



# Teachers to brush up on hi-tech

**Jennifer Foreshew**  
Education

AUSTRALIAN teachers are being given the chance to enrol in a scholarship program designed to help them integrate technology into the classroom.

The program, administered by the not-for-profit Australian Computer Society Foundation, will offer 40 scholarship places in the inaugural course next year.

The Graduate Certificate in Information and Communication Technology Education, offered at Charles Sturt University, will count towards a

master's degree in education.

The scholarships, donated by Microsoft Australia, are to be completed by distance education during terms.

ACS Foundation executive director John Ridge said 20 full-fee scholarships would be reserved for teachers from regional, remote and disadvantaged schools and a further 20 half-fee places would be available to all teachers.

Mr Ridge said it was critical that teachers were able to access programs focussing on integrating technology into classrooms in a way that engaged students.

"The scholarships are designed to help incorporate technology into a range of subjects," he said.

Mr Ridge said the drop in tertiary technology enrolments and the quality of students opting for a technology career could be connected to the way technology was applied in schools.

"If the teachers are unable to teach IT at a sufficiently high level, the students get bored pretty quickly," he said.

"This is about trying to improve the general level of that sort of knowledge."

Mr Ridge said the program

was open to teachers from kindergarten to year 12, who wanted to make better use of technology in the classroom.

The ACS Foundation, which has attracted funding of almost \$250,000 for the program, will award the scholarships next month.

The certificate includes the Microsoft Office Specialist industry certification and the Partner in Learning program, a peer coaching component.

Applications, which close on November 25, can be lodged at [www.ictteachers.info/scholarship.htm](http://www.ictteachers.info/scholarship.htm)