

## Frequently asked questions: International Applications

May 2026

### Do you have Scholarships for international students?

Yes – we have Flinders University-funded competitive scholarships available. The 2026 round is open until 18 June 2026 with offers sent early August. More information here: <https://www.flinders.edu.au/international/apply/apply-research-degree/scholarships-fees>

There are also privately funded Scholarships, many of which are available to International students. Please refer to the [Flinders Scholarship database](#) for all available scholarships.

### How to apply for a scholarship?

You can find detailed information regarding eligibility, closing dates and application links here: <https://www.flinders.edu.au/international/apply/apply-research-degree/scholarships-fees>

For a full list of available scholarships, please refer to the Scholarships database here: <https://www.flinders.edu.au/scholarships>

### What if my English score is not high enough?

You must have an eligible English score to accept your offer. If your current English score is not high enough, you can still apply for admission while you await a future opportunity to repeat an English test, noting that you MUST have a valid English score at the time of application to apply for a Scholarship.

English proficiency must be valid until your nominated Higher Degree by Research enrolment start date ie

- For an English proficiency test, completed less than 2 years earlier than start date.
- For a qualifying degree in a country with English as the official language, completed less than 5 years earlier than start date.

More information here at Higher Degree section: <https://www.flinders.edu.au/international/apply/entry-requirements/english-language-requirements>

## How do I find a supervisor?

Refer to the Find a Supervisor link

in ResearchNow: <https://researchnow.flinders.edu.au/en/persons/?indexableKeyword=%2Fdk%2Fatira%2Fpure%2Fkeywords%2Fsupervision%2Fregistered&nofollow=true>

You must prepare the following background information about yourself **before** you seek HDR supervision from a Flinders academic staff member. This will help them decide whether they can offer suitable HDR supervision, and it's your opportunity to demonstrate your competency for HDR candidature.

Academic staff are busy people, be prepared that it may take them a while to respond to your enquiry

## What College do I apply for?

You don't need to select a College when submitting your application. Simply apply for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Masters by Research program. During the assessment process, your prospective supervisor will determine the appropriate research area and nominate the College that best aligns with your project.

## I can't find PhD Engineering when I start my application, when can I apply for this?

You don't need to select a speciality when submitting your application. Simply apply for the standard Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). During the assessment process, your prospective supervisor will determine the appropriate research area that best aligns with your project and update your application accordingly.

## When can I start?

From January 2027.

If you receive an Offer of Admission you will need to [Act on your offer](https://www.flinders.edu.au/international/apply/accept-offer): <https://www.flinders.edu.au/international/apply/accept-offer>. Once your acceptance has been finalised, we will send you instructions about the next steps.

1. Accept
2. Pay your fees to confirm your place
3. Apply for your visa
4. Prepare for your departure

## How do I apply?

International students are required to submit an online application via the StudyLink portal, available on the [How to apply](#) webpage. We strongly recommend you apply as early as possible (no later than 12 weeks before your intended start date) to allow time for the pre-visa assessment process as well as for scholarship deadlines, if applicable. [Visa processing times](#) depend upon a range of factors.

## Am I eligible?

Review the Course Rule in [Handbook](#) for the degree you are interested in applying for and the eligibility requirements here: <https://www.flinders.edu.au/international/apply/apply-research-degree/eligibility>

This page has direct links to all the Course Rules.

Handbook: <https://handbook.flinders.edu.au/>

## When will I receive my offer?

Offers are sent out to applicants after an assessment has been made by the Office of Graduate Research and the College. This normally takes 12 - 14 weeks. You will receive your offer by email.

## How do I find a research project?

You can choose your research project and provide an outline to a prospective HDR supervisor or alternatively you may be able to apply for a scholarship with a prescribed project.

Prepare a research project outline that defines the direction you want your HDR project to take you, using the guide below. In approximately 500 words, write a clear description of your proposed HDR project that outlines the what, why and how.

The research project outline should be written in your own words and will be subject to text-matching software as part of the admission assessment process. For more information, see [Using GenAI in HDR Studies](#).

- Include a suggested title.
- Provide a brief statement of what your research will try to achieve: What is its aim? What are the objectives?

- Demonstrate your engagement with a [Flinders Research area](#). Demonstrate how your proposed research aligns with your proposed supervisor's work.
- Investigate what has already been published in the area. Your project must aim to make a significant –and for doctoral level, original- contribution to that field. Demonstrate originality but also demonstrate your knowledge of context.
- Include the proposed methodology.
- Estimate any potential significant projects costs, if possible. This will help the College review whether funding is available.
- Include a timeline NB full-time Masters are expected to complete within two years and full-time PhDs within three years (thesis only degrees).
- Include a bibliography.

### **I haven't heard back from supervisors, what do I do?**

It is very important that you provide the potential supervisor with the required information for them to make an assessment on your application. As per the required documents on the [How to find a research supervisor](#) webpage, check that your original email included:

- Research experience statement
- Research Project outline
- Academic transcripts

If these documents were not provided, you will need to send a follow-up email with the required information.

If you did supply the correct documentation, please refer to the [How to find a research supervisor](#) webpage for the next steps.

### **Do I need to have publications to apply for a PhD.**

No, you do not need publications to be eligible to apply for admission to a Higher Degree by Research if you meet the research eligibility requirements.

Publications can be used as evidence if you do not directly meet the research entry criteria so are applying as an 'equivalence' application.

Publications ARE required for an International **Scholarship** application – this often creates confusion.

**I am an international student. Where can I find information about schools in Adelaide/ South Australia for my child/ children? [Ask Flinders FAQ](#)**

**Schooling:** The latest information about school fees and the enrolment process at SA Government schools is available via the [Department website](#).

Additional information about [support to learn English](#) for primary and secondary school students is also available. The primary schools with an Intensive English Language program closest to Flinders University's Bedford Park campus are at Bellevue Heights Primary School, Clovelly Park Primary School and Darlington Primary School.

**If I receive a scholarship at Flinders University, will I receive Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)?**

For RTP Scholarships the scholarship recipient and dependants are covered. Regarding the maximum, Medibank Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) family membership does not cap the exact number of family members, as long as everyone listed is authorized on your student visa and lives with you in Australia. We would recommend you checking this directly with the provider. For the Flinders-funded scholarships only for the scholarship recipient will receive OSHC. To find out more about OSHC visit [here](#).