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## RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM TUITION FEE OFFSET SCHOLARSHIP 2018

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Research Training Program (RTP) Tuition Fee Offset Scholarship ('the Scholarship') has been established by the Australian Government to develop and maintain international research linkages and aims to attract top quality international postgraduate students to areas of research strength in Australian institutions and to support Australia's research effort. The scholarships cover tuition fees and basic Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) only. The Scholarship is funded by the [Department of Education](#). The Scholarship does not provide for student union/activity fees, living allowances, travel, medical costs associated with student visa application, or costs associated with overseas fieldwork or overseas living expenses.

#### **Enrolment:**

A recipient of the Scholarship must be commencing a full time, on campus enrolment in a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) as per the scholarship offer letter issued by The University of Sydney. Awardees must be enrolled by the census date of their course intake. An HDR may be a research doctorate or masters by research course for which at least two-thirds of the course load is research work.

#### **Duration of the RTP Tuition Fee Offset Scholarship:**

The duration of the Scholarship is three years for research doctorate degrees and two years for masters by research degrees. The duration of the Scholarship will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken:

- towards the course of study prior to the commencement of the Scholarship; and
- during suspension of the Scholarship.

Holders of the Scholarship enrolled in a research doctorate degree may apply for an extension of up to six months only. Requests for extension must be made in writing and must show that the grounds for extension are beyond the control of the candidate and are related to his or her studies rather than of a personal nature (such as sick leave). No extension to the duration of the Scholarship is possible for research masters candidates.

#### **Benefits**

1. Tuition fees as set by the University of Sydney. Compulsory subscription fees, student union/association membership or activity fees are not included in the benefits.
2. Nil (student) Visa Application Charge (VAC) for RTP Tuition Fee Offset Scholarship holders and their dependants. To be eligible for a nil VAC, scholarship students must provide the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) with evidence of their scholarship (e.g. your scholarship email offer) when lodging their student visa application. For further information about visa application charges, refer to the DIBP website at: <http://www.border.gov.au/>. It may be necessary to pay the student visa application charge at the point of application, and claim a reimbursement from the University on arrival.
3. The cost of a standard Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the student and their dependants. A standard OSHC policy covers the costs of medical and hospital care in Australia, most prescription drugs, and emergency ambulance transport. Please note that claims for reimbursement for this cost should be submitted to the Fees and Scholarships Office within six (6) months of renewing your policy. Any claims made after this period may not be reimbursed.
4. Exemption from educational costs for dependants attending primary or secondary schools in Australia (limited to government schools). However, exemption from education costs for dependants will vary according to the state/territory location of the school. Scholarship holders should contact the school(s) to which they propose to send their dependants to determine the costs that may apply.

5. Child Care assistance: Scholarship holders may be eligible to claim for Child Care Benefits (CCB) which assist families with the cost of child care. CCB is means tested and is paid through the Family Assistance Office in Centrelink. To determine eligibility please refer to the following website: [https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit?utm\\_id=10#2b](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit?utm_id=10#2b) or call Department of Human Services on 13 61 50 (local call charges).
6. To apply for reimbursements for allowable expenses outlined above, please complete the Reimbursement Form (International Students) located on the University's Scholarship Forms page: [http://sydney.edu.au/scholarships/research/psa\\_forms.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/scholarships/research/psa_forms.shtml)

### **Commencement of Studies/Deferral of Commencement**

Recipients of the Scholarship must enrol in their offered course and commence research at the University by the census date of their course intake. Request to defer the Scholarship for personal reasons will not be considered and the University reserves the right to withdraw the Scholarship offer if the recipient fails to gain an appropriate student visa or is unable to enrol and commence research at the University by the deadline.

### **Employment**

Holders of the Scholarship may engage in paid employment up to a maximum of twenty hours per week. A permit to undertake paid employment is normally issued automatically with the visa. However, if this permit is not granted at the time the visa is issued, the student will need to make a separate application for this permit. The application fee for a work permit, if required, is not covered under the Scholarship.

Any paid employment must not interfere with the student's study program and must be approved by relevant course supervisor/s. Delays in completion of research studies due to employment commitments will not be accepted as grounds for an extension of the Scholarship.

If employed by the University, the appointment must not exceed half time or 50% of the full-time position.

### **Overseas Study/Research**

Holders of the Scholarship may not normally conduct research overseas within the first six months of the award.

All periods of overseas research are cumulative and will be credited to a student's candidature. Students must remain enrolled at the University and submit a *Permission to Count Time Away* request in Sydney Student by logging in to MyUni, then via the 'My Studies' tab and 'Course Details'. Students may not normally conduct research overseas within the first six months of the award. Overseas study/research must not be more than 12 months in duration.

### **Other scholarships**

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

### **Conversion of Degrees**

Holders of the Scholarship may convert from a masters by research degree to a research doctorate or from research doctorate to a masters by research degree and continue to receive their scholarships. The maximum duration of a converted scholarship becomes that for the new research degree, minus periods of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the conversion.

### **Transfer/Change of Educational Provider**

In unforeseen and exceptional circumstances such as the supervisor leaving the institution and no suitable replacement being available, holders of the Scholarship may request a transfer to another institution. Students may continue to receive the Scholarship only if the host institution supports the student's transfer and the new institution agrees to continue the student's scholarships.

The transfer of the Scholarship / change of educational provider does not constitute sufficient grounds for a subsequent extension of the Scholarship.

### **Report on Progress**

The continuation of the Scholarship is subject to satisfactory progress and must be renewed on an annual basis on the recommendation of the student's supervisor.

**Suspension**

Awardees cannot suspend their scholarship within the two (2) research periods of their candidature.

Students may apply for up to a cumulative period of up to four (4) research periods of suspension during the tenure of their award. Approval to suspend must be sought from the HDRAC at least one month prior to suspension.

Under student visa regulations, suspension of studies may only be approved on the grounds of illness as evidenced by a doctor's certificate or other exceptional compassionate circumstances beyond the control of the student, e.g. bereavement. Whenever a student suspends his/her studies the University must report the suspension to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) 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 DIBP office within 28 days of the approval notice to seek approval to remain in Australia during the suspension.

**Relinquishment**

A recipient of the Scholarship is required to give the Scholarships Office immediate written advice of his/her intention to relinquish the award, e.g. on completion of studies, discontinuation of research etc.

A relinquishment of the Scholarships prior to the start of the research candidature must be lodged at the Scholarships Office as soon as the decision is made so that the Scholarship may be awarded to the next eligible candidate with ample time to take it up.

**Termination of the Scholarship**

The Scholarship will be terminated:

- Once the maximum duration of the Scholarship has been reached; or
- On submission of the thesis; or
- If the University determines that:
  - (i) the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence, or
  - (ii) satisfactory academic progress has not been maintained, or
  - (iii) serious misconduct has been committed
- An RTP Tuition Fee Offset scholarship holder becomes an Australian Permanent Resident

Students are required to advise the HDRAC of any change of enrolment as soon as it takes effect. Students will be required to repay any stipend payments received after the date of effect of their suspension or relinquishment of the Scholarship.

Students who obtain Australian Permanent Residence during the course of their enrolment at the University of Sydney (or prior to enrolment at the University) MUST notify the HDRAC immediately when their Australian Permanent Resident visa is issued. In this case, students must bring their passport to the Student Centre as soon as possible so that the University can adjust their residency status.

Subject to satisfactory progress, scholarship holders who obtain Australian Permanent Residency will be able to continue with the domestic version of the award.

**False or Misleading Information**

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.