Research Training Program Tuition Fee Offset Scholarship (International)

Terms and Conditions

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be an international student at the time of application.

2. Research Training Program (RTP) Tuition Fee Offset Scholarship International ('the Scholarship') holders are expected to enrol in a full-time Higher Degree by Research (HDR) course ('the Course'). Subject to relevant visa conditions, a part-time Scholarship may be approved where the University is satisfied that there are special circumstances beyond the student's control, for example medical conditions, financial hardship, carer's responsibilities.

3. Applicants must apply for admission to a Course at the University of Sydney and submit all required documentations.

4. Applicants must submit a RTP scholarship application form available on the Scholarships Office website.

Tenure

5. The Scholarship may be held for up to 14 research periods (full-time) for Research Doctorate studies, or for up to 7 research periods for Research Masters studies (full-time). Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the award.

6. No extension is possible.

7. The Scholarship is expected to commence in a specific research period and year stated in the scholarship offer notification.

8. The Scholarship may be deferred to a later research period within the same calendar year in which it is offered subject to admission deferral is also approved.

9. The Scholarship may be provided for the duration of an approved industry placement, research internship or professional practice activity (as stated in Clause 34 of this document) if:

    a. the recipient holds, and remains eligible for, the Scholarship;
    b. no other income is received from these activities; and
    c. the maximum duration of the Scholarship has not been reached.

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Benefits

10. Full tuition fees as set by the University of Sydney.

11. The visa application fee will be waived by the relevant Commonwealth Department and is only available at the time of visa application. Visa application fees paid will not be reimbursed.

12. A standard single Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the holder of the Scholarship with an eligible visa type and have not commenced their HDR course only. The duration will be for up to 57 months for a PhD and 33 months for a Masters by Research at the time of award, and it will be organised by the University of Sydney.

13. Holders of the Scholarship must not concurrently hold another scholarship that provides support for tuition fees.

Selection Criteria

14. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship on the basis of:

    a. academic merit,
    b. research experience,
    c. availability of a high-quality research environment and resources to support the candidature, and
    d. availability of high qualify supervisory arrangements to support the candidature.

15. Preference may be given to applicants who:

    a. intend to enrol or currently enrolled in a PhD,
    b. have not previously completed an HDR course at the same level of study.

16. The Scholarship is awarded by the Higher Degrees by Research Scholarships Sub-Committee (HDRSSC) on the recommendation of the Faculty.

17. The University of Sydney will notify applicants of the outcome by the email address contained in the scholarship application.

Leave Arrangements

18. Holders of the Scholarship receive up to 20 working days recreation leave every 4 research periods of the Scholarship and this may be accrued. Any unused leave when the Scholarship is terminated or completed will be forfeited. Recreation leave does not attract a leave loading. The supervisor's agreement must be obtained before leave is taken.

19. Holders of the Scholarship may take up to 10 working days personal leave every 4 research periods of the Scholarship and this may be accrued over the tenure of the Scholarship.

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20. Holders of the Scholarship may receive additional paid personal leave of up to a total of 60 working days during the life of the Scholarship for medically substantiated periods of illness or family caring responsibilities where the student has insufficient sick leave entitlements available under Clause 20 above. Students applying for additional paid personal leave must do so at the start of absence or as soon as practicable. Periods of additional paid personal leave are added to the duration of the Scholarship.

21. Subject to relevant visa conditions, once holders of the Scholarship have completed 4 research periods of their award, they are entitled to a maximum of twenty weeks paid parental leave during the tenure of the Scholarship. Students applying for paid parental leave should do so at least four weeks prior leave commencement date. Periods of paid parental leave are added to the duration of the Scholarship. Holders of the Scholarship who have not completed 4 research periods of their award may access unpaid parental leave through the suspension provisions. When applying for parental leave, applicant must include at least one of the following documents:

    a. letter from medical professional related to pregnancy,
    b. a surrogacy agreement,
    c. birth certificate of the child,
    d. adoption documents, or
    e. documentation that substantiates the application.

22. Holders of the Scholarship may take up to 10 working days paid family and domestic violence leave every 4 research periods of the Scholarship. This does not accrue over the tenure of the Scholarship. Periods of additional paid family and domestic violence leave are added to the duration of the Scholarship.

Research Overseas

23. Holders of the Scholarship may not normally conduct research overseas within the first 2 research periods of an award.

24. Holders of the Scholarship may conduct up to 4 research periods (6 research periods for students of Anthropology and other special cases) of their research outside Australia while remaining enrolled. Approval must be sought from the supervisor, and Head of department/School, and will only be granted if the research is essential for completion of the course. Approved periods of overseas research are cumulative and are counted towards the candidature.

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Transfer between Research Masters and Research Doctorate degrees

25. Holders of the Scholarship may convert from a Research Masters degree to a Research Doctorate degree or vice-versa provided such change in candidature is approved by the Faculty/University School. The conversion from Research Doctorate to Research Masters may result in termination of the Scholarship. Should the Scholarship holder be approved to retain the Scholarship, the maximum duration of the Scholarship becomes that for the new candidature.

Transfer to another University, Faculty, School or Supervisor

26. The Scholarships are not transferrable to another university. Should the holder of the Scholarship transfer to another faculty, school or supervisor within the University of Sydney, the duration of the Scholarship will not be extended.

Suspension

27. Holders of the Scholarship may not apply to suspend their award within the first 2 research periods unless:

    a. permitted by a legislative provision; or
    b. approved on the basis of special circumstances. Special circumstances include carer responsibilities or medical conditions and will generally be out of the recipient's control. International students should check the terms and restrictions applicable to their visas before applying.

28. Subject to relevant visa conditions, after the first 2 research periods, holders of the Scholarship may apply for up to 4 research periods suspension for any reason during the tenure of their award. Periods of suspension are cumulative and failure to resume study after suspension will result in the award being terminated. Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the Scholarship.

29. The Scholarship will be suspended during any period of suspension of studies. International students should check the terms and restrictions applicable to their visas before suspending.

30. Subject to relevant visa conditions, holders of the Scholarship are entitled up to an additional 4 research periods suspension (less any period of paid parental leave) following holders becoming a parent. The Scholarship holder should apply for suspension within four weeks of the expected date of becoming a parent.

31. Whenever a student suspends their studies the university must report the suspension to immigration authorities, and the student may be obliged to return to their home country for the duration of the suspension. Therefore, if a student wishes to remain in Australia during a period of suspension of studies, they must contact the closest Australian immigration office within 28 days of the approval notice to seek approval to remain in Australia during the suspension.

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Changes in Enrolment

32. Holders of the Scholarship must notify the Higher Degree by Research Administration (HDRAC) of any planned changes to their enrolment including but not limited to: attendance pattern, suspension, leave of absence, withdrawal, course transfer, and candidature transfer by written notice. If the award holder does not provide notice of the changes identified above, the University may require repayment of any overpaid tuition fee.

33. Holder of the scholarship who obtains Australian Permanent Residence status during the course of their enrolment at the University of Sydney (or prior to enrolment at the University) must notify the Student Centre, University of Sydney as soon as possible.

Industry placements, research internships and professional practice activities

34. Holders of the Scholarship may undertake industry placements, research internships, and professional practice activities of up to six months' duration that are approved as part of their HDR course by:

    a. their supervisor;
    b. the relevant Associate Dean (Research Education).

Acknowledgement

35. The Australian Government's contribution must be formally acknowledged when, at any time during or after completion of a relevant HDR course:

    a. the recipient;
    b. the recipient's supervisor; or
    c. any other party publishes or produces material (such as books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works) relating to the recipient's research project.

36. This requirement is met by including the following statement in any materials: "This research is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship".

Termination

37. The Scholarship will be terminated upon the recipient's:

    a. resignation or withdrawal from their degree,
    b. failure to enrol without approved leave or suspension,
    c. submission of their thesis or at the end of the award, whichever occurs first, or
    d. acceptance of another scholarship that provides a primary Tuition Fee Offset allowance of higher value.

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38. The Scholarship will also be terminated before clause 37 of this document if the University, after an enquiry, concludes that the recipient has:

    a. not carried out the course of study with competence and diligence, or in accordance with their Scholarship offer,
    b. failed to maintain satisfactory progress, or
    c. committed misconduct.

39. The Scholarship may be suspended throughout the duration of the enquiry/appeal process.

False or Misleading Information

40. The University of Sydney reserves the right to reassess a student's Scholarship entitlements if it believes the student has provided false or misleading information to the university in relation to their application for admission or the Scholarship award.