AUTISM ACADEMY FOR SOFTWARE QUALITY ASSURANCE (AASQA) VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (VET) SCHOLARSHIPS 2024

The *Autism Academy for Software Quality Assurance* (AASQA) at Curtin University is an Australian social innovation initiative with the vision of harnessing the special talents of people on the Autism Spectrum. The mission of the Academy is to enable individuals on the Autism Spectrum to leverage their awesome talents and skillsets. Their natural ability for extreme attention to detail, appreciation of predictability and capacity to focus, will augment their training in addressing business needs of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry. In particular, ICT is facing challenges in attracting and retaining talent in areas like software development and testing, and cybersecurity.

Through outreaching, training, educating and graduate programmes, pathways from schools to valued long-term employment can be created. This is in line with the Academy's vision for the collective benefit of these individuals on the Autism Spectrum, as well as industry and the wider community

AASQA, the Autism Association of Western Australia and the Department of Training and Workforce Development have provided five scholarships for 2024, to a value of $2,500 each funded by the Department of Training and Workforce Development. This scholarship is for students on the Autism Spectrum to undertake an appropriate VET course aimed at gaining employment in Information Technology (IT) and Cybersecurity.

Payments will be made at two points in the course. The first payment of $1,500 after enrolment is confirmed and the census date has been passed (Typically after one month) the second payment of $1,000 will be paid after successful completion of a Semester one full-time course load.

The focus of the scholarship is full-time study but part-time enrolments may be considered.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
To be eligible for the AASQA Scholarship, the applicant must:

- Be enrolled or able to enrol as a student at a TAFE or Registered Training Organization (RTO) in 2024 in a full time nationally accredited Certificate IV in Information Technology or Programming or Cybersecurity or Diploma course in Information Technology or Software Development. (Courses must have a programming or cyber security focus);
- Have an Autism Spectrum diagnosis; and
- Have a good academic record.

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO NOMINATE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The nomination requirements include:

- A completed application form (see next page), including all requested documentation, to be submitted by the due date;
- Resume or CV (please attach your most recent senior high school subject transcript if you have one or other academic qualifications);
- Referee name and full contact details, or referee written reference with their contact details;
- Formal proof of Autism Spectrum diagnosis; and
- Proof of application to study full-time in 2024 or an enrolment in a relevant Information Technology Certificate IV or Diploma.

If successful, you must agree to be contacted every six (6) months to report on your progress and agree that your academic results for the course can be made available to the scholarship administrator (These will remain confidential and you will not be identified by name in reports)

Please send completed application to Dr Tele Tan at t.tan@curtin.edu.au. For information regarding Information Technology certificates contact your nearest Jobs & Skills Centre on 13 64 64.

Applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application by email.

Applications close on 29 December 2023.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (VET) SCHOLARSHIP 2024

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Family Name :	First Name :
Other Name :	Preferred Name :
Mailing Street Address :	

Suburb :	State :	Postcode :

Email Address :	
Telephone :	Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY) :

CURRENT STUDY STATUS	
Name of RTO/TAFE :	Proposed VET Course to study in 2024 :
List previous academic achievements, awards or scholarships	

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES	
Attach following information	
Resume or CV (please attach your most recent senior high school subject transcript if you have one or other academic qualifications)	Attached **YES/NO**
Referee(s) (name and full contact details or written reference with contact details)	Attached **YES/NO**
We request applicants to include at least one of these documents as proof of formal autism spectrum diagnosis: • The original diagnosis report; or • Letter of confirmation from the doctor; or • Letter of confirmation from Local Area Coordinator	Diagnosis report; letter from doctor; or letter from local area coordinator. Attached **YES/NO**
Proof of application to study a relevant Information Technology Certificate IV, Diploma, or Advanced Diploma full time in 2024 or proof on enrolment for 2024.	Attached **YES/NO**
DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURE	

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature :   **Date :**