



# Fact sheet

## All APA, IPRS and RTS recipients must transfer to the new Research Training Program by 1 January 2017

Dear student,

From 1 January 2017 the Australian Government is replacing Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA), International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) and the Research Training Scheme (RTS) with a single program, the **Research Training Program (RTP)**. Universities must transfer all APA, IPRS and RTS recipients to the new Research Training Program by 1 January 2017. Current support programs are not continuing beyond 1 January 2017.

### What does this transition mean for you?

This transition will only affect you if you are a current recipient of APA, PRS or RTS support or if you have already accepted an offer from a university that includes APA, PRS or RTS support.

This transition will not affect your existing level or duration of support.

Each university must transition each continuing student onto an RTP Scholarship in a form that does not disadvantage the student and provides at least equivalent support to that provided, or that would have been provided, through the three predecessor Australian Government programs.

Continuing students can find out more about the new RTP at the Department of Education and Training [website \(www.education.gov.au/research-training-program\)](http://www.education.gov.au/research-training-program). Information on how each form of scholarship recipient will be transitioned to the RTP can also be found in Section 1.6.50 of the [Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#).

### Notification of transfer to the new program

All universities are required to notify each continuing student of this transition. Before the end of the year, all students supported by one or more of the three current Australian Government programs (APA, IPRS, RTS) will receive a notification from their university that they will be transferred to the RTP from 1 January 2017.

## **What do I have to do?**

You are not required to respond to the transfer notification unless otherwise advised by your university. If you have received a notification in error or have any questions please contact the relevant university research office or contact the Department of Education and Training.

### *The example of Erin*

Erin started her PhD studies at the beginning of 2015 and was told that her enrolment would be funded by the RTS scheme for up to 4 years. She was also awarded an APA stipend for living costs for up to 3 years.

Under the new RTP rules no continuing student will be disadvantaged. This means Erin will be supported by her university with an RTP Fees Offset while enrolled and for a period up to 2 years from 1 January 2017.

She will also receive an RTP Stipend for up to one year from 1 January 2017. The annual stipend amount will remain unchanged except for indexation increases each year. Because the APA rules allowed for a possible extension of an APA stipend for up to six months, Erin may also be eligible for an extension to her RTP Stipend. The decision to extend an RTP Stipend remains at the discretion of Erin's university.

## **What is a fee offset?**

An RTP Fees Offset is not a stipend and is not paid directly to a student. Your university uses this amount of RTP money to give you free research training instead of charging you a tuition fee. An RTP Fees Offset may not always be applicable to a student. Contact your University's Research Office if you are unsure whether a fee offset applies to you.

## **Further information**

If you have visited the department's website and still have any questions you can call the department's hotline on 1300 566 046 and ask about the 'research training program' or email [RBGrants@education.gov.au](mailto:RBGrants@education.gov.au) with 'RTP – continuing student' in the subject line.