

# Co-op Program Scholarship

## Eligibility

The Co-op Program is open to **High School leavers** who are:

- Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents
- New Zealand Citizens
- Humanitarian visa holders or

Students can apply after a Gap year (max. 2 Gap years) however please note that if they commence a university degree or undertake any university study towards a degree during their Gap year they will become ineligible for a Co-op Scholarship. Some exemptions apply, e.g. accelerated high school subjects including HS1917, studying at a yeshiva, etc.

## Academic

To accept a 2026 Co-op scholarship, as a minimum, students will need to gain entry into the chosen degree program at UNSW, achieve a minimum of 96 ATAR or equivalent (only [Educational Access Scheme \(EAS\)](#) adjustment factors considered for this requirement).

For example: Entry to the Bachelor of Actuarial Studies Co-op programs in 2025 was 99 (or equivalent). This means that the applicant needs to achieve a 99 ATAR only EAS adjustment factors. So if they got 96, but the cut-off was 99, then their conditional offer for a Co-op Scholarship will lapse.

If taking a gap year, students need to reapply in 2026 and meet 2027 entry requirements.

## Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Gateway Students

As a Career Development Program, we understand the enormous richness & value that comes from diversity and recognise that ATAR is not the only indicator of a student's potential. For students identifying with any of these cohorts the Co-op Program considers an adjusted minimum ATAR of 90.

Up to 4 places for Gateway recognized students + Up to 4 places for Indigenous students achieving a 90+ ATAR (including EAS points only)

- All other components of the application process remain the same
- Students must still gain entry to UNSW degree
- To utilise this pathway Indigenous students will be required to provide proof of their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity and heritage to Nura Gili for confirmation.

Please see the website for further information: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/co-op-program/apply-now>

## Degree

Co-op is available in programs across the Business School, Engineering & Science faculties. In the Business School the Co-op degrees have specific [UAC codes](#), all other streams use the same UAC code as the standalone degree. Students will not be able to accept their scholarship through the flexible first year engineering program or a combined degree program.

## Personal qualities

Co-op scholars are passionate, motivated, and ambitious. We look for students with excellent communication skills, motivation, and leadership potential. An understanding of the industry they are applying for is important, along with the ability to demonstrate responsibility, commitment, and resilience. This Program is for students who thrive on challenges, appreciate the opportunities presented to them, make the most of every situation and commit to seeing things through to the end.

## Interests and aptitude

We are looking for students who get involved in a wide range of activities, are ambitious and keen to contribute. Our scholars demonstrate significant and sustained achievements outside of the classroom and can balance their academic, extracurricular, and social pursuits. They care about what is happening in the community, country, and the world at large and are looking to make a positive social impact. Students should have a genuine interest in a career in industry or a government enterprise in their chosen program.

## Co-op Application Online

Students should [register in the system and start an application](#) to receive reminders/important updates throughout the application period.

## Questions

What is it that most attracts you to the UNSW Co-op Program and the academic field(s) which you have chosen?

1. **Extracurricular Activities** (inside and outside of school)
2. **Learnings.** Describe what you gained/learned with specific reference to your most important activity or activities that you have participated in within the last two years. Do not just provide a list of activities or learnings.
3. **Personal Development.** What do you regard as your strengths and areas for improvement?
4. **Leadership/Teamwork.** Tell us about a situation where you were effective as a leader and/or as a team player. Describe how you either significantly influenced others, helped solve disputes, or contributed to the effective operation of/successful outcome of the team.
5. **Decision Making or Problem Solving.** Drawing on your experience or involvement in a part-time job, community, or school activity, describe how you overcame a challenging situation and what you learnt from the experience.
6. **Involvement and/or achievement in the workplace.** Describe your involvement and/or achievement in the workplace and/or designing, building, programming, or creating something. Your example might relate to recent work experience, a part time job or a major non-school based project you have undertaken. You might choose to highlight your creativity; the ability to see alternatives; come up with many varied or original ideas; or willingness to try/learn new things.
7. **After Graduation.** Tell us about a time when you made a mistake or suffered a setback in school, sports, or a personal goal and had to keep going. What happened, what did you learn and how would you approach the situation differently in the future?
8. **Personal Qualities.** What personal qualities do you have that will help you make the most of the Co-op Program's career development opportunities?

Access the [Registration Tutorial](#) here.

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For further questions, please contact the Co-op Office on:

E: [cooprog@unsw.edu.au](mailto:cooprog@unsw.edu.au) | T: (02) 9385 5116