)

Bachelor of Information Technology and Systems (ICA70112)

Eligibility / Selection Criteria

Applicants must:

- be an Australian citizen,
- meet all course entry requirements,
- qualify for FEE-HELP,
- be a commencing student studying full-time in Bachelor of Information Technology and Systems (ICA70112) with VIT, commencing in Semester 1, 2017.

You must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- be from a low-income background;
- be experiencing financial hardship;
- be in financial need; or
- be in social disadvantage.

We also take personal hardship into consideration when assessing applications, including:

- personal medical conditions
- disabilities
- dependants with special needs

Categories of EQUITY Scholarship

There are three categories of VIT Equity Scholarship:

1. Difficult Circumstances;
2. Regional and Remote;
3. Disability or Long-Term Medical.

How to apply

All equity scholarship applicants must complete an **Equity Scholarship Application Form - HE**.

For Difficult Circumstances and Disability or Long-Term Medical categories applicants, additional information is required. A **Confidential Statement of Support Form - HE**, must accompany your **Equity Scholarship Application Form - HE**.

For further information, please visit:

www.vit.edu.au/scholarships

All Equity Scholarship applications and queries should be forwarded to the VIT Scholarships Officer:

info@vit.edu.au

All scholarship applications close by Sunday 19th February 2017.

1. Difficult Circumstances Equity Scholarship

In addition to the **Equity Scholarship Application Form - HE**, your application must include a completed **Confidential Statement of Support Form - HE**. This is an external link downloaded from our website and completed as detailed in the form by yourself and a relevant responsible person, unrelated to you, who can verify your circumstance/s.

A responsible person can be a:

- Doctor or health care professional;
- Lawyer;
- Social worker;
- Registered counsellor;
- Religious or community leader;
- Senior University academic;
- School principal/teacher/senior member of school staff.

2. Regional and Remote Areas Equity Scholarship

This category applies if you live or have lived in 2016 in either - Outer Regional (RA3), Remote (RA4) and Very Remote (RA5) of Victoria, as determined by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Areas Locator. Eligibility can be confirmed here:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/otd/Publishing.nsf/Content/locator>

3. Disability or Long-Term Medical Condition

You must provide the following with your **Equity Scholarship Application Form - HE**:

1. A written impact statement describing your disability or medical condition and demonstrating the effect on your educational performance. This statement provides the person assessing your application the information they need to understand the effect of the disadvantage. There is no set form for this statement.
2. You must also submit a **Confidential Statement of Support Form - HE**. This is an external link completed by a relevant health care professional (unrelated to you) who is currently treating you and can verify your circumstance/s.

Number and Value of Scholarships

There are a total of up to 37 VIT BITS Scholarships across the EQUITY and ACADEMIC streams:

- 1 x Full tuition fees (for the full term of study)
- 2 x 50% tuition fees (for the full term of study)
- 4 x 25% tuition fees (for the full term of study)
- 30 x \$3000 one-off bursary amount (payable after successful completion of a student's 1st semester of full time studies only)

An internal committee will determine the distribution of scholarships between the equity and academic streams.

VIT BITS EQUITY Scholarship Conditions

1. As a recipient of the scholarship, you must:
 - a. Continue studies at VIT in all semesters, in line with the individual periods of the awarded scholarship.
 - b. Maintain a full-time study load (usually describes a study load comprising at least four units)
 - c. Maintain satisfactory minimum (Pass) academic performance for all units, or any other specific academic performance standards required for the course.
 - d. Seek your own independent advice from the relevant authorities on the effect, if any, that the Scholarship is likely to have on your eligibility for Government benefits or any taxation implications.
2. Bursary scholarships will be paid at the successful completion of first semester. Payments on remaining scholarships will be made in two instalments for all years' the scholarship is awarded and conditions are met.
3. If you fail to maintain the conditions as outlined in Item 1, without any exceptional circumstances, you may forfeit the scholarship.
4. Scholarships do not apply to 'Cross Institutional Study' undertaken at another institution.
5. The scholarship cannot be deferred.
6. Successful students will be notified in writing and will have five (5) working days to accept a scholarship.
7. Students who take leave of absence (LOA) from their course will forfeit the scholarship and will not normally be eligible to apply for the scholarship when they commence study upon. In exceptional circumstances, VIT may approve continuation of the scholarship on the return from a period of LOA.
8. All scholarships are approved at VIT's discretion and all decisions are final.