

# DECYP Speech Pathology Scholarship Guidelines

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The DECYP Speech Pathology Scholarship aims to assist speech pathology students to complete their studies and establish their career in Tasmania. The scholarship provides \$25,000 to help meet the costs associated with studying an accredited speech pathology program at an Australian university.

Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) speech and language pathologists play a key role in supporting students' communication and learning. DECYP is committed to supporting the education, training and careers of speech pathologists and other allied health professionals in Tasmania.

## 1 Who is eligible for the scholarship?

The scholarship is available to students who are:

- currently enrolled in their final year of an accredited speech pathology entry to practice program at an Australian university and expect to complete all requirements of their course in 2024; and
- can demonstrate they will be eligible for employment as a DECYP Speech and Language Pathologist after they have successfully completed their studies by meeting the essential requirements including Working with Vulnerable People registration, satisfying a pre-employment check and the right to work in Australia.

## 2 How do I apply?

Eligible students are encouraged to apply for a permanent Graduate Speech and Language Pathologist position that will be advertised on the Tasmanian Government Jobs web site ([www.jobs.tas.gov.au](http://www.jobs.tas.gov.au)). The advertisement will invite you to apply for the scholarship at the same time as you apply for a position.

Scholarships will be awarded, based on merit, to eligible students who are deemed suitable for employment through [DECYP's merit-based employment selection process](#). There are limited places, and an offer of employment does not guarantee that you will be awarded a scholarship.

To find out more please contact [ls.ss@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:ls.ss@decyp.tas.gov.au)

## 3 What are the conditions of the scholarship?

Successful applicants will be asked to sign an Agreement with DECYP that sets out the terms and conditions of your scholarship. This includes the requirement to complete a minimum of two years' employment as a DECYP Speech and Language Pathologist in a specified region, including a six month probation period. You will be asked to indicate your employment region preference when you complete your online job application.

Please note: You cannot be in receipt of the Tasmanian Department of Health Allied Health Scholarship concurrent with the DECYP Speech Pathology Scholarship. Also, you will be required to repay any scholarship funding you have received if you fail to meet the conditions of the scholarship, as set out in the Agreement.

## 4 How is scholarship funding paid?

As a scholarship recipient you will receive \$25,000 to support the costs of your study. You must accept an offer of employment and sign the Scholarship Agreement to receive the first payment in your final year of study.

Scholarship funding will be provided in 3 payments as follows:

1. \$5,000 on accepting an offer of employment as a DECYP Speech and Language Pathologist *and* signing the Scholarship Agreement.
2. \$10,000 on commencement of employment.
3. \$10,000 on completion of two years' service as a DECYP Speech and Language Pathologist, including a six-month probation period.

Please note:

- Scholarship payments will be made by direct electronic funds transfer into your nominated bank account.
- No tax will be withheld by DECYP from your scholarship funding payments.
- The superannuation guarantee does not apply to your scholarship funding.
- Scholarship funding may have implications in respect of taxation and any financial benefits or obligations that you have (such as allowances from, or liabilities to, the Commonwealth).
- You are responsible for any tax implications in relation to your scholarship funding.
- DECYP recommends that you seek financial advice from an appropriately qualified adviser in respect of the taxation implications of the scholarship payments.

## 5 What are the conditions of employment as a DECYP Speech & Language Pathologist?

The terms and conditions of your employment will be detailed in your letter of offer. The letter will include an anticipated commencement date to be negotiated during the selection process. As a scholarship recipient you are expected to commence employment as a DECYP Speech and Language Pathologist as soon as feasible following completion of your course. Relocation assistance is available if required. Please discuss your personal circumstances with the Clinical Education Lead – Speech and Language Pathology.

Your offer of employment will be conditional on meeting the essential requirements for the position. You will need to provide evidence that you meet all requirements to confirm your commencement date (detailed above). Your letter of completion from your university, issued when your results are finalised, is required to confirm that you have completed your course requirements.

### *Probation*

Your ongoing employment will be subject to successful completion of an initial six-month probation period. If you fail your probation or do not complete 2 years of service as a DECYP Speech and Language Pathologist, you will be required to repay your scholarship funding as set out in the Agreement.

### *Leave*

You will receive all leave entitlements in accordance with the relevant industrial Award and Agreement. When you request leave you will be advised whether there will be any impact on your 2 years' service requirement, depending on your personal circumstances and type of leave.

Requests for leave without pay will be considered in exceptional circumstances only, in line with Departmental policy. Please note that any period of leave without pay will result in a pro rata extension to your 2 years of service.

### *Part time employment*

Requests for part time employment will be considered by DECYP on a case-by-case basis. There is a minimum requirement of 0.6 full time equivalent employment for Scholarship recipients.

You can find out more about working with DECYP on [our web site](#). You can also read a [story about a new graduate](#) who achieved her goal to have an adventure and start her career at the same time by moving to Tasmania to become a DECYP Speech and Language Pathologist.

## **6 What if I don't complete my course as anticipated?**

DECYP seeks to employ committed students who will endeavour to complete their course in the minimum timeframe set down by the education provider. If you are considering taking a leave of absence from your studies after accepting your offer of employment, please be aware that DECYP may not agree to delay your employment commencement date. You may also be required to repay your first scholarship payment.

The Department recognises that completion of all requirements for graduation may occur outside the usual timeframe. You should contact the Clinical Education Lead – Speech and Language Pathology as soon as possible for advice about your options, your employment commencement date, and the potential impact on your Scholarship.