

2017 Scholarship Conditions – Tuition Fees

This document provides the scholarship conditions for candidates awarded any one of the following scholarships commencing in 2017. These conditions are effective from 1 January, 2017.

- **Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset**
- **University of Newcastle International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (UNIPRS)**
- **VIED Tuition Fee Scholarship**
- **CSC Tuition Fee Scholarship**

1.0 DEFINITIONS

1.1 In these conditions, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:

Committee means the Research Training Sub Committee of the Research Committee

CSC means China Scholarship Council

DIBP means the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Doctoral Degree (Research) means Doctoral of Philosophy or PhD

Domestic candidate means a candidate who is not an overseas student as defined in the Higher Education Support Act 2003

FTE means Full Time Equivalent

HDR means Higher Degree by Research, formerly known as Research Higher Degree (RHD)

International candidate(s) means an overseas student as defined in the Higher Education Support Act 2003 as a person who:

- (a) is not an Australian citizen; and
- (b) is enrolled, or proposes to become enrolled, in:
 - (i) a course of study with a higher education provider; or
 - (ii) a unit of study access to which was provided by *Open Universities Australia;

but does not include:

- (c) a person entitled to stay in Australia, or to enter and stay in Australia, without any limitation as to time; or
- (d) a New Zealand citizen; or
- (e) a diplomatic or consular representative of New Zealand, a member of the staff of such a representative or the spouse, de facto partner (within the meaning of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901) or dependent relative of such a representative.

Master Degree (Research) means Master of Philosophy or MPhil

MOU means a Memorandum of Understanding

Pro Vice-Chancellor means the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of enrolment of the scholar

Program means the course of study undertaken by the scholar

RTP means the Research Training Program Scholarship as defined in the [Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#)

RTP Fees Offset means the Research Training Program Fees Offset as defined [Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#)

Scholar means the recipient of the scholarship

Scholarship means the tuition fees awarded to the scholar

Sponsor means an external donor or provider who is sponsoring the candidate

University means the University of Newcastle

VIED means Vietnam International Education Development of the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)

Please note that the terms **candidate**, **student** and **scholar** are used interchangeably throughout these conditions.

- 1.2 The Dean of Graduate Research makes determinations on behalf of the University in respect of most research scholarship matters.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 **General:** A scholarship is available to a scholar who will be undertaking an approved Master Degree (Research) or Doctoral Degree (Research) at the University; and:

2.1.1 is not receiving a scholarship for which course tuition is a component under any other scholarship scheme to which the Australian Government makes a substantial contribution; and

2.1.2 concerning international candidates, is enrolled as a full-time candidate and is compliant with international student visa requirements as specified by Department of Immigration and Border Protection including the requirement to maintain a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy approved by the Commonwealth Government [Department of Health](#).

2.1.3 for international candidates, is commencing a HDR on campus and will remain enrolled on campus for the majority of the degree (also refer to Section 10 of these conditions); and

- 2.2 **UNIPRS specific eligibility:** An applicant must be an international candidate.

- 2.3 **CSC Tuition Fee Scholarship specific eligibility:** An applicant must:

2.3.1 hold a CSC living allowance scholarship; and

2.3.2 be commencing a HDR program in an area of research concentration as identified by the CSC or the University, including having met the University's English proficiency requirements.

- 2.4 **VIED Tuition Fee Scholarship specific eligibility:** An applicant must:

2.4.1 be a citizen of Vietnam and nominated for scholarship by VIED; and

2.4.2 remains an international candidate (i.e. does not obtain permanent residency) throughout their candidature at the University of Newcastle.

3.0 SELECTION

- 3.1 Selection shall be undertaken by the Committee or its nominee(s), or, concerning CSC and VIED Tuition Fee Scholarships, on the recommendation of the funding body and relevant school and in accordance with the agreed disciplines listed in the MOU.
- 3.2 Selection shall be on the basis of academic merit, and in accordance with The Guidelines for Commonwealth Scholarships (Research) 2017 issued by the Department of Education and Training and the Scholarship Guidelines approved by the Research Training Sub-Committee.

4.0 COMMENCEMENT

- 4.1 The scholar shall normally take up the scholarship by the date specified in the scholarship offer letter in the year for which the scholarship is granted.
- 4.2 In exceptional circumstances, the Dean of Graduate Research may approve commencement of the scholarship in the subsequent year.
- 4.3 If the scholar has not commenced the scholarship by the agreed start date, the scholarship will be forfeited.

5.0 TENURE

- 5.1 A full-time scholarship may be held for two years to support a full-time Master Degree (Research) or four years for a full-time Doctoral Degree (Research).
 - 5.1.1 Concerning candidates in receipt of an RTP Fees Offset scholarship - applications to extend candidature beyond four years must be submitted to UON Graduate Research no later than six weeks prior to the expiry of your program end date (previously known as RTS end date).
- 5.2 The duration of the scholarship will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken:
 - 5.2.1 towards the course of study prior to the commencement of the scholarship; and
 - 5.2.2 during suspension of the scholarship if approved leave of absence is not also taken.
- 5.3 A part-time scholarship may be approved by the Dean of Graduate Research where the applicant is able to demonstrate heavy carer commitments or a medical condition such as:
 - 5.3.1 Carer responsibilities for a pre-school child; or
 - 5.3.2 Carer responsibilities for school-aged children as a sole parent with limited access to outside support; or
 - 5.3.3 Carer responsibilities for an invalid or disabled spouse, child or parent; or
 - 5.3.4 A medical condition, which limits the capacity to undertake full-time study (supported by medical certification).
- 5.4 A part-time scholar is expected to progress at half the rate of a full-time award holder and therefore receives approximately half of the benefits for each year of study for up to four years for a Master Degree (Research) or eight years for a Doctoral Degree (Research).
- 5.5 If a part-time scholarship is converted to full-time then the period of time that the scholar is regarded as having been in receipt of the part-time scholarship immediately prior to the conversion will be halved. For the purpose of determining the duration the scholar is regarded as having been in receipt of a full-time scholarship immediately after conversion.
- 5.6 If a full-time scholarship is converted to part-time then the period of time that the scholar is regarded as having been in receipt of the full-time scholarship immediately prior to the conversion will be doubled. For the purpose of determining the duration the scholar is regarded as having been in receipt of a part-time scholarship immediately after conversion.
- 5.7 International candidates with a Student Visa cannot study on a part-time basis and therefore cannot apply to receive a scholarship part-time, in accordance with the [ESOS Act](#).

- 5.8 It is the responsibility of international scholars to ensure they hold a valid visa while in Australia. If a scholar's visa is due to expire before the program is completed, the scholar should approach the nearest office of the [DIBP](#) to lodge an application for renewal **before** the visa expires. Scholarship benefits will be terminated if the scholar does not hold a valid visa.
- 5.9 VIED and CSC Tuition Fee Scholarships are subject to the availability of funding from the sponsor.
- 5.10 **Conversion of program:**
- 5.10.1 A Master Degree (Research) scholar may upgrade to a Doctoral Degree (Research) program during the tenure of the scholarship, if upgrade of candidature is approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor or nominee. The tuition fee scholarship duration then becomes four years.
- 5.10.2 A Doctoral Degree (Research) scholar may convert to a Master Degree (Research) program during the tenure of the scholarship, if conversion of candidature is approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor or nominee. The tuition fee scholarship duration then becomes two years.
- 5.10.3 CSC and VIED scholars must gain sponsor approval prior to applying for a transfer of program per 5.10.1 and 5.10.2.

6.0 TRANSFER OF AWARD OR PROGRAM

- 6.1 A scholarship can only be taken up at the University from which the scholar receives an offer of award and scholars are expected to complete their candidature at that University.
- 6.2 Scholars who transfer to another provider should contact the provider to determine whether or not they may be awarded a scholarship at that institution. If so, the provider must ensure that it has received information from the former provider on any RTP payment the scholar has received and the duration of the RTP scholarship already consumed, including approved periods of leave.
- 6.2.1 UNIPRS, CSC and VIED Tuition Fee Scholarships cannot be transferred to another University.
- 6.3 Transfer of program: A scholarship may be transferred to another program of study subject to:
- 6.3.1 the scholar receiving formal approval for entry to that program by the Pro Vice-Chancellor or nominee;
- 6.3.2 the Dean of Graduate Research's approval of the transfer of the scholarship to the new program.
- 6.3.3 If transferring to a new School or Faculty, the funding being available in that Faculty/School if applicable.
- 6.3.4 Approval from the sponsor (CSC, VIED), where applicable.

7.0 SUSPENSION

- 7.1 **Concerning International Candidates Only** – Leave of absence from candidature and scholarship may only be approved where the scholar can demonstrate exceptional circumstances, beyond the scholar's control. The University is required to report to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection in all such cases.

Periods of approved suspension will not be deducted from the overall scholarship tenure if the scholar takes approved leave of absence from candidature for the duration of the suspension. Where a scholar does not take such approved leave of absence from candidature, the suspended period shall be deducted from the scholarship tenure.

- 7.2 The Dean of Graduate Research may suspend a scholarship if he or she believes on reasonable grounds that the scholar's study is affected by circumstances which prevent the

scholar from pursuing the program. Suspensions for all above listed scholarship types will be in accordance with the RTP Scholarship Policy.

- 7.3 The Dean of Graduate Research will not suspend a scholarship without inviting the scholar to show cause why the scholarship should not be suspended.

8.0 EMPLOYMENT

- 8.1 A scholar with a student visa may not undertake employment that is inconsistent with the conditions of their visa.
- 8.2 The scholar shall not be *required* to undertake paid employment as a condition of award of the scholarship.

9.0 BENEFITS

- 9.1 **RTP Fee Offset** - The scholarship shall provide payment of the annual course cost, as specified in the CRICOS, for the program being undertaken by the candidate. This is estimated at between \$12,040 and \$16,080 per annum for four years FTE for PhD or two years FTE for MPhil.
- 9.2 **UNIPRS, VIED, CSC** - The scholarship shall provide payment of the annual international course cost, as specified in the CRICOS, for the program being undertaken by the candidate. This is estimated at between \$25,960 and \$34,880 per annum for four years FTE for PhD or two years FTE for MPhil.

Please note that the RTP Fee Offset, UNIPRS, VIED and CSC rates are for 2017 and are indexed annually.

10.0 TERMINATION

- 10.1 A scholarship shall terminate:
- 10.1.1 if the scholar ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in Section 2 of these conditions other than during a period in which the scholarship has been suspended; or
 - 10.1.2 on the expiry of the period for which the scholarship was granted; or
 - 10.1.3 upon submission of the first soft-bound copies of the thesis for examination; or
 - 10.1.4 if, in the opinion of the Committee, the scholar has failed to observe any condition of the [Rules Governing Higher Doctoral Degrees](#) or the [Code of Practice for Research Higher degree Candidature](#); or
 - 10.1.5 if, in the opinion of the Committee, the scholar has failed to maintain satisfactory progress and candidature is terminated; or
 - 10.1.6 upon the death or incapacity of the scholar, or written resignation or withdrawal from enrolment is received from the scholar by the UON Graduate Research; or
- 10.2 If a scholarship is terminated, it cannot be re-activated.

11.0 OBLIGATIONS

- 11.1 The scholar shall accept the award of the scholarship subject to these conditions and shall agree to abide by the conditions.
- 11.2 The scholarship conditions which have been agreed between the University and the scholar shall normally not be varied during the tenure of a scholarship.
- 11.3 No scholar will suffer disadvantage because of any variation to conditions.
- 11.4 Recipients of RTP funded scholarships are required to acknowledge the Commonwealth's contribution when, at any time during or after completion of the program, they publish or

produce material such as books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works which relate to the research project carried out during their program. The acknowledgment must include mention of the support through an "Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship". The scholar is required to conform to the Rules of the University governing their program (including disciplinary provisions).

11.5 The University shall provide a [Code of Practice for Research Higher Degree Candidature](#).

12.0 APPEAL

12.1 Candidates and scholars may appeal to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) against decisions taken by the Dean of Graduate Research or the Committee, on the grounds that the procedures followed were deficient. Written appeals shall be submitted to the Manager, Operations, UON Graduate Research, within 21 days of notification of a decision of the Dean of Graduate Research. The determination by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) is final.

13.0 RELAXATION CLAUSE

13.1 To provide for exceptional circumstances arising in a particular case, the Dean of Graduate Research, may relax any provision of these conditions, except those specifically expressed as conditions as advised by the Department of Education and Training.
