Research Training Program Scholarship Policy

1. Purpose

1.1 The Research Training Program Scholarship Policy (the policy) outlines UTS arrangements for the Australian Government’s Research Training Program (RTP) provided under the Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017.

1.2 The RTP replaces three funding programs for higher education providers (HEPs):
   - Australian Government Research Training Scheme (RTS)
   - Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA)
   - International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS).

2. Scope

2.1 This policy applies to domestic and international graduate research students (doctoral or masters by research) who receive RTP scholarships. Transition arrangements for students on existing scholarships are provided in appendix A.

2.2 The policy also applies to anyone involved in the supervision, training, management and administration of these students.

3. Principles

3.1 The principles outlined in the Graduate Research and Supervision Policy apply for the governance and management of this policy.

4. Policy statements

4.1 UTS provides the following RTP scholarships to eligible students:
   - RTP Fees Offset: domestic
   - RTP Stipend: domestic and international
   - RTP Allowances.

   **RTP Fees Offset (domestic)**

4.2 Under RTP Fees Offset scholarships, UTS awards tuition fees offset scholarships for domestic full-time or part-time:
   - doctoral students: a maximum period of four years (or the equivalent part-time study load), or
   - masters by research students: a maximum period of two years (or the equivalent part-time study load).
4.3 Students will be assessed for eligibility at the point of application. If eligible, students will be awarded RTP Fees Offset (domestic) scholarship for the maximum period of candidature.

4.4 The application process is outlined at application essentials: find a scholarship. The Graduate Research School will confirm eligibility.

4.5 The value of tuition fees varies depending on the course/subject (see tuition fees search).

4.6 Students are not required to pay any tuition fees in relation to their course for the maximum duration of the offer. However, students are required to pay the university’s standard student services and amenities fees (SSAF).

4.7 The conditions of this scholarship will be in accordance with the rights and responsibilities outlined in section 11, Student Rules and the Graduate Research and Supervision Policy.

**RTP Stipend (international)**

4.8 UTS offers a limited number of International (IRTP) Scholarships. The IRTP conditions of award (available at IRTP scholarship) provided with the offer of the scholarship are in addition to section 11, Student Rules and the Graduate Research and Supervision Policy.

4.9 Under an IRTP Scholarship, UTS awards:

- a living stipend at the minimum RTP Stipend rate
- tuition fees of varying value depending on the course/subject (see tuition fees search), and
- an overseas health care allowance.

4.10 International graduate research students are assessed for eligibility via a competitive application process through the IRTP.

4.11 The application process is outlined at application essentials: find a scholarship. The Graduate Research School will confirm eligibility and application outcome.

4.12 The scholarship is for a period of three years and a possible extension of six months for students undertaking doctoral study. Grounds for extension are outlined in the IRTP conditions of award (available at IRTP scholarship).

4.13 The scholarship is for a maximum period of two years for students undertaking masters by research study.

4.14 IRTP scholarships are not automatically extended for students who have been granted an extension of candidature. Any extension exceeding the maximum time will be subject to the maximum fee for the relevant course (see tuition fees search).

**RTP Offset and IRTP transfers from other higher education providers (HEPs)**

4.15 RTP Fees Offset or IRTP Scholarship students who wish to transfer to UTS from another higher education provider (HEP) will, when determined eligible, receive RTP
Fees Offset/IRTP Scholarship for the remainder of the maximum candidature period at UTS.

4.16 Incoming transfer students must apply for candidature to UTS and, once issued with an offer from UTS, must formally withdraw from their current HEP prior to accepting the UTS offer.

4.17 UTS students wishing to transfer to another HEP will be required to formally withdraw from their study at UTS upon approval for candidature at another HEP.

4.18 The UTS RTP Fees Offset/IRTP Scholarship will end on withdrawal from a UTS program. It is incumbent upon transferring students to ensure that they have appropriate scholarship to continue their studies at another institution.

**RTP Fees Offset overtime and special consideration (domestic students only)**

4.19 To ensure that students are appropriately supported to complete their studies, students who are unable or unlikely to complete their studies in the standard period, or supervisors of these students, should contact the Graduate Research School as soon as possible.

4.20 Students commencing their graduate research candidature from the Autumn 2018 session who do not complete their studies within the standard period (outlined in the letter of offer) are liable for candidature over time fees. Overtime candidature fees are $2000 per session for full-time study and $1000 per session for part-time study.

4.21 Extension of candidature is subject to the conditions outlined in Rule 11.8, Student Rules. Extension of candidature does not guarantee continuation of RTP Fees Offset/IRTP Scholarship. For students commencing from the Autumn 2018 session, any extension of candidature will be subject to candidature overtime fee.

4.22 Students commencing from Autumn 2018 can apply for a UTS Domestic Postgraduate Tuition Scholarship if they are unable to complete their studies in the standard period due to legitimate extenuating circumstances. This tuition scholarship is prescribed, managed and published by the Graduate Research School (contact for further information).

4.23 The UTS Domestic Postgraduate Tuition Scholarship is granted at the discretion of the Dean, Graduate Research School.

**Domestic RTP Stipends**

4.24 RTP Stipends provide domestic graduate research students with funding for living expenses.

4.25 RTP Stipends are available on a competitive application process and are advertised application essentials: find a scholarship.

4.26 All RTP Stipend application processes will be open twice-yearly, in conjunction with the application process for graduate research study.
4.27 RTP Stipend conditions are published by the Graduate Research School (see scholarships) and include detailed information about stipend/scholarship value, duration, leaves of absence, termination and additional work provisions.

4.28 The following table outlines the RTP Stipends available at UTS.

**UTS RTP Stipends**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Eligible candidates</th>
<th>Value (AUD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTS Research Excellence Scholarships</td>
<td>Offered to the top-ranked, newly commencing doctoral students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and potential to succeed in a research career.</td>
<td>$40,000 a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTP Stipends</td>
<td>Offered to research students who demonstrate competitive academic achievement and research potential; to assist with general living costs.</td>
<td>Valued at the minimum Commonwealth RTP Stipend rate a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTP Stipend supporting UTS Indigenous strategies¹</td>
<td>Offered to Indigenous Australian students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and research potential; to assist with general living costs.</td>
<td>Valued at the maximum Commonwealth RTP Stipend rate a year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RTP allowances**

4.29 UTS will pay eligible candidates a thesis allowance, relocation allowance and overseas health cover. Provisions will be outlined in the relevant scholarship conditions.

**Additional rights and responsibilities for all students receiving RTP Scholarships**

4.30 Section 11, Student Rules, the Graduate Research and Supervision Policy and graduate research policies, guidelines and forms cover graduate research students’ supervision and program of study, including details relating to:

- facilities
- course transfers and leaves of absence
- changes to fields of education
- transferring to and from another HEP
- converting from a masters (research) degree to a research doctoral degree
- converting from a research doctoral degree to a masters (research) degree
- progression and research student lifecycle
- expected workload and outside work
- termination of candidature
- withdrawal and suspension of study period
- grievance and review procedures, and
- graduate research student enrichment activities.

4.31 All RTP Stipends are covered by the conditions of award and continuation of stipend is subject to meeting the requirements of the condition of award.

¹ UTS will provide additional funding to support eligible students through the UTS Jumbunna Postgraduate Research Scholarship Program.
4.32 RTP Scholarships will be immediately suspended in the event of a discontinuation of candidature following candidature assessment (as outlined in Rules 11.23 to 11.25) or suspension due to student misconduct (section 16, Student Rules).

4.33 RTP Scholarships will be discontinued by UTS should a student become ineligible for the scholarship as specified in the application process.

4.34 Students receiving RTP Fees Offset who undertake an approved industry placement or research internship during their maximum candidature period will continue to receive RTP Fees Offset during their approved placement or internship.

4.35 Students receiving RTP stipends who undertake any industry placement or research internship, and receive a stipend as part of the placement or internship, will be required to suspend the RTP stipend for the duration of the placement or internship. The overall RTP stipend duration will be reduced by the equivalent time period.

4.36 Domestic students receiving RTP Fees Offset may undertake work outside their graduate research program however, the duration of the RTP Fees Offset will not be extended beyond the period set out in section 4.2.

4.37 Students receiving RTP Fees Offset may transfer from full time to part time study (or vice versa) with the permission of the authorised delegate at UTS (refer Delegations).

4.38 It is a legislative requirement that students, supervisors and other associated personnel acknowledge the support provided by Commonwealth RTP Scholarships in any published materials, including books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works generated through the graduate research project.

4.39 Acknowledgements must specifically mention support through an ‘Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship’. UTS highly recommends using the following statement: ‘This research is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship.’

4.40 Students or supervisors unsure of the need to include acknowledgement should seek assistance from the Graduate Research School. Failure to correctly acknowledge government funding could have direct implications for the allocation of future funding.

5. Policy ownership and support

5.1 Policy owner: The Dean, Graduate Research School is responsible for policy enforcement and compliance, and ensuring that the principles and statements are observed. The Dean is also responsible for approval of any associated university-level procedures.

5.2 Policy contact: The Director, Graduate Research School is responsible for the implementation of this policy, and acts as a primary point of contact for advice on implementing its provisions.
6. Definitions
The definitions outlined in the Graduate Research and Supervision Policy and Schedule 1, Student Rules apply for this policy.

7. Approval information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy contact</th>
<th>Director, Graduate Research School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approval authority</td>
<td>Academic Board</td>
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<td>Review year</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File number</td>
<td>UR17/2421</td>
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<td>Superseded documents</td>
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Version history

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<th>Approval date</th>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>Academic Board (AB/17-2/36)</td>
<td>07/06/2017</td>
<td>29/06/2017</td>
<td>New instrument.</td>
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<td>1.1</td>
<td>Academic Board (AB/17-3/56)</td>
<td>09/08/2017</td>
<td>29/08/2017</td>
<td>Inclusion of guidance to students regarding entitlements when undertaking approved industry placement and/or internships.</td>
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<td>Academic Board (by flying minute)</td>
<td>22/12/2017</td>
<td>01/02/2018</td>
<td>Inclusion of guidance relating to some candidature requirements, outside work and provision of scholarships.</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>Academic Board (AB/18-5/86)</td>
<td>31/10/2018</td>
<td>20/12/2018</td>
<td>Amendment made to scholarship details.</td>
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Web version

Research Training Program Scholarship Policy
References

Application essentials: find a scholarship
Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017
Delegations
Graduate Research and Supervision Policy
Student Rules: section 11, section 16
Student services and amenities fees (SSAF)
Tuition fees search
Appendix A: Continuing students and transition arrangements

Commencing 1 January 2017, UTS has advised all current students receiving a Commonwealth Scholarship that the scholarship is now awarded as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commonwealth Scholarship</th>
<th>Now awarded under</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Training Scheme placement</td>
<td>Research Training Program Fees Offset Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Postgraduate Award</td>
<td>Research Training Program Stipend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Postgraduate Research Scholarship</td>
<td>International Research Training Program Scholarship</td>
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</table>

Contact UTS Graduate Research School via email for further information.