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Inspiring teen

A FORMER Innisfail teenager who has become the first student to win a new indigenous tourism scholarship hopes it will inspire other indigenous students to go to uni.

Patryce Nona, 17, will study at the Gold Coast's Bond University, with her more than \$115,000 worth of tuition fees over three years to be jointly funded by the Indigenous Land Corporation. The young student said she wanted to use her Bachelor of International Hotel and Resort Management to work around the world.

Alita Pashley
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"This scholarship is a unique opportunity for indigenous people like myself to study at an elite university and become a role model for other indigenous students who are interested in the tourism industry," Ms Nona said.

Another two scholarships for the 2011 school year, which the land corporation has opened to indigenous students nationwide, will be announced soon.

Corporation general manager

David Galvin said the scholarships would open doors for other indigenous students wanting to get into university.

"We are excited about the opportunity this will provide to indigenous students like Patryce who are wanting to study tourism," Mr Galvin said.

"The ILC board strongly believes that tourism offers long-term and sustainable benefits for indigenous communities particularly in relation to training and employment opportunities."



Scholarship winner: Innisfail teenager Patryce Nona checks out her new surrounds at Bond University on the Gold Coast