

**RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP) SCHOLARSHIP
RTP STIPEND, RTP ALLOWANCE, and RTP FEES OFFSET
CONDITIONS OF AWARD 2025**

1. OVERVIEW

The Research Training Program (RTP) is the principal program of the Commonwealth Government for supporting Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates. The program is administered by the University of Tasmania (the University) and the Commonwealth Department of Education. The University pays scholarship holders all leave entitlements under the scholarship.

As part of the Higher Degree by Research, the University has offered an:

- *RTP Stipend* to assist with living costs while undertaking a Higher Degree by Research;
- *RTP Allowance* to assist with costs associated with relocating to Tasmania to undertake a Higher Degree by Research; and
- *RTP Fees Offset* paid to the University by the Commonwealth Government to cover the costs of tuition fees (Domestic candidates only).

All domestic Higher Degree by Research candidates are required to pay the [Student Services and Amenities Fee \(SSAF\)](#). This includes international candidates that become permanent residents or citizens of Australia during their candidature.

2. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for an *RTP Stipend* a candidate must not be receiving income from another source related to their Higher Degree by Research, to support the candidate's general living costs while undertaking their research degree, if that income is greater than 75% of the candidate's *RTP Stipend* rate. Income unrelated to the candidate's research degree or income received for the candidate's research degree, but not for the purpose of supporting general living costs, will not be taken into account.

To be eligible for an *RTP Fees Offset* a candidate must not be receiving an equivalent award or scholarship from the Commonwealth Government designed to offset tuition fees for their Higher Degree by Research.

In 2025 all domestic applicants will be offered an *RTP Fees Offset* provided they are not receiving an equivalent award or scholarship from the Commonwealth designed to offset Higher Degree by Research tuition fees.

The scholarship holder is expected to diligently pursue the degree for which they are enrolled. Continued payment of the scholarship is therefore subject to the scholarship holder making satisfactory academic progress and terminates on the expiry of the scholarship or on submission of the thesis for examination, whichever is the sooner.

3. COMMENCEMENT

Scholarship holders are required to accept and commence by the dates stated in their letter of offer. Requests to delay the date of commencement should be submitted in line with the [HDR Admissions Selection Enrolment Procedure](#). A delayed commencement beyond 12 months from the date of original offer will not be approved.

4. RTP STIPEND

RTP Stipends are awarded on a competitive basis.

In its competitive selection process, the University will give priority to applicants who:

- Hold an Australian or New Zealand bachelor's degree with first class honours, or qualifications and/or research experience deemed equivalent by the University; and,
- Have a proposed project in an area identified by the University as one of research strength.

RTP Stipends are paid fortnightly in arrears, from commencement of candidature, and must be paid into an Australian bank account (with an Australian authorised deposit-taking institution) in the candidate's name.

5. RTP STIPEND RATE

Full-time candidates receive an *RTP Stipend* at the rate of AUD\$33,511pa non-taxable (2025 rate, indexed annually).

Part-time candidates receive an *RTP Stipend* (in specific circumstances) paid at the rate of AUD\$16,756pa taxable (2025 rate, indexed annually).

See also: section 10 STUDY LOAD AND EMPLOYMENT

6. RTP STIPEND DURATION

The period of support is calculated from the date of commencement in the Higher Degree by Research, except where the *RTP Stipend* is awarded after commencement of candidature.

The duration of the *RTP Stipend* is 3 years and 6 months full-time equivalent (FTE) for a Doctoral candidate and 2 years FTE for a Masters by Research candidate.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Research may approve, on the recommendation of the Academic Unit, the transfer of an *RTP Stipend* from a Masters by Research degree to a Doctoral degree or from a Doctoral degree to a Masters by Research degree.

If the scholarship holder transfers from a Masters by Research degree to a Doctoral degree, the maximum duration of the *RTP Stipend* will be 3.5 years FTE from the date the Masters by Research degree commenced.

If the scholarship holder transfers from a Doctoral degree course to a Masters by Research degree, the maximum duration of the *RTP Stipend* will be 2 years FTE from the date the Doctoral degree commenced. If the scholarship has already been held for more than 2 years FTE, it will cease on the date of transfer.

The period of support of an *RTP Stipend* will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the scholarship or during suspension of the scholarship.

7. RTP ALLOWANCES

Relocation Allowance:

Scholarship holders may apply for a one-off relocation allowance of up to AUD\$2,000 in total towards relocating to their approved location of study.

The relocation allowance covers reasonable one way travel expenses for the scholarship holder, any dependent spouse/partner and dependent children.

Claims for a relocation allowance must be submitted:

- Once travel has been completed and the scholarship holder has been enrolled;
- Within 6 months of the date of commencement of the scholarship; and,
- Via the HDR Relocation Claim form in the Help Hub accompanied by electronic copies of receipts.

The relocation allowance does not cover accommodation, rental bond or meal costs.

The relocation allowance is paid as a lump sum into an Australian bank account (with an Australian authorised deposit-taking institution) in the candidate's name.

8. RTP FEES OFFSET

An *RTP Fees Offset* is awarded to all domestic candidates enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research at the University of Tasmania. In 2025 the Domestic *RTP Fees Offset* rate will be in the range of AUD\$34,950 -

9. RTP FEES OFFSET DURATION

The period of support is calculated from the date of commencement in the Higher Degree by Research, except where the *RTP Fees Offset* is awarded after commencement of candidature.

The maximum duration of the *RTP Fees Offset* is 4 years FTE for a Doctoral candidate and 2 years FTE for a Masters by Research candidate.

The period of support of an *RTP Fees Offset* will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to commencement of the scholarship.

10. STUDY LOAD AND EMPLOYMENT

A scholarship holder will be expected to spend the equivalent of the following hours per week progressing their candidature:

- An average of 38 hours when enrolled full-time; or,
- An average of 19 hours when enrolled part-time.

Candidates who commence on a full-time load may apply to convert to part-time. The University will support retention of a scholarship part-time on the following grounds:

- Personal reasons that preclude full-time study such as caring commitments, or a medical condition; or,
- Research-related employment.

Candidates may undertake employment during candidature provided it does not interfere with the timely progression and completion of their research project.

For international candidates any employment undertaken must be consistent with the conditions of their student visa.

A part-time scholarship holder must be enrolled as a part-time candidate and is expected to progress at half the rate of a full-time scholarship holder. Scholarship holders approved to study part-time may apply to revert to full-time study at any time.

Under Australian Taxation Law part-time stipends are taxable. Candidates should seek independent taxation advice as the University cannot provide advice regarding taxation.

11. LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

PAID LEAVE

Leave entitlements are pro-rata for part-time candidates.

Annual and Sick Leave

- We recognise the importance of taking leave for personal well-being and are committed to supporting our candidates through this process.
- Candidates are entitled to 20 working days paid annual leave each year (accruable). This leave does not extend the scholarship duration, and accrued leave is forfeited when the scholarship expires.
- Candidates are entitled to 10 working days paid sick leave a year (accruable). This leave does not extend the scholarship duration, and accrued leave is forfeited when the scholarship expires.
- Please seek support from the academic unit to access and manage these leave provisions, and to embed annual leave plans within candidature.

Medical and Carer's Leave

- For medically substantiated periods of illness lasting longer than ten working days, scholarship holders may receive up to a total of 12 weeks paid leave, which can include medical and carer's leave.
- Medical and carer's leave extends the duration of the scholarship.

Parental Leave (Primary Carer)

- Scholarship holders who give birth to a child, or are the primary caregiver for a newborn (including surrogacy arrangements) or a child placed with them for adoption or long-term foster care, during their degree period, are eligible for up to a maximum of 12 weeks paid parental leave.
- Paid parental leave may only be taken once and after the first 12 calendar months of the scholarship, excluding periods of scholarship suspension.
- Parental leave extends the duration of the scholarship.

Parental Leave (Partner of Primary Carer)

- Scholarship holders whose partner has given birth, or who are the partner of the main carer of a child placed with them for adoption or long-term foster care, may take up to a maximum of 2 weeks paid parental leave.
- Paid parental leave may only be taken once and after the first 12 calendar months of the scholarship, excluding periods of scholarship suspension.
- Parental leave extends the duration of the scholarship.

UNPAID LEAVE

Scholarship holders may apply for periods of unpaid leave.

- Scholarship holders who have not completed 12 months of their scholarship or who wish to take a period of unpaid parental leave in addition to the period of paid parental leave, may apply for unpaid leave.
- The total period of leave from the scholarship generally may not exceed 12 months. In exceptional circumstances additional periods of leave may be granted as per the process specified within the [Research Training Ordinance](#).
- The end date of the scholarship will be extended by the approved period of unpaid leave.

Excluding annual and sick leave, applications for paid and/or unpaid leave, with supporting evidence, are to be submitted as per the process specified within the [HDR Candidature Management and Enrolment Variations Procedure](#).

12. RECOVERY OF MONIES OWED

The University shall be entitled to recover money owed by candidates arising from payment of a scholarship or allowance to which the candidate is not entitled.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to be aware of their entitled scholarship and notify the Graduate Research Office should their received entitlements differ from their offer.

13. EXPIRY OF SCHOLARSHIP

A candidate's scholarship expires once the thesis is submitted for examination or at the end of the scholarship, whichever is earlier. Scholarships may be terminated before this time following an outcome of a Show Cause process conducted in accordance with the [HDR Academic Progress Procedure](#).

14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scholarship holders are required to acknowledge the Commonwealth Government's support in any published materials related to their Higher Degree by Research. This relates to any time, both during and after completion of the scholarship holder's Higher Degree by Research. Materials include items such as the thesis or exegesis, books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works which relate to the scholarship holder's Higher Degree by Research project.

The acknowledgement must be in a prominent place and in an appropriate form. The acknowledgement must include the mention of the scholarship holder's support through an "Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship".