

International Tuition Fee Offset Scholarship Conditions

Introduction

International tuition fee offset scholarships (ITFOS) are awarded by The University of Western Australia (UWA) to offset the advertised international tuition fees charged by the university for Higher Degree by Research courses.

The ITFOS offered at UWA include:

- Australian Government International Research Training Program Fees Offset Scholarship (RTP Fees Offset)
- University of Western Australia International Fee Scholarships (UIFS)
- UWA HDR Tuition Fee Scholarship (HDR-TFS)
- Scholarship for International Research Fees (SIRF)
- Scholarship for International Research Fees – China (China SIRF)
- UWA-SUDA Scholarship for International Research Fees (UWA-SUDA SIRF)

Governance

These scholarships are governed by the conditions set out below and are to be read in conjunction with the [Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships Policy](#) and rules for courses administered by the Graduate Research School in the [UWA Handbook](#).

Candidates are required to read and act in accordance with all relevant University rules, regulations, policies, and procedures; and the rules governing the degree course in which they are enrolled.

Conditions

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 Applicants must:
 - i) meet entry requirements to the nominated course,
 - ii) be a citizen of an overseas country, excluding New Zealand,
 - iii) not already holding an equivalent scholarship designed to offset tuition fees,
 - iv) be enrolled as a full-time and internal candidate, unless approved otherwise,
 - v) meet any eligibility criteria listed in these Conditions, and
 - vi) meet any additional criteria detailed on UWA's webpage/s.
- 1.2 An ITFOS is held concurrently with a UWA stipend scholarship or external stipend scholarship provided that the conditions of the concurrent award permit.
- 1.3 Additional eligibility for China SIRF:
 - i) have completed a degree that is at least comparable to an Australian Bachelor Honours degree with the result of First-Class; and
 - ii) be recommended by and in receipt of a scholarship packaged from the China Scholarship Council (CSC) for a period of up to four years, or up to thesis submission date, whichever occurs first.

2. Requirements

- 2.1 Candidates who meet the International Student Visa requirement as specified by the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs (DHA) are required to join the Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) scheme.

- 2.2 The ITFOS recipient must:
- always hold a valid visa that allows full-time study.
 - notify UWA's Student Services, and the Graduate Research School of any change to their visa status, or upon being granted Australian Permanent Residency.

3. Benefits

- 3.1 The value of the ITFOS is determined annually and published on the University website and will be included in the offer letter.
- 3.2 Candidates who will apply for international student visa and who are awarded an ITFOS may receive specific OSHC coverage:
- RTP Fees Offset and UIFS : up to family Comprehensive OSHC policy that covers the award holder and dependents
 - UWA-HTFS and SIRF : a single Comprehensive OSHC policy that covers the award holder only.
 - China SIRF and SUDA SIRF: there is no OSHC inclusion and the award holder is responsible for the cost of OSHC. This can be organised through UWA if the awardee requests.
- 3.3 It is the responsibility of the award holder to pay for the cost of additional health cover for their spouse and dependents (if applicable).

4. Exclusions

- 4.1 Tuition fees for: (i) the masters by coursework degree component of any combined PhD/Master course; (ii) micro-credential courses.
- 4.2 Expenses such as: student union fee; student services and amenities fee; fieldwork or research associated charges; living or housing expense; English language course; travel or relocation expense; visa application cost; medical costs incurred for visa application or renewal.
- 4.3 OSHC coverage for international students who do not hold an international student visa.

5. Tenure

- 5.1 The tenure of the ITFOS will be specified in the offer letter - unless otherwise stated the maximum term is:
- Research Doctorate: up to 4 years full-time equivalent.
 - Master by Research: up to 2 years full-time equivalent.
- 5.2 No extensions of international tuition fees offset scholarships are possible except in exceptional circumstances approved by the GRS.
- 5.3 Tenure will be reduced by any prior study undertaken towards the enrolled course.

6. Acceptance, deferral and commencement

- 6.1 The Letter of Offer must be accepted by the deadline specified in the offer letter.
- 6.2 Acceptance of the offer includes a declaration agreeing to the Scholarship Conditions outlined herein.
- 6.3 Recipients must commence their course on the date specified unless a deferral is requested and approved. Failure to commence by agreed start date may result in the withdrawal of the scholarship.

7. Residency

Candidates awarded an ITFOS are expected to enrol internally at one of UWA's campuses.

8. Criteria for continuation

To avoid the suspension or termination of a scholarship, the recipient must:

- remain enrolled as a full-time candidate (unless an approved suspension is active);
- meet milestone submission deadlines; and
- make satisfactory academic progress in accordance with course rules.

9. Conversion between Research Masters and Research Doctorate

- 9.1 Converting from a Master by Research to a Research Doctorate - the maximum duration will be increased to that of the new course, minus any time already undertaken in the previous HDR course.
- 9.2 Converting from a Research Doctorate to a Master by Research – the maximum duration will be reduced to that of the new course. If scholarship duration equal to or exceeding the standard Master duration has been used, the scholarship will cease, with no repayment required for any excess received.

10. Changes to Field of Research/Research Topic

- 10.1 Any change in research topic and/or Field of Research must be approved by the GRS, and if applicable, the external funding body and the Aust Govt Dept of Home Affairs.
- 10.2 A change in research topic and/or Field of Research does not affect entitlement to an ITFOS.
- 10.3 China SIRF holders need approval from the China Scholarship Council.

11. Suspension of Scholarship

- 11.1 Suspension of candidature also results in the suspension of an ITFOS.
- 11.2 During approved periods of suspension of candidature, scholarship recipients:
 - i) are not enrolled in load-bearing units,
 - ii) do not consume ITFOS tenure, and
 - iii) are not covered by University insurance or OSHC, even if undertaking course-related activities.
- 11.3 At the end of the approved suspension, failure to resume study or request an extension will result in the termination of the ITFOS.

12. Arrangements for when a scholarship ends

When a candidate reaches the end of their ITFOS entitlement, if an extension to the ITFOS is not approved, tuition fees will be payable by the candidate.

13. Annual recreation leave

- 13.1 ITFOS holders are entitled to up to the same recreation leave entitlements outlined in the course rules.
- 13.2 Leave must be taken during the scholarship tenure and does not extend its duration.
- 13.3 Leave is not paid out after the cessation of candidature.

14. Termination

- 14.1 The University may terminate an ITFOS if the candidate:
 - i) does not abide by these Conditions;
 - ii) dies or is otherwise incapable of undertaking candidature;
 - iii) is found to have committed serious misconduct, including providing false or misleading information;
 - iv) is considered by the School and GRS to be performing unsatisfactorily, with no viable alternative arrangements;
 - v) breaches the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research or relevant University policies;
 - vi) is not enrolled and actively working on their research project; or,
 - vii) fails to resume study or arrange an extension following an approved suspension.
- 14.2 A terminated scholarship will not be reinstated unless the termination is determined to have occurred in error.

15. Recipient's obligation

15.1 The recipient of a tuition fee scholarship is obliged to:

- i) apply themselves diligently and to the best of their ability to successfully complete their degree.
- ii) acknowledge the support of this scholarship in any publication, presentation or thesis resulting from research undertaken during candidature. This should include a statement such as:

"This research was carried out while the author was in receipt of the [insert scholarship name] at The University of Western Australia".

15.2 Recipients of a RTP Tuition Fee Offset must use the following acknowledgement:

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

16. Complaints and appeals

16.1 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).

16.2 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.

17. Changes to conditions

Scholarship conditions are determined by the Australian Government and the University and may be amended from time to time. Any changes will be published and communicated to recipients.

18. Advice

It is recommended to seek independent taxation and legal advice regarding scholarships, intellectual property, and any contractual obligations required by the University or external funding bodies before accepting the offer of scholarship.

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