

Professional development opportunity

HECS scholarships for Department of Education staff



As Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, I want to see Tasmania have the best education system in the world with the highest educational outcomes in the country over the next decade.

The Government is committed to a workforce of highly trained employees with up-to-date knowledge and skills. It supports career advancement and encourages all Tasmanians, including teachers, to undertake professional and personal development.

The State Government and the University of Tasmania recently signed a partnership agreement that highlighted the commitment of both partners in support of ongoing learning. The University has extended this concept by offering eligible Department of Education staff the opportunity to study under a HECS scholarship. The specific details of this offer are outlined in this brochure.

As a graduate myself from the University of Tasmania, I encourage all Department of Education staff to explore the many options available through this offer and take advantage of all opportunities for professional and personal development.

David Bartlett MP
Premier of Tasmania
Minister for Education and Skills

Take advantage of a professional or personal development opportunity that provides university study free of charge, with a choice of more than 100 courses to interest you. Open to all staff.*

Whether you are just beginning your career in education, are an experienced teacher or work in an administrative capacity supporting Tasmania's education system, professional and personal development opportunities are an ideal way of keeping your knowledge and skills updated, as well as improving your career opportunities.

As partners in educating Tasmanians, the University of Tasmania (UTAS) and the Department of Education are committed to a collaboration that prepares and provides ongoing support and learning opportunities for teaching and general staff working in the Department of Education throughout the State. This commitment flows through to all levels of departmental employees – teaching, general and administrative staff – with a new initiative that offers HECS scholarships for university study valued at up to \$2,170 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 2009, 2010 and 2011. This may be made up of two 12.5% units or one 25% unit each year. Additional study may be approved in strategically important disciplines such as mathematics, science, information technology or postgraduate education programs, meaning that some staff may even complete a full course without paying any fees!

***How do I qualify for a HECS scholarship?**

This opportunity is extended to all teaching and general staff of the Department of Education who:

- 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 by the Department of Education 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 Department of Education staff may choose from units in any of the University's 105 undergraduate courses or those postgraduate coursework programs that are offered on a Commonwealth-supported basis. These HECS scholarships apply to units undertaken for professional or personal development as well as units undertaken for general interest. Subject areas in undergraduate programs cover a full range of sciences, humanities, creative arts, business, law, education and more.



Which courses can I choose from? (cont.)

Department of Education staff who opt to undertake any postgraduate course available through the UTAS Faculty of Education will have access to full HECS scholarships (i.e. they can study as many units as appropriate in a year and they will all be HECS-free). Other specialised postgraduate programs for teachers are currently under development in other faculties and will gradually be added to the range of programs attracting the HECS scholarships.

If there is a unit of study that would interest you but the scheduling doesn't fit your timetable, or if you have any other suggestions that you feel would be of value to employees in the Department of Education, UTAS would welcome your feedback. You can email the Uni Info Centre with your suggestions to Course.Info@utas.edu.au

How do I get started?

UTAS staff are available to help with course advice, as well as general information about the University including which units are available by distance or over holiday periods. Contact the Uni Info Centre to set up a meeting with a Student Adviser, seek advice by phone or email to find out more about your options.

UTAS Info Centre Phone: **1300 363 864**
Email: **Course.Info@utas.edu.au**

If you already know your preferred course of study, complete an online application at **www.utas.edu.au/apply**

Once you have received and accepted an offer and completed your UTAS enrolment, register for the HECS scholarship by contacting the Uni Info Centre on 1300 363 864, quoting your Department of Education employee number, before your class commences.

Who can I contact for more information?

For more information about the HECS scholarships for Department of Education staff, contact the Uni Info Centre on 1300 363 864 or email Course.Info@utas.edu.au

- Notes:
- Based on 2009 fees, HECS scholarships for a 25% study load provide a saving of approximately \$1,040 for science, maths or education units, \$1,300 for humanities or creative arts units, \$1,850 for computing or IT units and \$2,170 for law, business or medicine units.
 - The HECS scholarships offer is valid for study until 31 December 2011.
 - UTAS reserves the right to limit enrolments in high demand units and courses, so act early to avoid disappointment.