



## Destination Australia Program Scholarships – Applicant Terms and Conditions

### **1.0 ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE**

1.1 The Destination Australia Program was established to:

1.1.1 Financially support students from Australia and overseas to undertake high quality education and training in regional and rural Australia; and

1.1.2 Increase awareness of the benefits of living, studying and working in regional and rural Australia.

1.2 The Destination Australia Program is funded by the Australian Federal Government and managed by the Commonwealth Department of Education.

1.3 RMEA is administering these scholarships on behalf of the Destination Australia Program.

1.4 Each Scholarship provides \$15,000/student/year to meet the costs associated with relocating, living and studying in regional Australia.

### **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

2.1 “Applicant” means a person who applies for a Destination Australia Program Scholarship with RMEA by completing and submitting a RMEA Destination Australia Program application form in accordance with the Application Process.

2.2 “Application Assessment Committee or Panel” means a panel comprised of a RMEA representative from the teaching discipline, a RMEA Student Services representative to assess Applicants on their application form.

2.3 “Application Process” means the process set out in clause 3.0 of these Terms and Conditions as amended or varied by RMEA from time to time in its sole discretion.

2.4 “Approval” means an Applicant has been successful in meeting:

(i) the course entry requirements to become a Student of RMEA; and

(ii) all requirements of the RMEA Destination Australia Program Scholarship, and

will subsequently be granted a Destination Australia Program Scholarship.

2.5 “Destination Australia Program Scholarship” means a Scholarship to the value of \$15,000 per year, for a maximum of 18 months, awarded by RMEA in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.

2.6 “Destination Australia Program Scholarship Application” means an application for a RMEA Destination Australia Program Scholarship made by an Applicant in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.

2.7 “Destination Australia Program Scholarship Application Form” means the application form which must be completed by an Applicant and which is available at: [www.ruralmeded.org.au](http://www.ruralmeded.org.au)

2.8 “Destination Australia Program Scholarship Offer and Acceptance Form” means the form which is issued by RMEA and must be completed by the Eligible Applicant.

2.9 “Eligible Applicant” means an Applicant who meets the eligibility criteria for the award of a Scholarship as set out in clause 4.0 of the Terms and Conditions.

2.10 “In-Principle Approval” means an Eligible Applicant has met the requirements for a RMEA Destination Australia Program Scholarship and is in the process of meeting any course entry and/or enrolment requirements to enrol as a Student of RMEA.

2.11 “Scholarship Recipient” means the Student who accepts the Destination Australia Program Scholarship by completing and returning the Destination Australia Program Scholarship Offer and Acceptance Form in accordance with the process set out in clause 6.0 of these Terms and Conditions.

2.12 “Student” means an Eligible Applicant who has successfully enrolled with RMEA.

### **3.0 APPLICATION PROCESS**

3.1 All Destination Australia Program Scholarship application forms must be completed in English.

3.2 An Applicant must complete a Destination Australia Program Scholarship application form and submit it via email [rtosupport@ruralmeded.org.au](mailto:rtosupport@ruralmeded.org.au)

3.3 Scholarships will be awarded on a merit basis by the Application Assessment Committee. Applications close at midnight on the date indicated on the RMEA website. Late applications will not be accepted.

3.4 The Applicant must acknowledge and accept the Destination Australia Program Scholarship Terms and Conditions by signing and dating their Destination Australia Program Scholarship application form prior to submission. Incomplete applications will not be assessed by the Panel.

3.5 Applications will be assessed by the Application Assessment Committee within 5 working days of the date the applications close.

3.6 Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their RMEA Destination Australia Program Scholarship Application at the end of the 5 working day assessment period.

3.7 Each Eligible Applicant will be granted an in-principle approval (In-Principle Approval) to allow the relevant Eligible Applicant to meet any RMEA course entry requirements and enrol as a Student of RMEA.

3.8 If an Eligible Applicant:

(i) cannot meet the course entry requirements and is unable to enrol as a Student of RMEA the In-Principle Approval will lapse immediately and the application process will be deemed unsuccessful for that Applicant.

(ii) meets the course entry requirements and can be enrolled as a Student, that Eligible Applicant will be issued with a Destination Australia Program Scholarship Offer and Acceptance Form.

3.9 All Applicants, whether successful or not, will be advised of the final outcome of their RMEA Destination Australia Program Scholarship Application in writing.

3.10 All Eligible Applicants who are issued with a Destination Australia Program Scholarship Offer and Acceptance Form must sign and return the completed form within 5 working days of receiving the form from RMEA.

To avoid doubt, an Eligible Applicant will only become a Scholarship Recipient once he/she provides a compliant and signed Destination Australia Program Scholarship Offer and Acceptance Form to RMEA.

#### **4.0 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR DESTINATION AUSTRALIA PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP**

4.1 Destination Australia Program Scholarships may be awarded to an Applicant who has completed and lodged an application form and who, as determined by the Panel as eligible (in its sole discretion), satisfies all of the following criteria:

4.1.1 be a **new, full-time student commencing in 2023** to RMEA into the identified locations and courses (for the purposes of the Destination Australia Program, a “new student” encompasses all students who commence their studies from 1st January 2023 into the approved RMEA location and identified courses, and includes those students who commenced study at another provider or in another RMEA course and transferred; a student who commences a new course of study, e.g. moved into one of the identified courses; a student that may have studied with RMEA in the past; a student completely new to RMEA); AND

4.1.2 Are enrolled at and studying full-time on one of the courses and locations identified under the RMEA Destination Australia Program; AND

4.1.3 Maintain ongoing residency in a regional area as defined by the 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the duration of each of study period. Where a course includes study outside a regional area (for example, for a clinical placement), residency away from the regional area is permitted for no more than one study period (not exceeding 6 months) per qualification where the qualification is longer than 2 years, or 25% of the qualification length where the qualification is 2 years or shorter; AND

4.1.4 Can demonstrate for the entirety of the course, a commitment to their studies; AND

4.1.5 Maintains compliance with all of the criteria set out under 4.1; AND

4.2 Late or incomplete Application Forms will not be considered by the Panel.

4.3 RMEA is under no obligation to attempt to contact any Applicant who incorrectly completes and/or submits an application form. Panel members may or may not, at their own discretion, contact an Applicant on not more than two (2) occasions in an effort to obtain information which is

missing, or has not been completed correctly. Should all required information not be provided, the Applicant's form will be withdrawn by RMEA and notice sent to the Applicant.

4.4 Applicants that are already receiving or may receive in the future, another form of study rebate or scholarship are still eligible to apply for and receive a RMEA Destination Australia Program Scholarship.

4.5 The Scholarship value to the applicant is determined by the start and end dates of the course enrolment as determined by RMEA. If an applicant does not complete the course by the pre-determined end date, no additional funds are payable. Students receiving an extension to the end date of their course, beyond the original completion date, are not entitled to any additional funding.

## **5.0 OFFER OF DESTINATION AUSTRALIA PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP**

5.1 The Panel will determine the Destination Australia Program Scholarship recipients in its sole discretion.

5.2 An Eligible Applicant will be notified of their outcome by telephone or email.

5.3 An Eligible Applicant who has successfully enrolled as a Student will receive via email a Destination Australia Program Scholarship Offer and Acceptance Form to complete.

5.3 If unsuccessful, an Applicant will be notified in writing of that outcome.

## **6.0 ACCEPTANCE OF DESTINATION AUSTRALIA PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP**

6.1 The Student must complete and return the Destination Australia Program Scholarship Offer and Acceptance Form as a pre-condition to payment of the Scholarship.

6.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the Student acknowledges and agrees that in order to be a Scholarship Recipient they must:

6.2.1 Sign and return the Destination Australia Program Scholarship Offer and Acceptance Form to RMEA; AND

6.2.2 Meet all of the RMEA course entry criteria and successfully enrol as a RMEA Student.

## **7.0 PAYMENT OF THE DESTINATION AUSTRALIA PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP**

7.1 Following the Scholarship Recipient meeting all of the criteria under Clause 6.0, the Scholarship Recipient will receive an initial scholarship payment of \$7,500 6 weeks (approximately) after commencement of their course and once participation has been verified. Payments are divided into semester (6 monthly) payments for a maximum of 3 semesters or 18 months. Payments will be released once participation verification and confirmation that the student continues to meet the Scholarship eligibility criteria is established.

7.2 Scholarship Recipients studying a course of one (1) year in duration will receive a total scholarship to the value of \$15,000, paid to the Scholarship Recipient in accordance with Clause 7.1.

7.3 Scholarship Recipients that are studying a course of 18 months in duration will receive a total scholarship to the value of \$22,500, paid to the Scholarship Recipients in accordance with Clause 7.1.

7.4 RMEA is under no obligation to pay or make available any part of the Destination Australia Program Scholarship to a Scholarship Recipient until all of the criteria under item 6.0 and 7.0 has been met.

7.5 If a Scholarship Recipient withdraws from study prior to recommencement of classes after any semester break in their course, no further scholarship funds will be payable.

## **8.0 CONDITIONS OF THE DESTINATION AUSTRALIA PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP**

8.1 The Scholarship Recipient acknowledges and agrees that the following conditions apply to the award of the Destination Australia Program Scholarship:

8.1.1 RMEA will periodically check with the relevant staff and RMEA student management systems that the Scholarship Recipient continues to meet all of the criteria identified under Clause 4.0;

8.1.2 That failure to meet any and all of the criteria identified under Clause 4.0 at any time throughout a course delivery period and/or withdrawal from the identified course, will result in the Scholarship Recipient forfeiting any further Scholarship payments.

8.1.3 That the decision made by RMEA regarding a Scholarship Recipient who is no longer compliant with the requirements of their course and or the Destination Australia Program is final and that no further correspondence will be entered into.

8.1.4 On request by RMEA the Scholarship Recipient must agree to be available for promotional and marketing photography. Written permission will be sought from the Scholarship Recipient prior to any photography or promotional marketing.

8.1.5 The Scholarship Recipient agrees to complete an Exit Survey at the end of their Scholarship.

8.1.6 The Scholarship Recipient must be an ambassador for RMEA and uphold the values of the organisation and to behave at all times in accordance with the RMEA Student Code of Conduct.

## **9.0 MARKETING OF THE DESTINATION AUSTRALIA SCHOLARSHIP**

A Scholarship Recipient may be asked to:

- share their experiences about how the scholarship has assisted them with their study
- participate in events and activities to promote the scholarship program, including public speaking, media interviews and photographs.

## **10.0 VARIATION**

9.1 RMEA may vary these Terms and Conditions or Application form or process referred to herein at any time and without notice. Any variations will apply to all current and future Applicants from the date of variation.