EQUITY/MERIT based allocation of Commonwealth Supported Places in the Master of Clinical Audiology and Master of Speech and Language Pathology

The University is assigned a limited number of Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for allocation to students in professional postgraduate coursework courses.

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

The Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences will allocate a proportion of the available CSPs to commencing Master of Clinical Audiology and Master of Speech and Language Pathology student who can demonstrate equity grounds to support access to education. The Equity groups to be considered are:

**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 Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences 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 to engage with post-graduate education. The equity groups targeted are currently:

- Regional or remotely disadvantaged non-Indigenous applicants
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australian applicants

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.

**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 higher 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. The Australian Standard Geographic Classification Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) system map can be accessed at doctorconnect.gov.au. You can use this tool as a guide for your postcode. All categories other than ‘RA1 – Major Cities of Australia’ are considered to be regional or remote.

**Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australian applicants**

To be eligible the applicant must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in accordance with the Commonwealth definition which requires that the applicant:

- be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; and
- identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and
- be accepted as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in the community in which he/she lives or has lived.

**Documents required:** Proof of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity will accompany this application. Please see the attached declaration.
Postgraduate Coursework – Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP)
Application for Equity based CSP -

Master of Clinical Audiology and Master of Language and Speech Pathology
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 a postgraduate degree within the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences 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):

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australian

Rural or remote disadvantage

(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.

I note that to be eligible for a Commonwealth Supported Place, I must be one of the following:

- 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

Signature

Date
DECLARATION RE ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DESCENT

Use this declaration if you wish to apply for an Equity CSP as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

I declare that I am an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in accordance with the Commonwealth definition as outlined below:

- I am of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; and
- I identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and
- I am accepted as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in the community where I live or have lived.

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 and/or Torres Strait Islander identity.

Options for providing proof:

1. You may provide a letter of recognition of Aboriginal and/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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit.

Signature:

Date: