Mount Gambier and District
Tertiary Health Education Grants Program

The Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants have been offered every year since 2007 as a response to meeting essential skills shortages within the local health sector. The program supports students who need to leave the region in order to undertake specific university studies within the health sector and seeks to encourage their return to the region as skilled health professionals upon completion of their studies.

Each year, up to 12 grants are made available to new or continuing students. Funds are provided through a unique community partnership consisting of individuals, commercial and community oriented groups, including City of Mount Gambier, District Council of Grant, UFS Chemist, Flinders Rural Health SA, Mount Gambier and District Community Bank, Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes and Ken and Carol Stafford.

The grant is available to applicants for use towards supporting their tertiary studies such as travel, accommodation, text books, uniforms, selection tests and communication.

Eligibility Criteria

The Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grant, valued at $2,000 per student, will be offered, conditional upon applicants meeting the following criteria:

- Applicants must have resided in the City of Mount Gambier or the District Council of Grant for a minimum of two years.

- Applicants must be undertaking full or part time studies with a recognised Australian university located outside of the Mount Gambier area, or are required to travel for mandatory placements for their studies outside of the Mount Gambier area.

- Students must be commencing or continuing universities studies in either an internal, external or mixed mode study program, in any of the following identified skill areas:
  o Medicine
  o Pharmacy
  o Dentistry
  o Allied health (including but not limited to occupational therapy, speech therapy, dietetics, podiatry, physiotherapy)
  o Midwifery
  o Psychology
  o Paramedicine
  o Registerd nursing specialties (including but not limited to mental health, diabetes educator, stomal and continence)
  o Other related health programs where there is an identified skill shortage in the Mount Gambier district

- Part time students must be enrolled in a minimum of 50% or more of a full time study load.

- If required, applicants must be willing to participate in an interview (in person or virtual) as part of the selection process.

- Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia.

- No age restrictions apply.

Terms and conditions

- The total value of the grant is $2,000 per student, and will be paid after the first Census date (31 March) to the successful applicants.

- The grant provides financial assistance for essential study-related expenses, including textbooks, uniforms, accommodation and travel costs. Grant funds must not be used for personal or non-educational purposes, such as gym memberships, entertainment, or other unrelated expenses. Misuse of funds may result in repayment of funds.

- Whilst a recipient may apply more than once, priority will be given to first time applicants.

- The grant cannot be deferred.

- Selected applicants will be made the offer of a grant in writing, subject to the following terms and conditions, whereby the applicant must agree to:

  - provide details of any other scholarships or financial assistance received by the applicant for the current year, by the date specified in the letter of offer.

  - assist with the ongoing promotion of the grant program and its acceptance within the wider community by "showcasing" to the community the benefits derived from being a grant recipient,

  - assist in the development of the grant program for future years by meeting with the Community Management Group; and

  - submit a recipients statement by 30 September detailing how the grant has been utilised and the progression of their studies.

- Providing the applicant agrees to accept the above terms and conditions, a grant of $2,000 will then be made available.

- The selection panel will make a decision on the merits of each application and based on established priorities. There may be no feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

The selection panel reserves the right to offer all or none of the grants, subject to the suitability of applications received.

Lodgement details and closing dates

- This application form and all supporting documentation should be returned no later than 31 March to city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- The successful applicants will be notified by May.

- Further information is available by contacting the Tertiary Health Education Grants Officer on (08) 8721 2555.

- All information you provide in this application will be treated as confidential.

PLEASE NOTE:
Acceptance of the grant may put at risk eligibility for receipt of other scholarships (eg Smith Family Learning for Life Scholarship). It remains the responsibility of the recipient to ensure eligibility requirements for other scholarships or grants are met.

Grants may, in some instances, be counted as income against Youth Allowance or other forms of government assistance payments. Similarly, students may be eligible for tax exemptions for scholarships. We therefore recommend applicants seek independent financial and taxation advice.

Application Form

Applicant Details

First names:		Surname:	

Date of birth:		Gender:	

Australian Citizen:	Yes	No	Permanent Resident:	Yes	No

Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander:	Yes	No	Prefer not to say

Telephone:		Mobile:	

Email:	

Address in Mount Gambier and District:

Suburb:		State:		Postcode:	

Length of time that you have lived in either the City of Mount Gambier or District Council of Grant:

Address during tertiary study (if different from above):

Suburb:		State:		Postcode:	

Study Details

Note: A copy of the applicants enrolment summary / confirmation must be submitted with this application.

Course(s) of study:	

Qualification being undertaken:	

University:		Campus:	

Full time study	Part time study	If part time, percentage of full time study:	%

Which year of study will you be undertaking?		Expected Year of Graduation:	

Does your course require you to relocate from Mount Gambier or leave the region for mandatory placements?	Yes	No

If yes, please provide further details on the required relocation or travel.	

Will you be receiving funding support, such as the Commonwealth Prac Payment, for any mandatory placements or similar requirements in your course?	Yes	No

If yes, please provide details of the funding support you will be receiving.	

Personal Statement

Describe your ties to Mount Gambier and District.

How would receipt of this grant improve your circumstances as a student?

What is your interest in rural health and how will you contribute after you graduate?

What are your career goals following graduation?

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

How did you find out about this grant program? *Check the relevant boxes*

Newspapers   Social media   Radio   School   University   Council website

Other   _____

Referee Statements

Two written referee statements are required to support your eligibility for this grant. <u>Referees cannot be related to the applicant</u>. Recommended referees include a teacher, school principal, lawyer, social worker, religious or community leader, employer, Justice of the Peace (JP).

Referees must address the following criteria:

Referee 1 study/work capabilities
Referee 2 personal reference

Completed referee statements must be attached and returned with this application.

Referee 1 – Study/work capabilities

Name:	
Postal address:	

Suburb:		State:		Postcode:	

Telephone:		Mobile	

Connection to applicant:	

Referee 2 – Personal reference

Name:	
Postal address:	

Suburb:		State:		Postcode:	

Telephone:		Mobile	

Connection to applicant:	

Supporting documentation

The supporting documentation listed below **must** submitted with this application.
Incomplete applications may be deemed ineligible.

☐ Enrolment Summary / Confirmation   ☐ Referee 1 Statement

☐ Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2x A4 pages)   ☐ Referee 2 Statement

Applicant Declaration

I declare that the information I have supplied about my circumstances is true and complete and acknowledge that should this information be found to be incorrect, any grant awarded to me may be withdrawn. If further details are required to support this application, I authorise the City of Mount Gambier to obtain this information from educational and other sources as required.

Signature of applicant: _____   Date: _____