

## GRADUATE ACCESS MELBOURNE

Graduate Access Melbourne is underpinned by the University's commitment to equity and diversity. The Graduate Access Melbourne scheme is designed to ensure:

- access to people whose personal circumstances have had a sustained adverse effect on their level of academic achievement; and
- student cohorts in the University's graduate courses that reflect the diversity of the Australian population.

The Graduate Access Melbourne scheme will apply to domestic students seeking a Commonwealth Supported Place in a graduate course. At least fifteen per cent of Commonwealth Supported Places available in each graduate course will be allocated to Graduate Access Melbourne applicants. In addition, a number of bursaries will be awarded to applicants, based on academic merit. From 2008, up to 100 bursaries will be awarded annually across the graduate courses, each offering a one-off payment of \$5000. From 2011, up to 200 bursaries will be awarded annually.

Category	Benefits
<p><b>Difficult personal circumstances that have had a sustained adverse effect on academic achievement, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• financial hardship;</li> <li>• disability or chronic medical condition;</li> <li>• personal difficulties (for example, ongoing difficult family relationship, sole carer for child or relative etc); or</li> <li>• other disadvantageous circumstances.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth Supported Place</li> <li>• Eligibility for bursary</li> </ul>
<p><b>Membership of a group of people known to be underrepresented in higher education, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds or backgrounds of social disadvantage;</li> <li>• people from rural or isolated regions;</li> <li>• Indigenous people;</li> <li>• people with disabilities;</li> <li>• refugees/holders of humanitarian visas;</li> <li>• groups underrepresented in particular fields of study (for example, fields in which males or females are underrepresented); or</li> <li>• other groups that may be identified over time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth Supported Place</li> <li>• Eligibility for bursary</li> </ul>

Within the Graduate Access Melbourne policy framework, Graduate Schools will be responsible for implementation of the scheme and will establish priorities for access and equity for the courses they manage, taking into account their particular contexts and any overall directions on the process that may be prescribed by the Academic Board.

Before the first intake under the scheme in a given degree, the relevant Graduate School will submit to Access Programs Subcommittee (for subsequent referral to Selection Procedures Committee for approval) a detailed explanation of the procedures being proposed to rank applicants under the scheme. This approval should normally be sought at least six months before the first intake.

Ongoing monitoring of the composition of student cohorts and the academic performance of students admitted through all pathways is to be undertaken, with appropriate annual reports submitted to Selection Procedures Committee and its subcommittees for consideration.

20 March 2007