



INSPIRING MINDS

2019-20 IMPACT REPORT

The Inspiring Minds Scholarship program attracts the brightest students to Edith Cowan University.

At ECU, we believe that financial adversity should not exclude anyone from taking part in education.

Through the Inspiring Minds Scholarship program, we strive to minimise the impact of a person's financial position on their ability to study and achieve their ambitions.

We aim to provide as many opportunities as possible for people to study with us

through scholarships, and Inspiring Minds is a wonderful example of improving equity in higher education.

Thanks to your generous support, in 2019 we awarded 18 Inspiring Minds Scholarships, valued at \$54,000.

Thank you for believing in and supporting our students.

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ECUWORLDREADY.COM.AU —



FUNDING STREAMS

Two special funds within the Inspiring Minds Scholarship program have been created to recognise students displaying outstanding academic excellence and endeavour, as well as those whose learning journey has so far not been an easy one.

EQUITY

ECU is proud to be continuously working on the enhancement and development of alternative entry pathways to higher education. We are Western Australia's university of opportunity, committed to attracting and supporting the best students, regardless of their background or circumstances.

We want to offer more scholarships to allow students the opportunity to study, and to remove any barriers due to their financial position. These scholarships can allow students to enhance their studies by buying textbooks to do further reading, travelling overseas to apply their learning in another culture, or simply ease the day-to-day financial burden of being a student.

By supporting the Inspiring Minds Equity Scholarships program, you are helping more of our students to realise their ambitions.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

We want to attract not only the brightest students to ECU but to focus on projects which offer most benefit to Western Australia.

ECU's graduate research students, whether they are studying for a Masters or PhD, are the thought leaders of the future. They are applying knowledge, solving problems and engaging with strategic issues of importance to ECU and our communities. They inspire others to aim high in their studies.

A scholarship for a graduate research student will ease the financial burden of every day costs, including rent, accommodation, textbooks and commuting. It will also allow students to focus on their research rather than have to supplement their income by working or studying part time.



AMY SHERIDAN

Bachelor of Science (Paramedical Science)

I was fantastically surprised when I received the email from student administration regarding the Inspiring Minds Equity Scholarship. When I read that I had been selected, I felt absolutely elated to be offered this amazing support in my studying journey. Never in my life have I been given such an amazing gift and I am honoured to accept it.

I am so very appreciative to the donors and their generosity. I would love to explain what I have used the scholarship money for.

\$2,427.50 – was paid off my student higher education loan (HELP debt).

Being a mature age student and already having a daughter, I often feel as though time is against me. My growing student debt is a large stress that lives in the back of my mind and a hindrance to my goals. Reducing my student debt is so important to myself and my future in raising my daughter. My goals are to immediately start full-time work following the completion of my bachelor degree, be able to purchase a safer, more reliable vehicle to transport my daughter in and eventually to buy a house for us to live in. To be able to achieve these goals, I need to keep my debt minimal.

Attending university was something I never thought was possible for me. Deciding to go for it and being accepted to study was both exciting and scary. Being a single mother and a full-time student is absolutely the most challenging thing I have ever done. My daughter absolutely changed my life for the better and everything I do is for her. I want a better life for her, for the both of us. I am working hard to achieve good grades, whilst balancing time with my family.

Financially, I struggle to get by. Any additional university expense I am not able to allocate to my student debt, I have had to borrow from my wonderful mum. This is not something I like to do as she is a pensioner and living out her retirement years. These expenses include my laptop, paramedic uniform (including epaulettes & name badge), safety boots, medical science university shirt, immunisations, required certificate expenses, student parking permits, university bag and study supplies.

The remaining \$572.50 – was paid to my mother, significantly reducing my debt to her for these items that allowed me to study over the past year.

Every cent of this scholarship has been utilised for relieving my study debt and helping me to continue forward with my education. I feel so lucky, and so grateful. Please see the attached picture of myself and my daughter Lara and know the positive change you have made in our lives.





BREANNE JONES

Bachelor of Education (Primary)

I am writing to thank you for your generous Inspiring Minds scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship and recognised for my academic excellence.

I am currently majoring in Primary Education with hopes of becoming a primary school teacher. I am also a full-time parent of two young children. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me by assisting with paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying and my pursuit of high grades and academic excellence.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise to continue to work hard and give back to others.



CIARÁN SALINGER

Bachelor of Science (Exercise and Sports Science)

I wish to thank you with a kind heart for your generous donation towards my Inspiring Minds Scholarship. I cannot begin to express how much this means to me and how much it will assist me coming to the end of degree.

As I live away from my family in Ireland and I work casual, I focus on my studies to the best of my ability. To be a successful recipient of this scholarship is a genuine honour and I am very thankful. This scholarship allows me to solely focus on the successful completion of my degree. Your continued support toward future ECU students would most definitely benefit.



COOPER PRUNSTER

Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

I would like to extend an enormous thank you to the donors of the Inspiring Minds Scholarship. It was an incredible moment in my life when I was informed that I would be the recipient of the scholarship. For a 20 year old country boy who has moved to Perth, I could only dream of being a scholarship recipient but thanks to you that dream has become a reality. I remember applying for the scholarship and having no expectation about actually receiving it but I will never forget the moment I found out I was the recipient.

Driving home from prac, stuck in peak hour traffic I saw the alert come through on my watch and when the shock was over and reality had set in I remember putting my favourite song on in the car and I basically danced the whole way home I was so happy.

Having spent a lot of time away from my family who live in the country this scholarship will assist me in being able to afford to go home and visit more frequently. Not only that, it has allowed me to purchase a brand-new set of tools that I can use as a Design and Technology teacher. Again, it was only ever a dream to own a good quality set of tools but now it is possible and I am truly thankful for that.

Whilst buying a new set of tools, being able to visit my family and reduce my HECS debt may not directly improve my grades at university, the scholarship has allowed me to do things that would have been nearly impossible without the money. So, to each and every donor of the scholarship I thank you dearly for this incredible gift. It has changed my life and I will be forever grateful for you and the Inspiring Minds Scholarship.





CRISTINA L. URQUIZO

Bachelor of Commerce

I was very happy to be the lucky recipient of this year's prestigious Inspiring Minds Scholarship.

To improve my career aspirations I decided to complete a Bachelors Degree and this is one big challenge I intend to achieve. Receiving this scholarship will enable me to purchase a much needed new laptop.

Thank you again for your investment in the Inspiring Minds Scholarship at Edith Cowan University and students like me. I hope to give back to the university someday and help a student reach their educational goals in the future.



FRANCES RAVEN

Bachelor of Arts

I want to thank you beyond words. This scholarship has lifted an enormous weight off my shoulders and has enabled me to dedicate more time to my studies and to apply myself beyond what would have been possible on my own.

The impact it has had on my university life, and my career, has been huge. With this scholarship I have been lucky enough to cover much of my costs of living which has, in turn, made it possible to save enough to finally transition from public transport, to owning a car of my own. The freedom that this gives me is incredible. With the decrease in travel time I've been able to pick up more work with the Museum of Western Australia, and I've had more time to study and complete assignments. I do not doubt that this scholarship has catapulted me forward on my career path.

On a more personal note, the impact that this scholarship has had on my mental health has been immeasurable. I'm able to relax, I don't have to stress over bills and rent. I no longer have to plan my public transport journey- I'm able to pack up and drive anywhere at a moment's notice. I've been getting out more, going for walks more, and enjoying the peace that this has given me.

I can't thank you enough for your generosity and kindness. This Scholarship has changed so many things for me. I hope in the future I will be able to donate to this scholarship myself, it is a fantastic initiative and I hope it continues to change lives as it undoubtedly changed mine.



IVA UREMOVIC

Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

I am sincerely thankful for being selected as the recipient of the Inspiring Minds scholarship. Looking after a toddler, working part-time, and studying has not been an easy schedule and I cannot begin to tell you the difference the scholarship has made to both my life and my son's life. However, what I can tell you is thank you so much for offering hope and help to those who need it the most. I aim to pay this privilege forward in the future when I finish my degree, and I will never forget what you have done for me.



JAKE MCLAREN

Bachelor of Computer Science

I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude – this scholarship has helped me enormously! I've pretty much always had the cloud of financial stress hovering over me, and this semester in particular I have been really struggling to make ends meet.

Because of you, I am finally able to buy a laptop suitable for my computer science degree, and I'm going to be able to afford my textbooks for once, with no stress about where the money will come from. I finally feel like I am actually prepared for my degree, rather than just struggling to keep up.

More than anything, I'm thankful for your kindness in helping me and other struggling students with their finances – it makes a huge difference, and I feel so motivated now to commit more than ever to my studies now that I have the right tools, and much less of the stress. Thank you so, so much.

I promise to put this scholarship to good use, and to try to be the best student possible.



JASMIN HARDIE

Bachelor of Music

I would like to thank everyone who was involved with the scholarship process. This includes the donors, whom without you this would not be possible, and the university staff, who work tirelessly to provide students with support.

Receiving the Inspiring Minds Scholarship has aided me in ways that I wouldn't have foreseen. I no longer have general stresses or worries when it comes to the everyday expenses like rent and groceries that I had no support with beforehand.

Days before receiving the scholarship I sprained my back and was unable to play my instrument to my full capacity. This is an injury that has happened before and often goes ignored, affecting my long term health. With your help I was able to see a physiotherapist who gave me exercises to improve my ongoing issues.

With the help of this scholarship I am considering the possibility of flying to Queensland for Christmas to see my family. This is something that I have not done all year and I think it would have a very good impact.

I am now able to afford the necessary resources I need to be able to play my instrument (reeds, mouthpiece, music, etc.) and am able to hire an accompanist for my end of year recital.

Without your support I would be struggling to make it day by day and would be worried about the long-term effects it would have on my degree and life. This scholarship has made a world of difference and I am so grateful that there are people willing to support students like me.





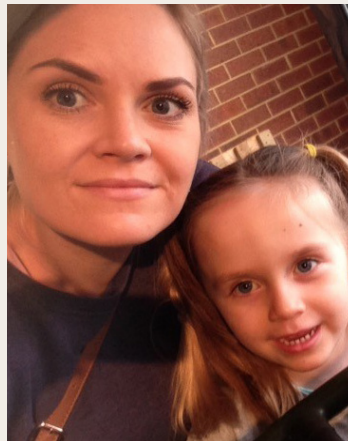
MEGAN RAYNER

Bachelor of Social Work

I would firstly like to thank you for the generous contribution you make towards supporting the students at Edith Cowan University.

Everyone has the right to an education; Nelson Mandela stated, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I thank you for your contributions to making education more accessible to all people.

I cannot explain how excited I was to be awarded this scholarship, not only to reduce some financial pressure and stress, but I was also proud to be awarded a scholarship in the first place. The support you provide can be truly life-changing and has provided me with extra strength to keep moving through my degree.



MORGAN DAVIES

Bachelor of Education (Primary)

I would like to take this opportunity to truly thank you for the very generous scholarship which has been awarded to me. The scholarship winnings have greatly assisted the financial burden going into my third-year practicum and will also assist with my final year needs. I am a sole parent to an almost 4-year-old child and the added costs of having her in full-time daycare throughout prac, in particular, is a cost which adds additional pressure to our lifestyle, this money allows me to focus more effectively on my studies.

I chose this particular course of study (BA in Education-Primary) because I am keen to work in the education system to both set myself and my daughter up for a bright future, but also because it is a career path of intrinsic interest to myself, being involved in shaping the future generations of Australian children and their prospects.

This scholarship has also come at a great time as after almost 3 long years of fulltime study commitments it has boosted my drive and determination moving forward into my fourth and final year of study.

I knew that university was going to be hard, being that I didn't finish high school or partake in any TEE subjects, however I am so delighted I chose this path and am grateful to all of the scholarship donors for providing this much needed financial assistance to students like myself who are working hard to create a better life for themselves and their families in the face of adversity.



PAIGE KENNEY

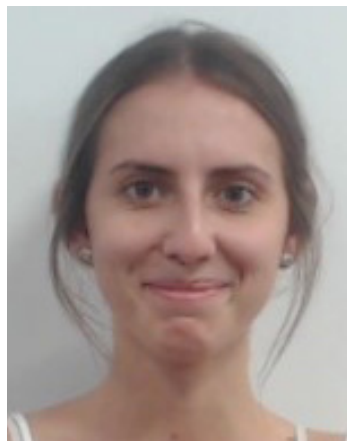
Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science)

I would like to start off with a huge thank you for your generosity of this scholarship, and I am truly grateful for being so lucky to be selected.

It has been a terribly hard last few years since beginning my study, as I cared for my Nan after she suffered a severe stroke in 2016. Nan sadly passed away on the 23rd of August 2019, the family and myself had had a tough time grieving as she was a huge part of the family, and an elder in the community. This came at a time when I lost one Auntie to cancer, a Cousin to suicide, and a close friend and colleague to domestic violence. It has been a sad and difficult time.

And it is because of such generosity and kindness, that I have enormous gratitude to be able to say Thank you. This scholarship has already taken a huge weight off my shoulders, and going into my third year of exams has been tough, but the Inspiring Minds Scholarship has made studying significantly easier, and my past, present and future doesn't seem as daunting as it once was.

As a proud Noongar Yamatji Woman, I hope to be a pioneer in my field of study and further research, and a role model to all those around me. I have big plans for my future self; hopefully completing my Masters in microbiology & immunology or forensic science and then further onto a PhD. These dreams aren't so distant now. And I cannot thank ECU enough.



ROMINEE GODDARD

Bachelor of Science (Nursing)

Hello my name is Rominee Goddard and I am writing this letter to thank you all greatly for awarding me this year's prestigious Inspiring Minds Scholarship. Receiving this award means so much to me and will help me significantly in my capability to continue my studies at Edith Cowan University.

Throughout my time at ECU I have faced a number of stressors and burden related to financial difficulties, this award will take a great deal of that weight off my shoulders and assist for my future. It means a great deal to have that support from the donors of this award to help me achieve my goals and assist with me reducing my cost of living which would allow me more time to focus on completing this course to the best of my ability and reduce my working hours throughout the rest of my time at ECU.





SARAH FRANCIS

Bachelor of Arts (Dance)

I would just like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart, this scholarship has been able to help me pay for rent and food for the duration of my last semester of university. During this time my vision changed and I had to change my contact lenses (OrthoK- correction lenses) at the cost of \$316, I would like to say thank you for helping me pay for them so I can have 20/20 vision. This scholarship has been a god sent blessing for me, a miracle, that came at the perfect time and I cannot thank you enough! Because of this money I was able to go home to visit my nana and pop once I finished my assignments, and they are doing well, my nana still has a few months recovery from her eye surgery but it was fantastic to be able to see them, without you I wouldn't of been able to afford the fuel money to get me home and back, so thank you so much.

With the remainder of this money, hopefully \$1000, I will put it towards a performance project to be performed in Perth, perhaps at the Fringe Festival 2021, if I can get more funding through government grants. If not I will use it for career development in Australia, before trying again. (if I don't use it for food, rent and fuel beforehand).

Thank you again, without your generous support I don't know how I would of gotten through these last couple of months.



VANESSA BROWN

Bachelor of Social Work

Thank you so much for this scholarship, I was truly humbled and blown away when I received the email informing me. It gave me a much needed confidence boost, to know that someone thought I was worthy of receiving this scholarship. As a full time student and a sole parent, funds are tight and I was just making do with an old laptop that constantly crashed, and a printer that seemed to run out of ink every time I turned it on. I now have a much faster, and reliable laptop and a printer with amazing ink efficiency. I also purchased some noise cancelling headphones to allow me to listen to things on the go. The amount I have left has been placed in a savings account to help me pay for travel and accommodation when I need to go to the South West campus for my intensive units. Thank you once again, I will never forget this generosity, and hope to pay it forward one day!



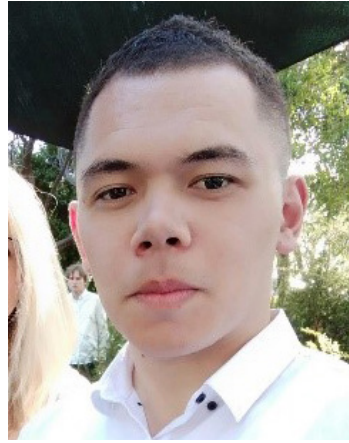
VICTORIA OLIVER

Bachelor of Science (Nursing)

I want to thank you for your kind donation to help me achieve my dreams in becoming a Nurse. This scholarship means more to me than you will ever know. I am a single mother to a 2-year-old, work part time and study full time, whilst also a carer of a family member who is terminally ill. This scholarship has meant I can afford those text books that I would have hired from the library or read online, I have also been able to update my laptop giving me the ability to keep up to date with my assignments and lectures with a modern fast laptop. I have been able to put the money towards uniforms as well that I will need next semester for my 3rd lot of practicum.

Words can not even begin to describe my gratitude to you.

It's the simplest things, like treating my daughter to a trip out, without having to stress or worry that I can't afford to treat her knowing I have books and uniforms etc to pay for. Thank you so much, I will always remember your generosity.



WADE FEPULEA'I

Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the donor/s of the Inspiring Minds scholarship program. I thank you, not only the contribution you have made to my own education, but I also thank you for the concern you have for providing equal opportunity in our community. I will not forget your generosity, and one day I hope to be in the position in which I can emulate your example and give back to community just as you have done.



THANK YOU

Your gift to the Inspiring Minds Scholarships Fund, whether for Research Excellence or Equity, makes a difference to the lives of our students and helps them to realise their ambitions.

Donations of all sizes are vital, as even the smallest donation can be joined with others to create full scholarships.

If you are interested in joining the Inspiring Minds Giving Program, or would like to increase your donation, please get in contact with us.

DONATE ONLINE

ecu.edu.au/giving-to-ecu

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DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

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