

Professional development opportunity

HECS scholarships for staff employed within the
Tasmanian education sector¹



Student Profile -

Judith-Anne McDonald, Art Teacher
Master of Art, Design and Environment

What made you decide to undertake postgraduate study?

I'm fairly goal orientated and wanted the stimulation of further study to explore my own talents and become involved in the visual arts scene – to become a practicing, exhibiting artist. Being a Plein Air painter, the Art, Design and Environment program suits my needs because of the wilderness field trips that lead into studio practice.

What do you find most appealing about doing further study?

Many things really - the atmosphere at the Art School is very relaxed; class spaces and the setting of the School, created from historic waterfront warehouses, are terrific to work in; the lecturers are great and offer wonderful ideas; and the course I'm doing is really well organised. I'm inspired by the people – my fellow students and the lecturers.

How do you manage study with your work and other commitments?

School is very supportive in terms of enabling the flexibility for me to meet both teaching and study obligations. Of course, whatever study I do for personal reasons will feed back into my teaching, so the school benefits too. The Art School is also supportive in facilitating flexible arrangements – the lecturers understand the demands on the mature aged student.

What would you say to others thinking of doing postgraduate study at UTAS?

I would say - go for it! It's extremely rewarding on a personal and a professional level. The Head of School will help you to arrange a flexible schedule that combines study with work and family commitments.

Take advantage of a professional or personal development opportunity that provides university study covered by a HECS scholarship, in a choice of more than 100 courses.

Professional or personal development is an ideal way of keeping your knowledge and skills updated, as well as improving your career opportunities - whether you are just beginning your career, an experienced teacher or work in an administrative capacity.

The University of Tasmania (UTAS) is committed to providing ongoing support and learning opportunities for eligible teaching and general staff working in education. This commitment flows through to employees with an initiative that offers HECS scholarships for university study valued at up to \$2,214 per year.

All eligible staff* will be entitled to a HECS scholarship for study of up to 25% of a full-time university load per annum, throughout 2010 and 2011. This may be made up of two 12.5% units or one 25% unit each year².

*How do I qualify for a HECS scholarship?

This opportunity is extended to all teaching and non-teaching staff within the Tasmanian education sector who:

- Are employed by the Department of Education (DOE), Tasmanian Catholic Education Office (TCEO), Tasmanian Academy, Tasmanian Polytechnic or one of many Independent schools¹ throughout the state; and
- are employed on a continuing basis (full-time and part-time) or who are on a fixed-term contract of 12 months or more; and
- will continue to be employed within the sector while undertaking the HECS scholarship units; and
- are eligible for a Commonwealth supported place under the HECS-HELP system (this applies to most people – see www.goingtouni.gov.au for eligibility guidelines).

Which courses can I choose from?

Eligible employees may choose from units in any of the University's undergraduate courses or those postgraduate coursework programs that are offered on a Commonwealth supported basis. Commonwealth Supported Places are available in all undergraduate degrees and many postgraduate programs³. The HECS scholarships can be applied to units undertaken for professional or personal development as well as units undertaken for general interest.

Which courses can I choose from (cont ...)

In addition, UTAS are offering a number of postgraduate courses in areas of strategic importance with full HECS scholarships. This means that eligible staff can study up to a maximum of 100% load per year and the units will all be covered by the HECS scholarship. These courses include a range offer through the UTAS Faculty of Education, as well as some other areas of study including Counselling, Science Education and Creative Arts. The range of courses attracting full (100%) HECS scholarships is available at www.futurestudents.utas.edu.au/course-costs/careeradviserpdopportunities

How do I get started?

There are a number of steps to take in order to get started on your study and HECS scholarship at UTAS:

- Decide which UTAS course you are interested in – if you are unsure, contact the UTAS Info Centre on 1300 363 864 or Course.Info@utas.edu.au for information and course advice.
- Submit your application online at www.utas.edu.au/apply
- Once you have received your offer of a place at UTAS, follow the instructions provided to accept the offer and arrange to attend a Ready for Uni workshop. Here you will receive necessary information and have the opportunity to complete your enrolment for the units you will be studying⁴.
- When completing your enrolment in the UTAS eSTUDENTCENTRE (<http://www.studentcentre.utas.edu.au/enrolments>) you must also complete the HECS scholarship application (accessed via the 'Scholarships' option listed on the side menu). You will be required to enter your name, email address and phone number, as well as your employer name and your staff ID number (to ensure eligibility, the university will verify your name and staff ID with your employer).
- The scholarship deduction will appear on the fees invoice sent to you by UTAS.

Also, staff who have been away from study for a number of years should plan to attend 'UniStart' an introduction to study at UTAS. This four-day course takes place just prior to the start of each semester, and is also available online.

Who can I contact for more information?

UTAS Student Advisers are available to help with course information as well as general information about the University including the HECS scholarships, and also units available by distance or over holiday periods.

To set up a meeting with a Student Adviser, or to seek advice by phone, or email, contact the UTAS Info Centre on 1300 363 864 or email Course.Info@utas.edu.au

Notes:

1. Includes all staff employed by the Tasmanian Department of Education, the Tasmanian Academy, the Tasmanian Polytechnic, Tasmanian Catholic Education Office and those Independent schools with a current Memorandum of Understanding (www.futurestudents.utas.edu.au/mouhecssholarship) with the University of Tasmania.
2. Based on 2010 fees, HECS scholarships for a 25% study load provide a saving of approximately \$1,062 for science or maths units, \$1,327 for education, humanities or creative arts units, \$1,892 for computing or allied health units and \$2,214 for law, business or medicine units.
3. UTAS reserves the right to limit enrolments in high demand units and courses, so act early to avoid disappointment.
4. UTAS reserves the right to amend scholarship allocation against units if necessary for administrative purposes. A maximum of 100% load per year applies for eligible staff studying for professional and/or personal development.

