

# Flinders International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (FIPRS)

## Conditions of Award



### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Flinders International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (FIPRS) were established to support students undertaking a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) program. The Scholarships are funded by the University and up to 4 scholarships will be awarded annually.

The FIPRS provides the following benefits to scholarship recipients:

- Payment of tuition fees;
- A generous living allowance which is tax exempt and indexed annually.
- Allowances related to the ancillary costs 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 a FIPRS, 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 higher degree by research in Australia for the first time, in the year for which the award is to be offered. Students who commenced their higher degree by research in the previous year but who, due to the timing of their application for admission and subsequent enrolment, were unable to apply for a FIPRS in that year, or commenced a higher degree by research 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 higher degree by research, including the English proficiency levels in accordance with the [English Language Proficiency Requirements for HDR Candidature](#); and

3.2 A FIPRS 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 a FIPRS 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;

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- 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 FIPRS
- 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 Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Committee based on academic merit and research potential.

Applications will be ranked according to the Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (AGRTPS) and flinders International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (FIPRS) application ranking scheme document.

The University will give priority to students undertaking a higher degree by research for the first time.

#### 6 TENURE

6.1 A FIPRS is tenable for:

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

6.2 An extension to the duration of an FIPRS for a Research Doctorate student of up to six months may be approved by the Higher Degree 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 a scholarship extension. Under exceptional circumstances, scholarship recipients undertaking a Research Doctorate degree may apply for one additional six-month extension of the tenure of their scholarship. Approval cannot be given for a second (additional) semester extension before work has commenced in the first.

6.3 The tenure of the scholarship 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;

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- Award holders who have completed periods of study towards the degree for which the scholarship was awarded before accepting their FIPRS;
- Award holders who undertake periods of study towards their degree whilst on intermission from their FIPRS.
- Approved periods of leave as described in section 13 of these Conditions of Award.

### 7 FEES

The FIPRS pays the full international student tuition fees charged by Flinders University for a HDR.

### 8 STIPEND

The FIPRS pays a stipend above the standard rate set by the Australian Government which is indexed annually. In 2024, the stipend is \$33,990 per annum tax-free.

### 9 ALLOWANCES

#### 9.1 Relocation Allowance

A scholarship 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:

| <b><i>Relocation Allowance</i></b> | <b><i>Rates for 2024</i></b>                    |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Relocation expenses                |   |
| • Adult                            | \$505   |
| • Child                            | \$255   |
| Travel Expenses                    | Value of economy or student concession airfares |
| Total maximum allowance            | \$1485  |

#### 9.2 Thesis Allowance

FIPRS recipients may be eligible to apply for a thesis allowance of up to \$500 to assist with thesis production costs. Students claiming a thesis allowance must include original receipts and must be lodged within six months of the date of College approval that all requirements for the degree have been completed, and within two years of the termination date of the scholarship.

### 10 REGISTRATION & ESTABLISHMENT

- 10.1 Scholarship recipients 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.
- 10.2 In exceptional circumstances, scholarship recipients may apply to the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Committee for permission to commence their scholarship after 31 March, but no later than 30 June.

- 10.3 Following acceptance of a FIPRS and upon arrival in Australia the scholarship recipient must arrange a meeting with the Office of Graduate Research Admissions Team to be admitted into their HDR and enrolled in their program. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled full-time to commence the scholarship and remain enrolled on a full-time basis whilst they hold a FIPRS.

## 11 EMPLOYMENT

- 11.1 scholarship recipients who hold a student visa with permission to work attached as a condition of that visa may undertake a strictly limited amount of part-time paid employment, provided it does not interfere with their study program. Students are normally only permitted to work up to 8 hours in any one week. Employment will be monitored by a student's supervisor. Scholarship recipients must apply to the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Committee for approval to undertake more than 8 hours work a week
- 11.2 The assessment of hours for award holders who undertake part-time teaching will be defined in accordance with the awards and rates of pay for part-time teaching at Flinders University as follows:
- an initial tutorial involves a total time of three hours, normally requiring one hour each of preparation, contact and marking time;
  - a repeat tutorial is designated as two hours.

## 12 LEAVE

- 12.1 Scholarship recipients are entitled to 20 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. Recreational leave does not extend the tenure of the scholarship.
- 12.2 Scholarship recipients are entitled to up to 10 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 working days does not extend the period of support of the scholarship.
- 12.3 Scholarship recipients are entitled to receive additional paid sick leave of up to a total of 60 working days' during the duration of the award for periods of illness where the student has insufficient sick leave entitlements available under clause 12.2, provided that a medical certificate has been provided by the student to the University. Approved sick leave longer than 10 consecutive working days and up to 60 working days with a certificate will extend the period of support of the scholarship.
- 12.4 Sick leave entitlements (including additional sick leave) for Scholarship recipients may also be used to cover leave for students with family caring responsibilities, subject to the usual practice of the University.
- 12.5 Scholarship recipients who have completed 12 months continuous study are entitled to a maximum of 60 working days' paid maternity leave during the duration of the award, 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. Approved maternity leave extends the period of support of the scholarship.

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- 12.6 Scholarship recipients who are partners of women giving birth while receiving a stipend and who have completed 12 months of their stipend may be entitled to a period of paid parenting leave at the time of the birth or adoption, subject to the usual practice of the University. Approved parenting leave extends the period of support of the scholarship by 1 week.

### 13 INTERMISSION

- 13.1 Scholarship recipients who wish to intermit or suspend their studies must complete the request online in [Inspire](#) and submit it at least four weeks before the proposed change (except in the case of illness). The Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Committee will normally approve a period or periods totaling up to 12 months. However, in exceptional circumstances (circumstances beyond the student's control), the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Committee may approve periods of suspension up to 24 months in total. Scholarship recipients must also apply separately to the relevant College Higher Degrees Committee for intermission of their candidature.
- 13.2 The Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Committee will not approve intermission of scholarships in the first six months of scholarship tenure except in exceptional circumstances.
- 13.3 Scholarship recipients must notify the Student Finance and Scholarships at least three weeks prior to resuming study following a period of intermission.
- 13.4 Scholarship recipients who suspend their studies without the approval of the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Committee will be required to repay any award payments to which they were not entitled.

### 14 OTHER AWARDS

Scholarship recipients may not normally hold other awards concurrent with the FIPRS. Scholarship recipients must immediately advise Student Finance and Scholarships if they are offered a stipend top-up or other stipend supplement. The Higher Degree by research Scholarships Committee may give approval for a scholarship recipient to accept a stipend top-up or other stipend supplement.

### 15 TERMINATION OF AWARD

The award will be terminated:

- 15.1 if the scholarship recipient ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in 3 above, other than during a period of intermission; or
- 15.2 up to two weeks after the scholarship recipient's thesis is submitted or when the award expires, whichever is earlier; or
- 15.3 if at any time, under the provisions Clauses 4.8 of the [HDR Policy](#) and Clauses 4 and 6 of the [HDR Progression Procedures](#), the College terminates the scholarship recipient's candidature; or
- 15.4 if the scholarship recipient ceases to be a full-time student; or
- 15.5 upon the granting of Australian permanent resident status to the scholarship recipient. (Scholarship recipients who are granted permanent resident status must advise Student

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Finance and Scholarships immediately. A FIPRS holder will have his/her Flinders stipend converted to a FURS for the remaining period of scholarship tenure. In such cases, the scholarship 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, and the recipient will be awarded a Research Training Program (RTP) Place.

- 15.6 if the scholarship recipient does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of intermission and approval has not been obtained from the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Committee to extend that period of intermission; or
- 15.7 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.
- 15.8 if the scholarship recipient has committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information in relation to the FIPRS. 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.

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

### 16 TRANSFER OF AWARD

An FIPRS cannot be taken up at another institution.

### 17. HDR MILESTONES

- 17.1 Every Higher Degree by Research student is required to complete a HDR Milestone report in 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 to make satisfactory progress as documented by the HDR Milestone process.
- 17.2 The Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Committee may, at its discretion, require an award holder to submit additional progress reports

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Queries about the Conditions of Award should be directed in the first instance to:

Student Finance and Scholarships Flinders University

Ph: (08) 8201 5511

Email: [rhdscholarships@flinders.edu.au](mailto:rhdscholarships@flinders.edu.au)

April 2024