

Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) International Fee Offset Scholarship

CONDITIONS OF AWARD 2021

1. Introduction

The Commonwealth Government's Research Training Program (RTP) (in effect as of 1 January 2017) provides funding to universities to support the research training of both domestic and international higher degree research (HDR) candidates. The funding provided through the RTP offers the provision for universities to administer and award a number of tuition fee offset awards known as Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) International Fee Offset Scholarships.

Griffith University awards Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarships to international candidates of exceptional research potential commencing or enrolled in HDR programs for which RTP support is available. The fee offset provided will remove the liability of the HDR candidate to pay program tuition fees for the tenure of the scholarship. The support provided through the Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship replaces the Commonwealth Government's International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) scheme (see Section 13 of these Conditions of Award for arrangements for continuing candidates previously supported under the IPRS), and is governed by the [Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#).

2. Eligibility Requirements

- (1) To be eligible for an Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship, an applicant must:
 - a. not be a domestic student, as defined as being a student who is an Australian citizen; or an Australian permanent resident or holder of an Australian Permanent Humanitarian visa; or a New Zealand citizen; and
 - b. be commencing or enrolled in a HDR program (for which RTP support is available) at Griffith University.
- (2) An Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship will not be awarded to a candidate who is in receipt of an equivalent award or scholarship from the Commonwealth Government designed to offset HDR program tuition fees.

3. Selection Process

- (1) Awardees are ranked and selected on the basis of academic merit, research potential and the quality of the research training environment in which the research project will be undertaken, taking into account the University's strategic priorities. The selection process and criteria are as set out in Sections 5 and 6 of the *Higher Degree Research Scholarship Policy*.

4. Benefits

(1) Fee Offset

The fee offset provided by the scholarship removes the liability of the awardee to pay program tuition fees for the tenure of the award.

(2) RTP Allowances

The following ancillary costs of undertaking the HDR program are provided for under the terms of this scholarship:

- a. the cost of a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy which covers the candidate and dependents (if any) for up to 42 months; and
- b. the Student Services and Amenities Fee for which the scholarship recipient would otherwise be liable during the tenure of the scholarship.

Conditions of Award

5. Notification of Scholarship and Commencement of Study

- (1) Successful candidates will be offered the Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship via a letter of offer for scholarship and admission. The offer letter will set out the estimated annual value of the Commonwealth Government's support provided towards the offset of the candidate's tuition fee liability.
- (2) Awardees must accept both a place in the HDR program as well as the scholarship(s) offered by the date specified in the offer letter and commence in the program between the dates specified in the letter of offer. Where exceptional circumstances prevent an awardee from taking up the award by the date specified in the offer letter, he/she may apply for a delayed commencement. Full details of the reasons for the request will be required. If an awardee cannot commence by the approved date the University may withdraw the award.

6. Tenure

- (1) The tenure of an Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship is, from the date of program commencement, up to two years for a Masters (Research) candidate and up to three years for a Doctoral candidate.
- (2) Continuation of receipt of the Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship during the tenure of the award is dependent upon evidence of the awardee's satisfactory progress in the HDR program, through the timely completion of candidature milestones and satisfactory annual progress reports.
- (3) The tenure of an Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship will be reduced by any period of study undertaken:
 - a. towards the research project and/or degree prior to the commencement of the award;
or
 - b. towards the degree during suspension of the award.
- (4) A Doctoral candidate making satisfactory progress may apply for an extension to the Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship tenure for up to a maximum of six months. An extension will only be approved where the grounds for the extension:
 - a. relate to the study and are beyond the control of the candidate, and could not have

been reasonably anticipated at the commencement of the program; or

- b. are on the basis of the candidate undertaking an industry placement, research internship or professional practice activity approved by the Dean GGRS as part of the HDR program, as per Section 9 of these Conditions of Award.

A request for an extension must be made at least one month before (but no more than two months before) the expiry date of the scholarship. Awardees enrolled in a Masters (Research) program are not entitled to an extension of award.

7. Changes to Candidature

(1) *Transferring of award between institutions*

Awardees may request the transfer of their Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship between Australian Higher Education Providers. Awardees who transfer to another institution may continue to receive their Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship only if their new institution agrees to its continuation and subject to the new institution having sufficient RTP funding available. Transfers to Griffith University are managed in accordance with the scholarship selection process set out in Sections 5, 6 and 11 of the *Higher Degree Research Scholarship Policy*.

(2) *Changes to HDR program*

Candidates supported by an Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship may apply to change their candidature from a Doctoral to a Masters (Research) degree program or from a Masters (Research) to a Doctoral degree program in accordance with Sections 8.10.3 and 8.10.4 respectively of the University's *Higher Degree Research Policy*. If approved, the maximum tenure of a transferred scholarship becomes that for the new HDR program minus the period of study undertaken towards the previous program prior to the conversion. Candidates in receipt of a stipend scholarship will also be subject to the candidature status requirements set out in the conditions of award for that scholarship.

(3) *Change of Research Topic*

A request for a major change to the thesis topic must be supported by the principal supervisor and approved by the Dean (Research). If it is established through this approval process that the recorded field of research (FoR) and/or field of education (FoE) for the thesis topic have changed, the Griffith Graduate Research School will update these fields in the candidate's record.

(4) *Suspension of candidature*

Candidates supported by an Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship may apply to suspend their candidature in accordance with Sections 8.13.1 to 8.13.4 of the *Higher Degree Research Policy*, and in compliance with international student visa requirements. Candidates in receipt of a stipend scholarship will also be subject to the requirements regarding suspension of candidature set out in the conditions of award for that scholarship.

8. Employment and other funding

(1) Consistent with the conditions of the international student visa, awardees are permitted to:

- a. obtain funds for fieldwork, equipment or other expenses not covered by the award;
- b. obtain funding for overseas travel costs from other Australian Government awards or

other funding sources;

- c. undertake a strictly limited amount of paid employment which is unrelated to their research topic. Employment is restricted to no more than nine hours per week during normal working hours (between the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday). Work performed outside of these hours should be at the approval of the principal supervisor.
- (2) Awardees should consult with their principal supervisor in regard to the decision to undertake paid employment while in the HDR program. Decisions on the undertaking of any paid employment will be on the proviso that the activity does not impede progress in the HDR program.

9. Industry placements, research internships and professional practice activities

- (1) Recipients of an RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship may undertake industry placements, research internships and professional practice activities, normally no more than three months (full-time equivalent) duration, that are approved by the Dean GGRS as part of their eligible HDR program.
- (2) Ongoing receipt of the scholarship may be available for the duration of an approved industry placement, research internship or professional practice activity if:
 - a. The scholarship awardee has not exceeded the maximum duration of their HDR program; and
 - b. The awardee has sufficient scholarship tenure remaining.
- (3) The undertaking of an approved industry placement, research internship or professional practice activity does not constitute grounds for extension to the scholarship tenure beyond the provision for extension set out in Section 6 of these Conditions of Award.

10. Termination of the Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship

- (1) An Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship will be terminated in any of the following circumstances:
 - a. at the end of the period of tenure provided for by the scholarship or when the awardee lodges a thesis for examination, whichever is earlier;
 - b. if the University is satisfied that the program of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of scholarship, and no suitable arrangements can be made for continuation of the degree;
 - c. if the awardee commences a period of suspension without formal approval;
 - d. if the awardee does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of suspension, or does not make arrangements to extend that period of suspension;
 - e. if the University determines that an awardee is guilty of serious academic or student misconduct in accordance with the *Academic Misconduct Policy – Higher Degree Research Candidates* and the *Student Misconduct Policy*;
 - f. if the awardee fails to maintain satisfactory progress, as determined by the University;
 - g. if the awardee ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in Section 2 of these Conditions of Award, other than during a period in which a suspension of candidature has been approved.
- (2) If an award is terminated, it cannot be reactivated unless the termination occurred in error.

11. Acknowledgement Requirement

- (1) The Commonwealth Government's contribution towards the offset of tuition fees must be acknowledged when, at any time during or after completion of the HDR program, the awardee, his/her supervisor or any other party, publishes or produces scholarly material and/or artistic works which relate to the research project carried out by the awardee. This acknowledgement must take the form of a statement included in the published material mentioning the support received through an 'Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship'.

Specific University Obligations

12. Reconsideration of Decision

- (1) A decision by the University made in respect of an application for scholarship is final and not reviewable, as per the University's Student Review and Appeals Policy.
- (2) A candidate who is dissatisfied with a decision to terminate the scholarship may request a review of the decision in accordance with the Student Review and Appeals Policy. Candidates requesting a review of the decision should specify the grounds in writing using the Review of Decision form, and follow the process for requesting a review set out in the Student Review and Appeals Procedures.

13. Arrangements for continuing candidates previously awarded an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS)

- (1) International HDR candidates who commenced prior to 1 January 2017, and who were in receipt of a current IPRS will be provided with an Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship providing equivalent support for the period remaining on the candidate's IPRS.

14. Change to Award Conditions

- (1) The conditions of award may change and these changes will be made available on the relevant scholarship website.

Relevant External Documents

[Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#)

The Department of Education and Training's [Research Training Program \(RTP\) webpage](#)

The Department of Education and Training's [Research Training Program – Frequently Asked Questions for students](#)