

Griffith University International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (GUIPRS)

CONDITIONS OF AWARD 2018

1. Introduction

Each year, Griffith University makes available a number of tuition fee offset scholarships to international candidates of exceptional research potential to undertake a higher degree research (HDR) program. This scholarship scheme is known as the Griffith University International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (GUIPRS). The fee offset provided through the award of a GUIPRS will remove the liability of the HDR candidate to pay program tuition fees for the tenure of the award. This document sets out the conditions that apply to GUIPRS awardees.

Policies may be adopted that provide for a limited number of GUIPRS to be allocated to achieve specific strategic objectives. In such cases, there may be additional eligibility requirements or variations to the procedure for selection and award. Such variations will be documented in the relevant scholarships scheme guidelines and/or the minutes of the scholarship selection committee. In such cases, the GUIPRS conditions of award will be amended to reflect the variations applicable to the awardee.

2. Eligibility Requirements

- (1) To be eligible for a GUIPRS, 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 GUIPRS support is available) at Griffith University.
- (2) A GUIPRS 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 GUIPRS removes the liability of the awardee to pay program tuition fees for the tenure of the award.

(2) *Overseas Student Health Cover*

The award includes the cost of a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy which covers the candidate and dependents (if any) for up to 42 months.

Conditions of Award

5. Notification of Award and Commencement of Study

- (1) Successful candidates will be offered the GUIPRS award *via* a letter of offer for scholarship and admission.
- (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 this letter. 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 a candidate cannot commence by the approved date the University may withdraw the award.

6. Tenure

- (1) The tenure of a GUIPRS award 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 GUIPRS 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 a GUIPRS award 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 GUIPRS 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 award. Awardees enrolled in a Masters (Research) program are not entitled to an extension of award.

7. Changes to Candidature

(1) *Changes to HDR program*

Candidates supported by a GUIPRS 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 8.10.2 and 8.10.3, respectively of the *University's Higher Degree Research Policy*. If approved, the maximum tenure of a transferred award 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.

(2) *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.

(3) *Suspension of candidature*

Candidates supported by a GUIPRS 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 as to the undertaking of any paid employment will be on the proviso that the activity does not impede the progress in the HDR program.

9. Industry placements, research internships and professional practice activities

- (1) Recipients of a GUIPRS 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 GUIPRS Award

- (1) A GUIPRS 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, 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 award, 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 award holder 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 a candidate 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 candidate fails to maintain satisfactory progress, as determined by the University;
 - g. If the candidate 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.

Specific University Obligations

11. 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*.

12. Change to Award Conditions

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