

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2012

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS joins forces with the George Alexander Foundation

The University of Tasmania Foundation is pleased to announce an exciting new scholarship program in partnership with the George Alexander Foundation (GAF).

In 1972, George Alexander AM (1910-2008) set up an independent philanthropic foundation as a way of sharing his wealth and giving back to the community.

Today, the main focus of The George Alexander Foundation is access to education for promising young people, particularly students with financial need and those from rural and remote areas.

The GAF Scholarship Program is now the cornerstone of the Foundation's grant making and UTAS is pleased to have been selected to join this program to enable and encourage students to achieve.

Managed by the UTAS scholarship office, the George Alexander Foundation Relocation and Living Support Scholarship will commence in 2013, to support students who must move away from home in order to attend university.

The program will offer five scholarships valued at \$7,500 per year for three years, amounting to a total of \$22,500 per scholar.

Approximately one-third of all current UTAS applicants need to relocate from within the state, interstate or overseas to study in their chosen academic field. Additionally, the current financial climate in Tasmania means an increasing number of students are not able to rely on family support to move away from home to attend UTAS.

UTAS is an international university ranked amongst the top research universities in Australia and with the advent of this program, an additional five students each year can now relocate and receive living support to study at the university.

"We are delighted to be partnering with UTAS to expand The George Alexander Foundation Scholarship Program to a fifth Australian state," said Caitriona Fay, Senior Program Manager, The George Alexander Foundation.

"The scholarship will continue George's vision of supporting bright young students to achieve their education goals.

Many students must move away from home in order to attend university, so it is hoped that by reducing the financial burden the GAF scholarship will help to make those goals achievable.”

This partnership gives GAF the opportunity to work with an established scholarship office and to extend its scholarship program to a state with particular need for programs supporting access to education for talented students.

“The UTAS Foundation is extremely honoured to be facilitating The George Alexander Foundation Relocation and Living Support Scholarship which will provide invaluable support to 15 students while they undertake studies at UTAS,” said Melanie Roome, Acting CEO UTAS Foundation.

“For young people with the academic potential, this funding will make a crucial difference to whether they are able to pursue a university qualification in their chosen field at UTAS.”

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