

Australian Government Domestic Research Training Program Fees Offset Scholarship Conditions

Introduction

The Australian Government Domestic Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset Scholarship is a scholarship available to support domestic students enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) at The University of Western Australia (the University, or UWA).

These conditions should be read in conjunction with the [Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships Policy](#) and relevant University policies and course rules as published on the University's web-pages and in the University's [Handbook](#).

The conditions are determined by the Australian Government and the University, and are subject to change from time to time.

About the Research Training Program

The Research Training Program (RTP) is a dedicated pool of funding provided by the Australian Government under the [Higher Education Support Act 2003](#) to support domestic and international students undertaking Research Doctorate and Research Master degrees.

The terms of the Research Training Program are set out in the [Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#).

Students may wish to review the [RTP FAQs at Dept of Education](#).

Overview

This scholarship, more commonly known as a Domestic **RTP Fees Offset** is provided to all domestic HDR students when enrolling at UWA.

It is not a monetary amount paid to the student, but it is used by UWA to offset the tuition fees otherwise charged for the HDR course of enrolment.

Recipients must acknowledge support of the scholarship in all output produced as a result of the scholarship. It will also appear on the Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS).

Conditions

1. Type of support

- 1.1 Tuition fees for all HDR courses are supported by the RTP Fees Offset.
- 1.2 HDR courses that are combined with a Master by Coursework are RTP supported only for the Doctor of Philosophy component. Students are required to pay the tuition fees for the Masters course.

2. Number and value

- 2.1 The number of RTP Fees Offset to be provided annually is determined by the Vice-Chancellor or delegate, in consultation with the Graduate Research School.
- 2.2 The value of the RTP Fees Offset is determined annually and published on the University website.

3. Allocation process

- 3.1 RTP Fees Offset is not awarded via a competitive process but is allocated throughout the year, in conjunction with applications for course admission.
- 3.2 All domestic applicants successfully admitted to an HDR course will automatically receive the RTP Fees Offset

4. Tenure

- 4.1 The maximum tenure of the RTP Fees Offset is equivalent to the duration of the HDR course, e.g.
 - (i) Doctor of Philosophy: 4 years full-time equivalent.
 - (ii) Master by Research: 2 years full-time equivalent.
- 4.2 HDR candidates enrolled on a part-time basis, will receive double the tenure outlined in 4.1.
- 4.3 Adjustments will be made for candidates whose enrolment changes from full-time to part-time and those undertaking suspension, parental leave, etc.
- 4.4 Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the scholarship are deducted from the maximum period of tenure.
- 4.5 Extensions beyond the maximum tenure detailed in 4.1 are not permitted under the Aust Govt Research Training Program. The University may charge tuition fees if enrolment continues after the maximum tenure of the RTP Fees Offset.

5. Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be a domestic candidate,
- meet admission to the nominated course, and
- not hold an equivalent tuition fee offset scholarship.

6. Transfers

- 6.1 A HDR candidate approved for admission on the basis of transferring their HDR project to UWA from another university, e.g. due to supervisor relocation, will be transferred to the same RTP Fee Offset at UWA. The tenure of the RTP Fees Offset will be reduced by the duration used at the previous institution.
- 6.2 A HDR candidate who wishes to transfer their HDR project from UWA to another university should apply directly to the other university and must formally withdraw from UWA prior to enrolling at the other university.

7. Course change

- 7.1 When a HDR candidate has been approved for a course change, such as:
 - (i) from a Master level course to a Doctoral level course, or
 - (ii) from a Doctoral level course to a Master level course,the RTP Fees Offset will be adjusted to the duration of the new course.

- 7.2 If the course change results in exceeding the tenure of the RTP Fees Offset for that course, this will be recorded. There is no requirement for financial reimbursement from the candidate.

8. Leave and suspension provisions

Recipients of a RTP Fees Offset are entitled to the leave and suspension provisions allowed under the course rules for the enrolled course. Typically, this is:

8.1 Leave:

- (i) recreation leave – maximum of 20 days per annum
- (ii) sick leave – maximum of 10 days per annum

This leave may accrue across calendar years however it does not add to the duration of the RTP Fees Offset. Any leave untaken is forfeited at the end of the RTP Fees Offset tenure.

8.3 Suspension:

- (i) maximum of 365 days during the entire course duration.

Periods of suspension will adjust the end date of candidature and thus the end date of the RTP Fees Offset.

- (ii) during periods of suspension, the candidate remains a student of the University, is expected to submit any Annual Progress Review due and retains access to student email and library facilities. However, there is no enrolment in load-bearing units, no consumption of RTP Fee Offset tenure, and no University insurance for activities undertaken as a candidate.
- (iii) the suspension of a stipend scholarship will automatically result in the suspension of a RTP Fees Offset when candidature is also suspended. In the event, a candidate seeks to remain enrolled and hold the RTP Fees Offset, when a stipend scholarship is suspended, the recipient should seek approval from the GRS.

9. Time commitment

- 9.1 Unless otherwise approved, full-time candidates are expected to normally be working on their research approximately 30 – 35 hours per week.
- 9.2 Undertaking external work, paid or unpaid is permitted, as long as satisfactory progress is made toward the submission of the thesis within the agreed period.
- 9.3 Recipients holding a stipend scholarship, must refer to the employment conditions of the scholarship. Typically, for stipend scholarships, employment is restricted to no more than 8 hours per week, between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.
- 9.4 Recipients may undertake professional development activities such as: research fellowship, industry placement, research internship, professional practice, or other similar enrichment activities undertaken as part of their HDR with approval of supervisors. These activities are contingent on making satisfactory progress toward submission of the thesis within the agreed period

10. Criteria for continuation

The RTP Fees Offset will continue when the recipient continues to make satisfactory progress.

11. Termination

The University will terminate the RTP Fees Offset:

- (i) when the candidate fails to maintain the criteria for continuation as per Clause 11.
- (ii) on submission of the thesis for examination.

(iii) on the death, incapacity or cessation of enrolment of the recipient.

12. Recipient's obligation

12.1 Unique Student Identifier (USI)

The Australian Government introduced the [Unique Student Identifier](#) (USI) in 2021 to replace the CHESSN scheme. All HDR candidates need to provide their USI (or exemption) through UWA StudentConnect.

12.2 Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID)

ORCID is a unique and persistent identifier (PID) for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities. UWA encourages the use of [ORCID](#) for all academic staff and HDR students and it is a required inclusion on most research output. Fee Offset recipients will be asked to create an ORCID for inclusion on your student profile.

12.3 Acknowledgement

Scholarship recipients must acknowledge the support received from this scholarship in any publications, posters, presentations, artistic works, materials, thesis, that are the product of research undertaken during HDR candidature.

Recipients should use the following acknowledgement:

"This research was supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220."

13. Complaints and appeals

13.1 Complaints should follow the process outlined in the University Policy on Public Complaints. Where possible, the complainant should attempt to resolve any concerns regarding the application outcome directly with the GRS (email: scholarship-grs@uwa.edu.au).

13.2 If unresolved, complaints may be escalated to the University's Integrity and Standards Unit. If still dissatisfied, the matter may be referred to the Ombudsman Western Australia.

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