Changes to the Research Training Scheme (RTS)

Frequently asked questions
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Please read the frequently asked questions below for more information about the changes to the Research Training Scheme (RTS). If you have any additional enquiries, please refer to the Research Training Program website or contact our Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre.

What exactly is changing?
From 1 January 2017, the Research Training Program (RTP) will replace the current Research Training Scheme (RTS).

Under the RTP, the Australian Government will fund eligible domestic research students via a tuition fee offset scholarship, called an RTP Fee Offset.

The Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) will be replaced with the RTP Stipend Scholarship, and the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) will be replaced by the RTP Fee Offset and Stipend Scholarship.

Why are changes occurring?
The Australian Government announced its National Innovation and Science Agenda in 2016. Included in this is the creation of the Research Training Program (RTP) to replace the current RTS, APA and IPRS the University manages. The objectives of the RTP are to:

- provide flexible funding arrangements to support the training of domestic students and overseas students undertaking HDRs at Australian Higher Education Providers (HEPs)
- deliver graduates with the skills required to build careers in academia and other sectors of the labour market
- support collaboration between HEPs and industry and other research end-users
- support overseas students undertaking HDR studies at Australian HEPs.

These changes will not lead to any disadvantage for current students.

Does the change from the RTS to the RTP mean that I need to pay fees?
No. Under the new Research Training Program (RTP), eligible domestic students enrolled as HDR candidates will not need to pay tuition fees. This means if you are a current RTS student, you will continue your degree without paying tuition fees.

Under the RTP, the Australian Government funds your research via a tuition fee offset scholarship, called RTP Fee Offset. You won’t receive any fee notices, as your fees will be automatically covered by the RTP Fee Offset. Each year we’ll send you an email outlining the level of support that the Australian Government has provided to the University through the RTP Fee Offset. This amount is for your reference only and does not require payment.

International students will continue to be liable for tuition fees.

What happens if I hold an APA or IPRS scholarship?
From 1 January 2017, the Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) will be replaced with the RTP Stipend Scholarship. The International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) will be replaced by the RTP Fee Offset and Stipend Scholarship.
If you currently hold an APA or IPRS you will not be negatively impacted. You will continue to receive scholarship payments according to the original terms of your award. The change will be made automatically in early January and does not require any action from you.

**Where can I get further information or clarification on any queries that I may have?**
You can find [information on the Research Training Program](https://www.education.gov.au/training-and-enterprise) on the Department of Education and Training website. If you have any questions, contact the [Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre](https://www.education.gov.au/training-and-enterprise).

**Who do I contact if I want to know more?**
If you have any additional enquiries, please contact the [Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre](https://www.education.gov.au/training-and-enterprise).