

Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (International)

Conditions of Award



1 INTRODUCTION

The Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship was established to support students undertaking a higher degree by research (HDR).

The AGRTPS provides the following benefits to scholarship recipients:

- Payment of tuition fees;
- Payment of Overseas Student Health Cover for the recipient and dependents;
- Stipend for general living costs;
- Allowances related to the ancillary cost of higher degrees by research.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the scholarship is to enable a suitably qualified graduate to carry out, under the supervision of a member of staff appointed by the College, a program of study leading to a HDR.

3 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 To be eligible for consideration for the award of an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (AGRTPS), a student must:

- be a citizen of any overseas country except New Zealand, and not hold Australian citizenship, Australian permanent resident status or New Zealand citizenship; and
- intend to commence full-time study for a HDR in Australia for the first time, in the year for which the award is offered. Students who commenced their HDR in the previous year but who, due to the timing of their application for admission and subsequent enrolment, were unable to apply for an AGRTPS in that year, or commenced a HDR and terminated that enrolment within six months of commencement, may be considered; and
- intend to enroll in an area of research concentration. These are areas in which the University has particular strength, has concentrated its research resources and has attracted external funding; and
- satisfy all entry requirements for a HDR, including the English proficiency levels in accordance with the [English Language Proficiency Requirements for HDR Candidature](#).

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3.2 An AGRTPS will not be awarded to a student who:

- is receiving income from another source to support student's general living costs while undertaking their course of study if that income is greater than 75 per cent of the student's RTP Stipend rate. Income unrelated to the student's course of study or income received for the student's course of study but not for the purposes of supporting general living costs is not to be taken into account.
- has previously received an AGRTPS for a Research Doctorate degree, or for a Research Masters degree unless the Research Masters degree was completed and the student is undertaking a Research Doctorate degree;
- holds a qualification deemed the equivalent of an Australian Research Doctorate degree or, if undertaking a Research Masters degree holds a qualification deemed the equivalent of or higher than an Australian Research Masters degree; and
- has held an Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID/Australia Award) scholarship within the two years prior to commencing the AGRTPS
- is on paid study leave;
- holds a fractional academic appointment greater than 0.2FTE.

4 APPLICATION

Applications are submitted via the student information system available via the Flinders University website: <https://www.flinders.edu.au/international/apply/apply-research-degree/how-to-apply>

5 SELECTION

- Selection of award holders will be undertaken by the Scholarships Committee based on academic merit and research potential.
- Applications will be ranked according to the [University's Guidelines for Ranking Postgraduate Research Scholarship Applications](#)
- The University will give priority to students undertaking a HDR for the first time.

Also refer to section 4.2 of the [RTP Scholarships Administrative Rules](#) for AGRTPS Stipend selection criteria.

6 TENURE OF RTP STIPEND

6.1 An AGRTPS is tenable for:

- three years and six months full-time in the case of Research Doctorate degree students; or
- two years full-time in the case of Research Masters degree students.

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6.2 Under exceptional circumstances, award holders undertaking a Research Doctorate degree may apply for one extension to the duration of an AGRTPS, of up to six months. The extension application may be approved by the Higher Degrees by Research Scholarships Committee provided the student is making satisfactory progress and the grounds for the extension relate to the study and are beyond the control of the student. Research Masters students are not eligible for an extension.

- 6.3 The tenure of the award will be adjusted for
- Research Masters degree students who upgrade their candidature to a Research Doctorate degree during the tenure of the award;
 - Research Doctorate degree students who downgrade their candidature to a Research Masters degree during the tenure of the award;
 - Award holders who have completed periods of study towards the degree for which the scholarship was awarded before accepting their AGRTPS;
 - Award holders who undertake periods of study towards their degree whilst on intermission from their AGRTPS.
 - Approved periods of leave as described in section 13 of these Conditions of Award.

7 TENURE OF AGRTPS FEE OFFSET

Commencing HDR students and eligible continuing students will receive an AGRTP Fee Offset. This provides an exemption from tuition fees for a maximum of four years at a full-time equivalent student load for Doctoral students and up to two years full-time equivalent student load for Masters by Research students. Refer to the [RTP Scholarship Administrative Rules](#) page for more details.

8 OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER

The award provides compulsory standard Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the student, their partner and dependents for the standard duration of the student visa.

9 STIPEND

The AGRTPS pays a stipend above the standard rate set by the Australian Government which is indexed annually. In 2025, the stipend is \$35,010 per annum tax-free.

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10 ALLOWANCES

10.1 Relocation Allowance

An AGRTPS recipient who relocates to Adelaide from overseas or interstate in order to take up an award may be eligible to apply for reimbursement of relocation and travel expenses. This allowance will be paid at the following rates after arrival at Flinders University:

<i>Relocation Allowance</i>	<i>Rates for 2025</i>
Relocation expenses	
• Adult	\$505
• Child	\$255
Travel Expenses	Value of economy or student concession airfares
Total maximum allowance	\$1485

10.2 Thesis Allowance

AGRTPS holders are eligible to apply for a thesis allowance of up to \$500 to assist with thesis production costs. Claims for the thesis allowance must include original receipts and must be lodged within six months of the date of the final examined and University approved version of the thesis being uploaded to the Library digital repository, and within two years of the termination date of the scholarship.

11 REGISTRATION & ESTABLISHMENT

11.1 Award holders will be asked to nominate a commencement date, which is normally not later than 31 March in the year in which the scholarship was awarded.

- In exceptional circumstances, award holders may apply to the HDR Scholarships Committee for permission to commence their award after 31 March, but no later than 30 June.
- Following acceptance of an AGRTPS and upon arrival in Australia the award holder must arrange a meeting with the Office of Graduate Research Admissions Team to be admitted into the HDR and enrolled into their degree and thesis topic. Award holders must be enrolled full-time to commence the award and remain enrolled on a full-time basis for the duration of the award.

12 EMPLOYMENT

- 12.1 It is expected that a full-time study load is a minimum of 30-40 hours per week. Award holders may undertake additional part time employment provided it does not interfere with their study program. It is recommended that no more than 8 hours of employment during normal business hours is undertaken. Employment arrangements are to be discussed and monitored by a student's supervisor alongside HDR Progression milestones. A part-time student is subject to the same restrictions. Part-time scholarships are not available to applicants seeking to undertake paid employment.
- 12.2 The assessment of hours for award holders who undertake Flinders University teaching activities will be defined in accordance with the awards and rates of pay for casual teaching at Flinders University.

13 LEAVE

- 13.1 Award holders are entitled to receive up to 20 University business days' paid recreation leave for each year of scholarship tenure, in addition to all public holidays. Recreation leave may be accrued over the tenure of the award, but will be forfeited when the award is terminated. Annual leave does not extend the period of support of the RTP Stipend.
- 13.2 Award holders are entitled to receive up to 10 University business days' of paid sick leave per year. Sick leave may be accrued over the tenure of the award, but will be forfeited when the award is terminated. Sick leave under 10 University business days/year does not extend the period of support of the RTP Stipend.
- 13.3 Award holders are entitled to receive additional paid sick leave of up to a total of 60 University business days' during the duration of the RTP Stipend for periods of illness where the student has insufficient sick leave entitlements available under paragraph 2, provided that a medical certificate has been provided by the student to the University. Sick leave longer than 10 University business days/year and up to an additional 60 University business days with a certificate does extend the period of support of the RTP Stipend.
- 13.4 Sick leave entitlements (including additional sick leave) for award holders may also be used to cover leave for students with family caring responsibilities, subject to the usual practice of the University that includes providing supporting evidence for carer's leave.

- 13.5 Award holders who have completed 12 months of their RTP Stipend are entitled to a maximum of 60 University business days' paid parental leave during the duration of the RTP Stipend, which is in addition to the normal tenure of the award. This will be subject to the usual practice of the University; paid leave may also be approved if the student has adopted a child. Parental leave extends the period of support of the RTP Stipend.
- 13.6 Award holders who are partners of the person giving birth, or partner of the primary carer for adoption, while receiving a RTP Stipend, and who have completed 12 months of their RTP Stipend, may be entitled to a period of paid partner leave at the time of the birth or adoption, subject to the usual practice of the University that includes providing supporting evidence. Partner leave extends the period of support of the RTP Stipend.
- 13.7 Part-time student's entitlements are calculated on a pro-rata basis.

14 INTERMISSION

- 14.1 Award holders who wish to intermit or suspend their studies must complete the request online in [Inspire](#) and submit at least of four weeks before the proposed change (except in the case of illness). The HDR Scholarships Committee will normally approve a period or periods totalling up to 12 months. However, in exceptional circumstances (circumstances beyond the student's control), the Committee may approve periods of intermission up to 24 months in total. Scholarship recipients must also apply separately to the relevant College Higher Degrees Committee for intermission of their candidature. Stipend payments will cease during periods of intermission.
- 14.1 The HDR Scholarships Committee will not approve intermission of scholarships in the first six months of AG RTP stipend tenure except in exceptional circumstances.
- 14.2 Award holders must notify Student Finance Services at least three weeks prior to resuming study following a period of intermission.
- 14.3 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.

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15 OTHER AWARDS

Award holders may not normally hold other awards concurrent with the AGRTPS. Award holders must immediately advise Student Finance Services if they are offered a stipend top-up or other stipend supplement. The HDR Scholarships Committee may give approval for an award holder to accept a stipend top-up or other stipend supplement, which will not exceed 75% of the AGRTPS rate

16 TERMINATION OF AWARD

The award will be terminated:

- 16.1 if the award holder ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in 3 above, other than during a period of intermission; or
- 16.2 two weeks after the award holder's thesis is submitted or when the award expires, whichever is earlier; or
- 16.3 if at any time, under the provisions of Clauses 4.8 of the HDR Policy and Clauses 4 and 6 of the HDR Progression Procedures the College terminates the award holder's candidature; or
- 16.4 if the award holder ceases to be a full-time student and approval has not been obtained from the HDR Scholarships Committee to hold the award on a part time basis; or
- 16.5 upon the granting of Australian permanent resident status to the award holder. Award holders who are granted permanent resident status must advise Student Finance Services immediately. An AGRTPS holder who becomes a permanent resident will have their stipend converted to a Flinders University Research Scholarship (FURS) for the remaining period of scholarship tenure. In such cases, the award will be administered according to the FURS conditions of award. FURS holders undertaking a Research Doctorate degree are eligible to apply for one six-month extension to their scholarship tenure only; or
- 16.6 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
- 16.7 if the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of scholarship, and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the postgraduate degree.

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- 16.8 if the award holder has committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information in relation to the AGRTPS. In the event of an award holder providing false or misleading information, the University is required to report the matter to the Department of Education and Training.

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

17 TRANSFER OF AWARD

- 17.1 An award won in competition at Flinders University cannot be taken up at another institution and award holders are expected to complete their candidature at Flinders University.
- 17.2 When a student requests to transfer from Flinders University to another institution, Flinders University will provide the HDR student with information about their RTP Scholarship entitlements consumed at Flinders University if that is required for enrolment at another university.

18 HDR MILESTONES

- 18.1 Every HDR student is required to complete a HDR Milestone report for each year of candidature Refer to Clauses 4.8 of the [HDR Policy](#) and Clause 4 of the [HDR Progression 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.
- 18.2 The HDR Scholarships Committee may, at its discretion, require an award holder to submit additional progress reports.

19 STUDENT COMPLAINTS

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

The conditions contained in this document comply with the Department of Education conditions of award and must be adhered to by award holders. Scholarships are renewed on an annual basis and Conditions of Award may be amended from time to time to comply with the Department of Education conditions of award. Queries about the Conditions of Award should be directed in the first instance to Student Finance Services, Flinders University on Ph: (08) 8201 5511 or Email: rhdscholarships@flinders.edu.au. The Department of Education conditions of award and guidelines for this award can be obtained from: <https://www.education.gov.au/research-training-program>