EQUITY/MERIT based allocation of Commonwealth Supported Places in the Department of Health Professions - Doctor of Physiotherapy

The University is assigned a limited number of Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for allocation to students, in particular professional postgraduate coursework programs. The number of places available varies from year to year. This policy applies to Commonwealth Supported Places allocated to specified postgraduate coursework programs in the Department of Health Professions. The relevant course is Doctor of Physiotherapy.

Students must be eligible for admission to the degree to be considered for a Commonwealth Supported Place. Students must also meet requirements in one of the three categories below to be eligible for a Commonwealth Supported Place:
• An Australian citizen who will live and study in Australia for the whole course; or
• A New Zealand citizen who will live and study in Australia for the whole course; or
• A permanent visa holder, who will live and study in Australia for the whole course

Places are allocated on (i) MERIT as demonstrated by a student’s academic record and (ii) EQUITY to assist students from particular disadvantaged backgrounds.

If there are more CSPs available than candidates who meet the equity target criteria, the extra places will go into the merit only allocation pool.

MERIT

Students are ranked on the basis of academic performance and offers made to the top ranked students. All applicants are considered for Merit Commonwealth Supported Places.

EQUITY

The Doctor of Physiotherapy will allocate up to 50% of the available CSPs to students on an equity basis that will benefit the students and the professions in which they work. It is hoped that by targeting these groups we can help to:

1) overcome shortages in professional health workers in regional and remote locations and in Indigenous health care settings; and

2) allow people who have suffered educational disadvantage on the basis of financial hardship, or refugee status, to engage with post-graduate education.

The equity groups targeted are currently:
• Indigenous Australian applicants
• Regional or remotely disadvantaged non-indigenous applicants
• Refugees (Permanent Humanitarian visa holders)
• Financial Hardship

Please note that meeting the Equity eligibility criteria does not guarantee that you will be awarded a Commonwealth Supported Place. There are limited Commonwealth Supported Places. As part of a competitive application process, your application will be ranked against the eligibility criteria and Commonwealth Supported places are offered to applicants who best meet the eligibility criteria and are assessed as being in greater need of a CSP.

Documents substantiating educational disadvantage must be lodged with an application for admission. Documentation to be provided varies for each disadvantage.
DEFINITIONS
Macquarie University uses UAC meanings of educational disadvantages.

Indigenous Australian
A person will be considered to be an Indigenous person if they:
• are of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
• identifies as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
• are accepted as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the community in which they live or have lived.

Documents required: A Declaration re Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent will accompany the application (attached).

Regional or remote disadvantage for non-indigenous applicants
A person who, within the two years immediately prior to the start of their current or proposed period of education study, lived in a regional or remote area of Australia for at least 12 months.

Documents required: Documents substantiating your residential (not postal) address in a regional or remote area of Australia for a period of at least 12 months in the two years immediately prior to the start of your current or proposed higher education course of study. Documents must be in your name and may include: bank statements; Centrelink letters; electoral commission enrolment form; utilities bill; phone bill.

Your permanent residence postcode/s will be used to assess whether you lived in a regional or remote area of Australia. Regional or Remote classification will be determined by reference to the Australian Standard Geographic Classification Remoteness Areas classification system (ASGC RA).
Applicants living in areas classified as Outer Regional RA3 will be considered for an equity CSP in this category.

Refugee (Permanent Humanitarian Visa holder)
A person is eligible to be allocated a CSP if they can show that they are a Permanent Humanitarian Visa holder under the Australian Commonwealth Migration Act 1958. The visa must be held at time of application.

Documents required: A certified copy of your passport photo bio page or ImmiCard will be assessed and verified, via VEVO (with the Department of Home Affairs), by the MQU Commonwealth Supported Students Team.

Financial Hardship
A person currently receiving a Centrelink (or other Commonwealth) means-tested income support payment (such as a Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment (Single) or Carer Payment).

Documents required: Centrelink Reference Number, and evidence of funds being provided by Centrelink (either bank statement showing payment from Centrelink OR letter from Centrelink confirming payments).
Complete this form if you wish to be considered for a Commonwealth Supported Place, and upload with your application for admission. This application will be processed if you are eligible for admission to the Doctor of Physiotherapy Course, and you meet the eligibility requirements for a Commonwealth Supported place. You must provide all relevant documents at the time of application for admission to the degree: applications are assessed on the basis of documentation provided with the application.

First Name

Family Name

Macquarie Student Number (if known)

(1) Please tick the relevant box (required):

- [ ] Indigenous Australian
- [ ] Regional or remote disadvantage (for non-indigenous applicants).
- [ ] Permanent Humanitarian Visa holder
- [ ] Financial hardship

(2) Please also outline how your circumstances affect your ability to undertake your chosen area of study (maximum 150 words).

I have attached the relevant documentation to support my claim for the equity category selected.

Signature:

Date:
DECLARATION RE ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DESCENT

Use this declaration if you wish to apply for an Equity CSP as an Australian of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent.

I am of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent; and I identify as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and I am accepted as such by the community in which I live or have lived; and the information given by me or on my behalf on this form is correct and complete.

If successful in my application, I agree to provide Macquarie University with proof of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity.

Options for providing proof:

1. You may provide a letter of recognition of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity signed and bearing the seal of an incorporated Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community organisation.

2. You may provide a letter of recognition from an Indigenous education centre, faculty, school, department or support unit that you are known to the Indigenous staff of that Unit as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student. The letter must be on official letterhead and signed by the head of that Indigenous Unit.

Signature:

Date: