

# Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships Policy

## Section 1 - Purpose and Scope

(1) The Australian Government's Research Training Program (RTP) provides funding to universities to support the research training of both domestic and international higher degree research (HDR) candidates.

(2) This Policy establishes the University's selection principles and conditions for RTP Stipend and Fee Offset Scholarships (domestic and international), in accordance with the [Higher Education Support \(Commonwealth Scholarships\) Guidelines 2025 \(the Guidelines\)](#).

### Scope

(3) This Policy applies to applicants for and recipients of the RTP Scholarship Stipend and Fee Offset, and staff involved in its management.

(4) There are three types of RTP Scholarships:

- a. Research Training Program Scholarship stipend (RTP Scholarship Stipend domestic/international) — funded by the Australian Government and provides support for the general living costs of HDR students through an annual stipend.
- b. Research Training Program Fee Offset Scholarship (RTP Fee Offset) — funded jointly by the Australian Government and the University. The Fee Offset pays for the tuition fees for a HDR award that would normally have been paid for by the student.
- c. Allowances — allowances provided by the University for example thesis allowance and relocation allowances.

## Section 2 - Definitions

(5) Affiliate- as defined in CSG 2025 for RTP purposes.

(6) CSG 2025 means the Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025.

(7) DOI means digital object identifier.

(8) HEP has the same meaning as in the CSG 2025.

(9) ORCID means an Open Researcher and Contributor ID, which is a persistent identifier issued by the non-profit organisation named ORCID, for a person who conducts or contributes to research.

(10) Removal expenses means the cost of removal services used in order to move the student's personal belongings in order to commence the RTP Scholarship Stipend.

(11) Research end-user - as defined in CSG 2025.

(12) Research internship has the same meaning as in CSG 2025.

(13) Travel expenses means, in relation to the RTP Scholarship Stipend, the cost of:

- a. air, train or coach travel for the Student and their dependents;
- b. hotel or other accommodation costs; and/or
- c. fuel expenses for the use of a personal car.

## **Section 3 - Research Training Program Scholarship Stipend**

### **Selection Policy**

(14) The University will award RTP Scholarship Stipends in accordance with its selection and priority criteria.

(15) For clarity, the University will publish the following in all RTP communications on its website:

- a. CSG 2025 student eligibility requirements prescribed by the Commonwealth; and
- b. University selection and priority criteria (which are institutional and not CSG eligibility requirements).

(16) The University will include an explicit statement distinguishing Clause (15)a from (15)b whenever RTP information is published or sent to applicants.

(17) The University will publish the RTP Scholarship Rating Criteria Guidelines on the [Graduate School website](#) prior to the opening of a scholarship round. The rating criteria for RTP scholarships stipends may be revised each year in accordance with the University's admission criteria.

### **Eligibility Requirements for RTP Scholarship Stipend applicants**

(18) To be eligible for an RTP Scholarship Stipend, an applicant must be a domestic or an international student enrolled in an accredited course of study at an Australian Higher Education Provider.

(19) An applicant will not be selected for an RTP Scholarship Stipend unless the University is satisfied that the candidate meets, or will meet before the Scholarship payment is made:

- a. the eligibility criteria for RTP Scholarship Stipends as set out in the Guidelines; and
- b. the admission requirements for the award in which they are applying to enrol.

### **RTP Selection Process**

(20) The University will not consider applications where the documentary evidence provided is insufficient or incomplete.

(21) The Scholarships Sub-Committee will rank applications in order of merit against the University's selection criteria using the Scholarship Rating Criteria Guidelines and provide a recommendation of scholarship allocation to the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

(22) The highest ranked applications will be offered RTP Scholarships at the discretion of the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Where possible, remaining applications deemed meritorious of award by the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, will be offered University equivalent scholarships.

(23) RTP Scholarship Stipend recipients will normally be supervised by two University academic staff members

according to the [Higher Degree Research Register of Supervisors Policy](#).

(24) All Scholarship recipients must comply with the responsibilities as detailed in Part B of the [Higher Degree Research Candidate and Supervisor Policy](#). Prior to enrolment of a candidate, a Supervisor Candidate Agreement form must be completed by the candidate and supervisory team, which details the facilities and supervision arrangements that will be provided.

(25) Candidates who are awarded an RTP Scholarship Stipend, but withdraw from their program of study or are cancelled by the University for failure to maintain satisfactory progress or pay outstanding fees and charges, and later re-enter, will not be able to access their initial scholarship. They must apply again for a RTP Scholarship Stipend and if successful, will be paid only the balance of the initial scholarship.

(26) Candidates who are awarded an RTP Scholarship Stipend and defer or take approved Leave of Absence will have their scholarship held for the period of deferment or leave and may take up the scholarship on their return to study, subject to proof of continuing eligibility and compliance with the [Guidelines](#).

(27) The University may terminate an RTP Scholarship Stipend if a candidate:

- a. fails to comply with University policies; or
- b. is identified as making unsatisfactory progress as defined in the relevant Policy/Rule.

(28) Candidates who are found to have provided misleading or inaccurate information to the University will be immediately re-assessed for their entitlement to the RTP Scholarship Stipend. The University may notify the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training of any suspected offence.

## Accepting your scholarship

(29) If successful, the Graduate School will send applicants an offer of scholarship including: an official letter of offer, the Conditions of Award for your scholarship and an Acceptance Form.

(30) Successful applicants should return the Acceptance Form as soon as possible to inform the Graduate School of your intended start date. Requests to defer the Scholarship must be made via e-mail to [hdrscholarships@scu.edu.au](mailto:hdrs Scholarships@scu.edu.au) and your proposed supervisors. Requests to defer will require the support of your proposed supervisor and Director, Higher Degree Research.

(31) The Dean, Graduate School will review requests for deferment on a case by case basis. If funding for the scholarship is not available at a later time, a deferral may not be possible.

(32) The University RTP Scholarship Stipend rate is the base rate set by the Australian Government, indexed annually.

## Duration of Scholarship

(33) The maximum duration of a RTP Scholarship Stipend is three years and three months full time equivalent for a student undertaking Research Doctorate studies, and two years for a student undertaking Research Masters studies. The duration of the scholarship will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the scholarship.

(34) The RTP Scholarship Stipend is contingent on continued enrolment in the relevant award, which is subject to the candidate maintaining satisfactory academic progress.

## Work

(35) A student may undertake work outside the degree, subject to the approval of their supervisors, Director, Higher Degree Research and Associate Dean (Research). International students must ensure any work is compliant with the

conditions of their student visa.

(36) A supervisor will not approve a student undertaking work unless they are satisfied that the work will not interfere with the student's study program. Approved work must be documented in all progress reports and regularly monitored.

(37) Work commitments will not be accepted as grounds for an extension to candidature.

(38) A RTP Scholarship Stipend recipient cannot be required to undertake employment at the university as a condition of their candidature or scholarship.

(39) Approval to undertake work may be declined or withdrawn where:

- a. The hours or timing jeopardise milestone achievement or satisfactory progress;
- b. Visa conditions could be breached;
- c. a conflict of interest, IP or confidentiality risk is identified;
- d. The role substantially overlaps with the thesis activity without appropriate agreements; or
- e. The approved university hours limit would be exceeded.

(40) Full-time RTP Scholarship Stipend recipients can undertake paid employment for no more than sixteen hours per week over a 12 month period (52 weeks). The total number of permissible hours of paid work per 12 month period must not exceed 832 hours. If this is exceeded, the RTP Stipend Scholarship recipients will have their scholarship cancelled. Approved work must be recorded in progress reports.

(41) The settings provided at Clauses (39) and (40) are University selection and priority criteria and are not CSG eligibility requirements.

## **Satisfactory Progress for Scholarship Holders**

(42) Under the conditions of award of scholarship, all Scholarship holders must maintain satisfactory progress to be eligible to continue receiving their scholarship. Please note that this does not imply you will have no problems with research delays during your program tenure. It is important that your progress is clearly reflected in the six monthly progress reports and the in-candidature review forums. Should your progress be found unsatisfactory you will be advised that your award of scholarship will be terminated and the date from which this will apply.

## **Changes to Student Enrolment**

(43) RTP Scholarship Stipend recipients must submit a Change to Conditions of Enrolment Form for any change to the title or topic of their thesis to determine whether the field of research has changed. This will not affect the recipient's RTP Scholarship Stipend, provided that the change does not affect their enrolment.

(44) The University will not take over the payment of an RTP Scholarship Stipend awarded to a candidate by another university if the candidate transfers to Southern Cross University. A transferring candidate may apply for an RTP Scholarship Stipend at the University at the next available opportunity and will be considered alongside all other applicants. A transferring candidate will only be eligible for the balance of the initial RTP Scholarship Stipend awarded by the other University, in accordance with the [Guidelines](#).

(45) On request, the University will provide a HDR student with information about their RTP Scholarship Stipend that is required for enrolment at another university.

(46) RTP Scholarship Stipends are only provided to full-time, on-shore candidates. Circumstances will be considered by the Dean, Graduate School, where the student's project or research take them temporarily offshore. A candidate can

apply to receive a scholarship on a part-time basis, or transfer from a full-time to part-time basis, if there are compelling circumstances, such as the need to provide full-time care of children or dependents that are disabled, sick, injured or elderly. Candidates must continue to meet all eligibility requirements, including satisfactory academic progress.

(47) RTP Scholarship Stipends are only provided to international students who are full-time, on shore candidates. Circumstances will be considered by the Dean, Graduate School, where the student's project or research take them temporarily offshore.

## **Changes to HDR program**

(48) A Masters by thesis student may convert to a PhD according to the [Higher Degree Research Candidate Transfer Policy](#) A PhD student may convert to a Masters by thesis in accordance with the [Higher Degree Research Candidate Transfer Policy](#).

(49) The Dean, Graduate School will determine, at their discretion, whether a RTP Scholarship Stipend will continue after HDR conversion, and if so what the remaining duration of the RTP Scholarship Stipend will be.

## **Suspension of candidature**

(50) RTP Scholarship Stipend recipients may apply to suspend their candidature in accordance with the relevant award rules for the degree they are enrolled in, noting that the period of RTP support increases by the same period as the suspension.

(51) The Dean, Graduate School may, at their discretion, approve a suspension of a RTP Scholarship Stipend to a maximum of 12 months during the tenure of the award.

(52) RTP Scholarship Stipend recipients who are international students must ensure that any suspension of candidature complies with their student visa requirements.

## **Allowances**

### **Relocation Allowance**

(53) The University will provide a one-off Relocation Allowance of up to \$2000 for Removal Expenses or Travel Expenses to students who:

- a. are an RTP Scholarship Stipend recipient (domestic or international);
- b. are required to relocate, along with any dependents, in order to study the Higher Degree Research award at the University; and
- c. have submitted a completed relocation allowance form with original hardcopy receipts or invoices, within three months of commencement.

(54) Only one application for relocation allowance may be submitted per student, therefore claims for student and dependents must be made together.

(55) The relocation allowance does not cover:

- a. the cost of visa application fees for the student or their dependents;
- b. multiple trips (only the cost for one journey can be claimed); or
- c. the retrospective cost of any removal or travel expenses incurred before the student was offered a place to study the Higher Degree Research award at the University.

## **Thesis allowance**

(56) No thesis allowance is payable as candidates are not required to submit hard bound copies of their final thesis.

## **Health Cover for international students**

(57) For RTP Scholarship Stipend recipients who are international students, the University will cover the cost of a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy approved by the Commonwealth Department of Health and which covers the student, their spouse and any dependents.

## **Leave Provisions**

(58) To apply for leave, RTP Scholarship Stipend Recipients must use the [Scholarship Candidate Sick Leave Application Form](#) and Paid Annual Leave Application form available on the Graduate School website.

### **Sick Leave**

(59) RTP Scholarship recipients must notify their principal supervisor of any period of illness as soon as possible. In addition, recipients must also notify their Director, Higher Degree Research and the Graduate School, as soon as practicable, and within 14 days, in order to claim sick leave.

(60) RTP Scholarship Stipend recipients must supply an appropriate medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner for sick leave longer than 10 working days. If the recipient has an ongoing medical condition or limited ability to study, then this should be clearly stated by the medical practitioner on the certificate.

(61) If necessary, and the illness is ongoing and serious, RTP Scholarship Recipients can apply for a Leave of Absence or Suspension of Award (Change of Conditions of Enrolment).

(62) Sick leave may be used for the care of immediate family/dependents who are ill, and where the recipient is the primary care giver. An extension to a scholarship, if allowed, will only apply where periods of medically attested sick leave are greater than 10 working days.

(63) RTP Scholarship Stipend recipients, who are also international students, are eligible to apply for sick leave but any period granted will be deducted from the maximum period of candidature.

### **Parental Leave, Family and Domestic Violence Leave**

(64) After completing 12 months of study, RTP Stipend Scholarship recipients who are the primary carer are entitled to a minimum of 20 weeks paid parental leave for each child on birth or adoption. Partner leave may be provided at the University's discretion.

(65) RTP Stipend Scholarship recipients are entitled to 10 working days of paid Family and Domestic (FDV) leave per year if undertaking a full time student load, and 5 working days of paid FDV leave if undertaking a part-time student load. FDV leave does not accrue or roll over.

(66) The period of RTP support increases by the length of any approved paid parental, family and domestic violence leave provided under this Policy.

(67) Where a recipient transfers between Higher Education Providers (HEP) within a calendar year, the receiving HEP may deduct any leave already accessed under these CSG set entitlements from the leave it must provide in that calendar year.

(68) Maternity leave applications must be submitted to the Graduate School through the relevant Director, Higher Degree Research no later than four weeks before the expected date of commencement of leave. The application must be accompanied by a medical certificate from a medical practitioner stating the expected date of birth of the child or

confirmation of the date of official adoption from an adoption agency.

(69) If eligible, partners of people giving birth may be entitled to a maximum of one week parental leave and should provide the same documents as required for the primary carer.

(70) Where an RTP Scholarship Recipient is unable to resume their studies for medical reasons following approved maternity or parental leave, sick or other leave provisions may apply.

### **Recreation and Personal Leave**

(71) RTP Stipend recipients are entitled to 20 days full-time and 10 days part-time of Recreation Leave. Recreation Leave will be available in the first year of the scholarship on a pro rata basis. Recreation leave and personal leave accrue and roll over within the tenure of the award. These leave types do not extend the maximum RTP support period.

(72) Proposed dates for Recreation Leave should be discussed with your supervisor in the first instance. Recreation Leave requires the approval of the Graduate School.

### **Top up Scholarships**

(73) Top up scholarships will only be approved where the funds are specifically provided for this purpose from an external organisation and are not from University administered funds.

### **Termination of RTP Scholarship Stipend**

(74) An RTP Scholarship Stipend will be terminated in any of the following circumstances:

- a. at the end of the period of tenure provided by the award, or when the candidate lodges a thesis, whichever is earlier;
- b. if the University is satisfied the program of study is not being carried 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. when the recipient ceases full time enrolment without indication of a date at which full time enrolment will be resumed, or when approval has not been obtained to hold the RTP Scholarship Stipend on a part-time basis;
- d. if the recipient commences a period of suspension without formal approval;
- e. if the recipient does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of interruption, or does not make arrangements to extend the period of interruption;
- f. if the recipient fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the Dean, Graduate School.

### **Grievance and review procedures**

(75) Scholarship recipients may appeal a decision to terminate a scholarship in accordance with the Query and Appeal clauses of the respective award rules.

### **Acknowledgement Requirement**

(76) The Australian Government's contribution towards the RTP Scholarship Stipend must be acknowledged when, at any time during or after completion of the HDR degree, the candidate, their supervisor or any other party, publishes or produces scholarly material and/or artistic works which relate to the research project carried out by the candidate. 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'.

# Section 4 - RTP Fee Offset Scholarships

## Introduction

(77) The Australian Government's RTP provides funding to universities to support the research training of both domestic and international HDR candidates. The funding provided through the RTP allows universities to provide tuition fee offsets to domestic candidates commencing or enrolled in HDR programs for which RTP support is available, with the requirement that the university fully offsets tuition fees applicable for a candidate within a maximum period of candidature.

(78) The support provided through the RTP Domestic Fee Offset replaces the Australian Government's Research Training Scheme (RTS) and is governed by the [Guidelines](#).

(79) HDR programs for which candidates may be supported by a RTP Domestic Fee Offset Scholarships are determined by the University on the basis of advice from the Faculty or College and the Graduate School and cover Masters by Thesis, Professional Doctorate and Doctor of Philosophy awards.

(80) The University awards 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.

(81) The support provided through the RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship replaces the Australian Government's International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) scheme and is governed by the [Guidelines](#).

(82) An RTP Fee Offset Scholarship means the student will not be liable for any tuition fees for the period the scholarship is awarded.

## Duration of Scholarship

(83) The maximum duration of a RTP Fee Offset Scholarship is three years and three months full time equivalent for a student undertaking Research Doctorate studies, and two years for a student undertaking Research Masters studies. The duration of the scholarship will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the scholarship.

(84) For PhD candidates, one scholarship extension may be considered where it is due to delays in the research outside the control of the recipient and where the delay is related to the research rather than being of a personal nature. The maximum period of a scholarship extension will be three months, with requests over three months requiring a strong and compelling case.

(85) The RTP Fee Offset Scholarship is contingent on continued enrolment in the relevant award, which is subject to the candidate maintaining satisfactory academic progress.

## Eligibility Requirements for RTP Domestic Fee Offset Scholarship applicants

(86) To be eligible for a RTP Domestic Fee Offset, a candidate must be:

- a. an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or an Australian permanent resident; and
- b. commencing or enrolled in a HDR award (for which RTP support is available) at the University.

(87) A RTP Domestic Fee Offset Scholarship will not be provided to a candidate who is in receipt of an equivalent award or scholarship from the Australian Government designed to offset HDR tuition fees.

## **Award of RTP Domestic Fee Offset Scholarship**

(88) Domestic applicants who are offered a place in a supported HDR program at the University will be provided with a RTP Domestic Fee Offset. The Fee Offset will be supplemented by support from Southern Cross University in order to remove the applicant's liability to pay tuition fees during the tenure of the RTP Domestic Fee Offset place.

(89) The University will send applicants an offer letter that will set out the estimated annual value of the Australian Government's support and the University's support towards the offset of the candidate's tuition fee liability.

## **Eligibility Requirements for RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship applicants**

(90) To be eligible for a RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship, an applicant must:

- a. not be a domestic student (defined as a student who is: an Australian or New Zealand citizen; or an Australian permanent resident; or holder of an Australian Permanent Humanitarian visa); and
- b. be commencing or enrolled in a HDR award (for which RTP support is available) at the University.

(91) A RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship will not be awarded to a candidate who is in receipt of an equivalent award or scholarship from the Australian Government designed to offset HDR program tuition fees.

## **Award of RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship**

(92) RTP Scholarship Stipend recipients who are international students will automatically be awarded an RTP Fee Offset Scholarship.

(93) The University will send applicants an offer letter that will set out the estimated annual value of the Australian Government's support and the University's support towards the offset of the candidate's tuition fee liability.

(94) International HDR students who are not awarded an RTP Scholarship Stipend may apply for a University Offset Scholarship through the process described on the Graduate School's Scholarship and Fees website under the Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Application Scholarship section. The University will maintain this information on the website beyond the period in which applications are open.

(95) The relevant Associate Dean (Research) and Dean, Graduate School will review applications and determine which candidates will receive a University Fee Offset Scholarship.

## **Conditions of the RTP Fee Offset**

(96) RTP Fee Offset Scholarship recipients will normally be supervised by two University academic staff members according to the [Higher Degree Research Register of Supervisors Policy](#).

(97) All Scholarship recipients must comply with the responsibilities as detailed in Part B of the [Higher Degree Research Candidate and Supervisor Policy](#). Prior to enrolment of a candidate, a Supervisor Candidate Agreement form has to be completed by the candidate and supervisory team which details the facilities and supervision arrangements that will be provided.

(98) The maximum period of tenure for a RTP Fee Offset is normally three years and three months (full-time equivalent) for a Doctoral program and up to two years (full-time equivalent) for a Masters (Research) program, calculated from the date of commencement in the HDR program.

(99) Continuation of receipt of the 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 progress reports.

(100) The tenure of a RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship will be reduced by any period of study undertaken towards the research project and/or degree prior to the commencement of the award.

(101) A Doctoral candidate making satisfactory progress may apply for an extension to the RTP International/Domestic Fee Offset Scholarship tenure for up to a maximum of three months. An extension will only be approved where the grounds for the extension 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. 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.

(102) The Dean, Graduate School has the discretion to consider and approve other exceptional circumstances for requests to Fee Offset Scholarship extension requests.

## **Changes to Enrolment Status**

### **Change of Topic**

(103) RTP Fee Offset Scholarship recipients must submit a Change to Conditions of Enrolment Form for any change to the title or topic of their thesis to determine whether the field of research has changed. This will not affect the recipient's RTP Fee Offset Scholarship, provided that the change does not affect their enrolment.

### **Transfer from/to another Higher Education Provider**

(104) A request for transfer to Southern Cross University by a HDR candidate in receipt of a RTP Fee Offset from another university will be considered subject to sufficient RTP funds being available to support the candidate.

(105) If sufficient RTP funds are unavailable, the candidate may apply for a Southern Cross University Fee Offset Scholarship through the process described on the Graduate School's Scholarship and Fees website under the Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Application Scholarship section. The University will maintain this information on the website beyond the period in which applications are open.

(106) Normally, candidates seeking recognition of prior research study will only be approved to transfer from another institution where they have sufficient RTP Fee Offset tenure remaining to allow a minimum of one year (full-time equivalent) enrolment at the University. This will only be approved in accordance with:

- a. [Rules Relating to Awards, Rule 7 - Masters by Thesis Awards](#);
- b. [Rules Relating to Awards - Rule 8 - Professional Doctorate Awards](#); and
- c. [Rules Relating to Awards - Rule 9 - Doctor of Philosophy \(PhD\) Awards](#).

(107) On request, the University will provide a HDR student with information about their RTP Fee Offset Scholarship that is required for enrolment at another university.

### **Change in full-time status**

(108) Candidates supported by a RTP Domestic Fee Offset may apply to change their enrolment status between part-time and full-time in accordance with the award rules for the degree they are enrolled in.

(109) It is a requirement that RTP International Fee Offset recipients remain enrolled as full time candidates.

(110) RTP Scholarship Stipends are only provided to full-time, on shore candidates. Circumstances will be considered by the Dean, Graduate School, where the student's project or research take them temporarily offshore. A candidate can apply to receive a scholarship on a part-time basis, or transfer from a full-time to part-time basis, if there are compelling circumstances, such as the need to provide full-time care of children or dependents that are disabled, sick, injured or elderly. Candidates must continue to meet all eligibility requirements, including satisfactory academic

progress.

(111) RTP Scholarship Stipends are normally only provided to international students who are full-time candidates.

### **Changes to HDR program**

(112) A Masters by thesis student may convert to a PhD according to the [Higher Degree Research Candidate Transfer Policy](#). A PhD student may convert to a Masters by thesis in accordance with the [Higher Degree Research Candidate Transfer Policy](#).

(113) Tenure of the RTP Fee Offset will be adjusted and fees fully offset accordingly upon transfer of candidature into the new award.

### **Suspension of candidature**

(114) Candidates supported by a RTP Fee Offset may apply to suspend their candidature in accordance with the award rules for the degree they are enrolled in.

(115) RTP International Fee Offset candidates must ensure that this is done in compliance with student visa requirements.

### **Employment**

(116) Please refer to the [Higher Degree Research Scholarships Policy](#).

### **Termination of the RTP Fee Offset**

(117) An RTP Fee Offset will be terminated in any of the following circumstances

- a. at the end of the period of tenure provided for by award or when the candidate lodges a thesis, whichever is earlier;
- b. on the candidate's withdrawal from the HDR program;
- c. if the candidate ceases to be enrolled and has not requested a period of suspension;
- d. if the candidate 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 candidate ceases to meet the eligibility criteria, other than during a period in which a suspension of candidature has been approved;
- f. if the HDR candidature is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of place in the HDR program, and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for the continuation of the program.
- g. if the awardee fails to maintain satisfactory progress, as determined by the Dean, Graduate School; and
- h. if the University determines that an awardee is guilty of serious academic or student misconduct in accordance with the [Rules – Student Academic and Non-Academic Misconduct Rules](#).

### **Grievance and review procedures**

(118) Scholarship recipients may appeal a decision to terminate a scholarship in accordance with the Query and Appeal clauses of the respective award rules.

## **Section 5 - Industry Placements, research internships, professional practice activities**

(119) RTP Scholarship Stipend and RTP Fee Offset recipients may undertake industry placements, internships, and professional practice activities of up to three months' duration where it is an approved part of their award.

(120) In addition, RTP Scholarship Stipends will be available for industry placements, research internships and professional practice activities, provided that:

- a. the student already holds an RTP Scholarship Stipend;
- b. there is no other income associated with these activities;
- c. the maximum duration of the academic program has not been reached; and
- d. the thesis examination process has not been finalised.

(121) Candidates may request approval from the Dean, Graduate School. If approval is granted, the Dean, Graduate School will note this in the letter of offer or a letter of approval if after enrolment.

(122) RTP Scholarship Stipend and RTP Fee Offset Scholarship recipients may have their scholarship extended by the duration of the placement, internship, or professional practice activity up to the maximum period of support for their RTP scholarship (see clause (25)).

(123) Students undertaking a placement, internship, or professional practice are not eligible to have their RTP Scholarship Stipend extended beyond the maximum period of support for their RTP scholarship (see clause (25)).

(124) The research end-user must be eligible at the time the written internship agreement is executed (not merely at the time of later completion reporting). The timeframe for executing the agreement is extended by any HDR suspension within the first 18 months of enrolment and by any increase to the period of RTP support under this policy.

## **Section 6 - Administration**

### **Transition arrangements for Continuing Students**

(125) Students who were offered and have accepted support under the Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines prior to 1 January 2017 will be treated as follows:

- a. Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) recipients will be transferred to an RTP Scholarship Stipend;
- b. Research Training Scheme (RTS) recipients will be transferred to an RTP Fee Offset scholarship; and
- c. International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) recipients will be transferred to an RTP International Fee Offset Scholarship.

### **Acknowledgement Requirement**

(126) The following acknowledgement must be used in all scholarly outputs arising from RTP supported research: "This research was supported by the Commonwealth through an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship": (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220>).

(127) RTP supported students who have an ORCID profile must include RTP DOI in their ORCID record. There is no requirement to create an ORCID profile where one does not exist.



## Status and Details

<b>Status</b>	Current
<b>Effective Date</b>	27th February 2026
<b>Review Date</b>	13th April 2026
<b>Approval Authority</b>	Academic Board
<b>Approval Date</b>	27th February 2026
<b>Expiry Date</b>	Not Applicable
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