

PhD Industry Ready Internship Scholarship Conditions of Award



Please retain these Conditions of Award as this document forms part of your agreement with the University. The PhD Industry Ready Internship Scholarship is effective for new Internship Agreements executed from 1 January 2026.

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the *PhD Industry Ready Internship Scholarship (PIRIS)* is to facilitate a PhD student to carry out an eligible research internship during their PhD enrolment, in collaboration with an eligible research end-user (industry partner) and under the supervision of their Principal Supervisor.

2 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this award, students must:

- be currently enrolled in a PhD at Flinders University;
- have secured an internship agreement in writing, for an eligible internship within the first 18 months of their candidature start date (or the equivalent pro rata for part-time students);
- be progressing satisfactorily in their candidature;
- not have previously received funding for participation in an internship; and
- not have an existing PhD scholarship (internal or external) with an embedded internship.

International students may be eligible for this scholarship if they are able to complete the proposed internship and PhD degree within the student visa duration (where applicable).

Please note that international students who hold an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (International) (AGRTPSi) or Flinders International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (FIPRS) may, under the relevant Conditions of Award, and with specific circumstances, apply for an extension to their scholarship duration, part of which may be used for an eligible internship. It should be noted that the total time of any funding will not be permitted to exceed 4 years (full-time).

To be eligible for this award, the internship must meet the current Research Training Program (RTP) legislation regarding eligible internships, including (but not limited to) that internships must be:

- agreed in written form with an eligible research end-user within 18 months of a student's candidature start date (pro-rata),
- consist of research and development activities related to students' area of research, and
- a minimum duration of three calendar months, comprising at least 60 full-time equivalent (FTE) days (these days can be spread out during the candidature as specified in the internship agreement).

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This scholarship cannot be applied if the student is already paid by the research end-user (industry partner). This includes cases where the student is an employee of the research end-user (casual, fractional or full-time).

Specific exclusions may apply to internships with affiliate organisations of Flinders University. Please check with the Office of Graduate Research regarding the potential affiliate status of research end-users (industry partners). Government rules regarding affiliates may be updated from time to time.

3 SELECTION

Selection of award holders will be undertaken based on the eligibility requirements outlined in item 2 above and include the student, internship, and research end-user (industry partner). The Office of Graduate Research reserves the right to not offer the scholarship. The scholarship is non-transferable.

4 PERIOD OF TENURE

- The normal period of tenure is three months full-time (pro-rated for part time) for the *PhD Industry Ready Internship Scholarship*. In most cases, such as instances where a student is awarded a university-funded PhD scholarship without an embedded internship, the standard duration of scholarship support will be extended from 3.5 years to 3.75 years for full-time enrolment. Please note that scholarship funding will not be provided beyond 4 years of full-time study under any circumstances.
- The *PhD Industry Ready Internship Scholarship* will be available to part-time and full-time students, with students encouraged to seek independent advice regarding potential tax implications.

5 STIPEND

- For students on full PhD scholarships without an embedded internship, the *PhD Industry Ready Internship Scholarship* will extend the end date of the existing award by three months full-time at the University RTP base rate appropriate to the year of the extension, if eligibility is maintained and upon satisfactory completion of the Final Internship Evaluation. Indigenous students who are on University-funded PhD scholarships at the Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue Indigenous Student Postgraduate Research Scholarship rate will have their scholarship extended at the same rate.
- For PhD non-scholarship holders, the *PhD Industry Ready Internship Scholarship* stipend amount, equivalent to 3 months full-time of the University RTP base rate, will be calculated at the time the eligible internship agreement is finalised. This amount will be set, regardless of the start and end dates of the internship. Half of the scholarship will be paid following verified commencement of the internship, with the remaining half of the scholarship paid following verified

completion of the internship, upon satisfactory completion of internship evaluation/s. Payments will be paid into an Australian bank account held by the student.

6 REGISTRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

- Award holders must be enrolled to commence the award.

7 LEAVE

- There are no specific leave provisions for this scholarship, however, the provisions of any base scholarship would apply.

8 EMPLOYMENT

- Award holders are required to complete at least 60 FTE days of internship, to ensure the internship is considered eligible in this scheme. Any additional employment must be undertaken outside of the 60 FTE internship days and must comply with the employment conditions of any existing scholarship.

9 INTERMISSION

- Award holders who wish to intermit or suspend their studies must apply in Inspire for both stipend and candidature intermission. Except in the case of illness, applications must be made at least three weeks in advance of the proposed period of intermission. The HDR Scholarships Committee may approve a period or periods totalling up to 12 months. In exceptional circumstances (circumstances beyond the student's control), the HDR Scholarships Committee may approve periods of intermission up to 24 months in total.
- Award holders must notify Student Finance Services at least three weeks prior to resuming study following a period of intermission.
- Award holders who suspend their studies without the approval of the HDR Scholarships Committee will be required to repay any award payments to which they were not entitled.

10 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The award holder should be familiar with the separate University policy in relation to intellectual property. Specific intellectual property arrangements for the internship should be recorded in the internship agreement.

11 PROGRESSION

- In cases where an internship is commenced but not completed, due to factors outside of the student / supervisor's control, wherever possible, the student and supervisors will be supported to seek an alternate internship opportunity. In

cases where the student withdraws from their PhD program, any future payments will be forfeited.

- Every HDR student is required to complete a HDR Milestone report in each year of RTP stipend tenure. Refer to the [HDR Progressions Procedures](#) for more information. An award may be terminated if an award holder fails at any time to make satisfactory progress as documented by the HDR Milestone process.
- The HDR Scholarships Committee may, at its discretion, require an award holder to submit additional progress reports.
- All *PhD Industry Ready Internship Scholarship* recipients are required to complete a Final Internship Evaluation to verify completion of the internship activities and to activate current scholarship extension or the second half of the scholarship payment.

12 TERMINATION OF AWARD

The award will be terminated:

- if the eligibility criteria specified in 2 above are not met, other than during a period of intermission; or
- two weeks after the award holder's thesis is submitted or when the award expires, whichever is earlier; or
- if at any time, under the provisions of the HDR Policy and HDR Progression Procedures the award holder's candidature is terminated; or
- if the award holder does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of intermission and approval has not been obtained from the HDR Scholarships Committee to extend that period of intermission; or
- if the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of the scholarship; or
- if the award holder has committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information in relation to the *PhD Industry Ready Internship Scholarship*.

If an award is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error.

13 STUDENT COMPLAINTS

Complaints about breaches of these Conditions of Award may be made in accordance with the [Student Complaints Policy](#) and [Student Complaints Procedures](#).

Queries about the Conditions of Award should be directed in the first instance to Student Finance and Scholarships (Flinders University) Ph: (08) 8201 5511 or email: hdr.scholarships@flinders.edu.au