

Conditions of Award for Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset Scholarship – year 2027

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1** This document sets out the conditions for the Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset Scholarships to students undertaking a Higher Degree by Research in compliance with the [Higher Education Support \(Commonwealth Scholarships\) Guidelines 2025](#)¹.

2 DESCRIPTION OF RTP FEES OFFSET SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2.1** This scholarship is offered to cover the costs of the tuition fees. An Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset Scholarship is paid to the University from the Australian Government on behalf of the HDR student, subject to variation in later years based on actual Higher Degree by Research (HDR) expenditure. The Australian Government contribution is in the range of \$9750 to \$19,500 annually and is used to offset the costs of the tuition fees of an HDR student of the University.

3 APPLICATION, SELECTION AND OFFER PROCESS

3.1 Domestic HDR students

Domestic HDR students will be automatically awarded an RTP Fees Offset Scholarship by the University upon admission to an HDR program, subject to meeting the eligibility requirements set out in section 4 of this document.

3.2 Overseas HDR students

Overseas HDR students must express their intention to be considered for an RTP Fees Offset Scholarship at the time of their Expression of Interest for admission, be invited to apply and lodge an admissions application by the due date as specified on the website. Applicants who have already commenced their HDR studies must apply by completing the application form available on the website by the due date.

- 3.3** Overseas RTP Fees Offset Scholarship students are selected competitively by the Scholarships Committee based on the quality of the applicants, such as academic performance, evidence of research capability, relevant professional experience, quality of research project, alignment with the University Research Strategy and Transformative Research Themes, quality of the supervisory team, such as a record of successful supervision, supervisory load and complementary expertise.

¹ It is acknowledged that information in this document has been adapted from the [Higher Education Support \(Commonwealth Scholarships\) Guidelines 2025](#)

- 3.4** The Committee will make a recommendation of the overseas HDR Fees Offset Scholarship recipients to the Pro Vice Chancellor Research. The Pro Vice Chancellor Research will determine the Fees Offset Scholarship recipients.
- 3.5** All HDR students will receive research training in a supervisory and study environment of research or creative activity, and inquiry as described in the [Policy: Higher Degree by Research Supervision](#).

4 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Domestic HDR students

To be eligible for an RTP Fees Offset, an HDR student must:

- 4.1.1** Be currently enrolled in an HDR program at the University.
- 4.1.2** Not in receipt of an equivalent award of scholarship from the Commonwealth designed to offset HDR tuition fees.
- 4.1.3** Not currently under examination status as set out by the Research Services.
- 4.1.4** Within the maximum allowable EFTSL as outlined in section 5 of this document.

4.2 Overseas HDR students

To be eligible for an RTP Fees Offset, an HDR student must complete the application process and be selected, as outlined in section 3 of this document. Additionally, they must:

- 4.2.1** Be currently enrolled in an HDR program at the University.
- 4.2.2** Not in receipt of an equivalent award of scholarship from the Commonwealth designed to offset HDR tuition fees.
- 4.2.3** Not currently under examination status as set out by the Research Services.
- 4.2.4** Within the maximum allowable EFTSL as outlined in section 5 of this document.

5 PERIOD OF SUPPORT

- 5.1** The RTP Fees Offset Scholarship is offered for a maximum of 4 EFTSL for HDR students undertaking a Doctorate, or for up to 2 EFTSL for HDR students undertaking Research Masters. The period of support for the RTP Fees Offset Scholarship will be assessed by the Research Services and reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the program prior to commencement of the RTP Fees Offset Scholarship.
- 5.2** An HDR student who exceeds the maximum duration of their HDR program as specified in 5.1 will be liable for overtime fees.

6 TRANSFER BETWEEN RESEARCH DEGREES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY

- 6.1** An RTP Fees Offset Scholarship recipient may transfer between HDR research programs within the University (see *Procedure: Higher Degree by Research Candidature*) and will continue to receive their RTP Fees Offset Scholarship if they meet the eligibility criteria.
- 6.2** The RTP Fees Offset Scholarship duration will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the program prior to commencement of the program at the University.

7 TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDER

- 7.1** An RTP Fees Offset Scholarship recipient who is currently enrolled at another Higher Education Provider (HEP) may apply for transfer to the University.
- 7.2** In such cases, the HDR student will receive the RTP Fees Offset Scholarship provided they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 4 of this document.

8 TRANSFER TO ANOTHER HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDER

- 8.1** An HDR student who intends to transfer to another HEP must seek advice from the transferring institution regarding their eligibility for an RTP Fees Offset Scholarship.

9 CHANGING STUDY LOAD

- 9.1** Domestic HDR students awarded an RTP Fees Offset Scholarship can change between full-time and part-time study at any time with permission from their Supervisor team.
- 9.2** Overseas HDR students awarded an RTP Fees Offset Scholarship are required to undertake full-time studies if they are on a student visa.

10 WORK

- 10.1** Domestic students who have been awarded an RTP Fees Offset Scholarship may undertake paid work without approval from the University but should enrol in a study load that is appropriate to their employment commitments.
- 10.2** Overseas students who have been awarded an RTP Fees Offset Scholarship may undertake paid work:
 - 10.2.1** that is consistent with the conditions of their student visa
 - 10.2.2** that complies with the University's Policy: [International Students](#)
- 10.3** The paid work should not impact detrimentally on their progress in their course of study.

11 INDUSTRY PLACEMENT, INTERNSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 11.1** An HDR student who undertakes an optional industry placement, research internship, professional practice activity or other similar enrichment activity as part of their HDR program will not have the duration of their RTP Fees Offset Scholarship extended or changed.

12 LEAVE FOR RTP FEES OFFSET SCHOLARSHIPS

- 12.1** HDR students intending to take leave are required to submit an official leave of absence application as per the General Regulations.
- 12.2** The RTP Fees Offset Scholarship will be suspended for the duration of any approved leave of absence.
- 12.3** Upon return of the enrolment, the RTP Fees Offset Scholarship will be reinstated if the HDR student meets the eligibility criteria set out under section 4 of this document.

13 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RTP SCHOLARSHIP

- 13.1** Under the [Higher Education Support \(Commonwealth Scholarships\) Guidelines 2025](#), the RTP Fees Offset Scholarship recipient, their supervisor or any other party, must acknowledge the Commonwealth's contribution if they publish or produce material such as books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works which relate to the research project carried out by the scholarship recipient.
- 13.2** Such acknowledgement must state "This research is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220".
- 13.3** RTP Fees Offset Scholarship recipients who have an existing [Open Researcher and Contributor ID](#) (ORCID) profile are required to include the doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220 in their profile. RTP Stipend Scholarship recipients who do not have an ORCID profile are not required to create one.

14 TERMINATION OF RTP FEES OFFSET SCHOLARSHIPS

- 14.1** An RTP Fees Offset Scholarship can be terminated by the University in the following circumstances:
- 14.1.1** if the HDR student no longer meets the eligibility criteria specified in Section 4 of this document, or
 - 14.1.2** on completion of the course of study; or
 - 14.1.3** if the University discovers that the RTP Fees Offset Scholarship recipient has provided false or misleading information, whether intentionally or negligently, the Research Services must be notified and the Research Services will review and report to the Pro Vice Chancellor Research.
- 14.2** The Pro Vice Chancellor Research will reassess the HDR student's entitlement to the RTP Fees Offset Scholarship and take any appropriate remedial action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, termination of the scholarship and recovery of any funds provided.
- 14.3** The Pro Vice Chancellor Research is required to report the matter to the Department of Education and Training.

15 SCHOLARSHIP VARIATIONS

- 15.1** The University reserves the right to vary the conditions from time to time, and any such varied conditions shall apply accordingly.

16 GRIEVANCES AND REVIEWS

- 16.1** If the RTP Fees Offset Scholarship is terminated, the recipient who wishes to appeal the decision should follow the appeals process stipulated in the *Policy: Student Appeals*.
- 16.2** HDR students may also refer to the [Higher Degree by Research Student Grievance Fact Sheet](#) for information.

17 DEFINITIONS

- 17.1** The definitions outlined in the *Policy: Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships* apply.
- 17.2** In addition, the following definitions apply to these Conditions of Award:
- 17.2.1** **the Act** means the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.
 - 17.2.2** **EFTSL** means Equivalent Full-time Student Load.
 - 17.2.3** **HEP** means a higher education provider as specified in section 16-15 of *the Act* (Table A Providers) or section 16-20 of *the Act* (Table B Providers).
 - 17.2.4** **the University** means the University of Notre Dame Australia.
 - 17.2.5** **Scholarships Committee** means Research Degree Scholarship Committee.

Responsible Executive:	Pro Vice Chancellor Research
Responsible Office:	Research Services
Contact:	hdr@nd.edu.au
Effective Date:	November 2025
Modification History:	December 2025: Updated links to the Guidelines and modified sections 4 and 13 to incorporate the changes of the Guidelines. PVCR approval: 10 Feb 2026