

GUIDELINES

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP) SCHOLARSHIPS – STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT SCHEME

Section 1 – Audience

- (1) These guidelines apply to University of Newcastle (University) academics and domestic HDR applicants intending to participate in the **Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships – Strategic Engagement Scheme**.

Section 2 – Executive Summary

- (2) This document supports the University's commitment to the recruitment and funding of higher degree by research candidates in strategic areas of research engagement through the provision of living allowance and tuition fee scholarships.
- (3) The allocation of Strategic Engagement Scholarships is determined on the basis of students undertaking research in College priority research areas, in line with the University's Looking Ahead – Strategic Plan 2020-2025, including the four engagement priorities (better, healthier living, connected communities, next generation resources and growing industries).
- (4) Scholarship recipients are encouraged to participate in internship opportunities as a component of the Doctoral Degree program as a recipient of a scholarship under this scheme.
- (5) This document should be read in conjunction with the [Research Training Program Scholarship Policy](#)

Section 3 – Definitions

AQF 7 or above means an Australian Qualification Framework Level 7 qualification – Bachelor degree or above.

Domestic applicants are either Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens (or dual citizenship holders of either Australia or New Zealand), Australian permanent residents or Australian humanitarian visa holders.

HDR means Higher Degree by Research Program for example, a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Master of Philosophy (MPhil).

RTP means the Australian Government Research Training Program scholarships.

University means the University of Newcastle.

Section 4 – Eligibility

- (6) Applications will be considered for prospective domestic HDR candidates only.
- (7) Applicants must be able to commence their HDR program by 1 February 2022. Applicants who are unable to commence by this date should apply in a future scholarship round.
- (8) Applicants must satisfy the fundamental admission assessment criteria:
 - a. Applicants must meet the [admissions criteria](#) for entry into the HDR program; and
 - b. Applicants must have support from a supervisor who is a member of the University's academic staff.
- (9) Current HDR candidates are eligible to apply. However, priority will be given to prospective applicants. Applications from current HDR students will be considered after all other applications if scholarship funding allows.

Section 5 – Application Process

- (10) Prospective applicants must submit a formal online application for entry into an HDR program and attach the [Australian Government Research Training Program – Strategic Engagement Scheme Application Form](#). The aforementioned application form constitutes the scholarship application.
- (11) Current candidates must email the [Australian Government Research Training Program – Strategic Engagement Scheme Application Form \(Current Candidates\)](#) and a research overview (maximum three pages) to graduate-research@newcastle.edu.au.
- (12) Only complete applications will be considered and the onus is on the applicant to provide the documentation outlined.
- (13) Applicants must submit their formal [online application for admission and scholarship](#) by no later than AEST 11.59pm, 11 October 2021.

Section 6 – Selection Process

- (14) Each application will be scored out of 25 as outlined below:

Component	Max. points
College Research Priority	7
Research Excellence/Industry Engagement	7

GPA	7
Publications	4
Maximum Total Score	25

- (15) All eligible scholarship applications will be distributed to the relevant College Scholarship Assessment Committee.
- (16) College Scholarship Assessment Committees will determine the following scholarship score components for each eligible application:
- College Research Priority (maximum 7 points as determined by individual College/School research priorities); and
 - Research Excellence/Industry Engagement (maximum 7 points awarded on the basis of an applicant's responses in the Australian Government Research Training Program – Strategic Engagement Scheme Application Form)

- (17) Graduate Research will determine the following scholarship score components for each eligible application:

- Grade Point Average (GPA) (maximum 7 points) as follows:

The GPA used for scholarship assessment will be based on the applicant's most recent completed qualification which equates to a minimum Australian Qualifications Framework Level 7. Graduate Research scales the score with reference to the University's scoring system or the country where the qualification was attained so that each applicant is given a GPA out of 7. Where an applicant's highest qualification does not equate to a minimum of an Australian Qualifications Framework Bachelor degree, the applicant will be awarded a set GPA score of 0 out of 7; and

- Publications (maximum 3 points) as outlined in the following table:

Publication Type	Score
Refereed/peer reviewed journal article, book, book chapter, conference proceedings, research exhibition (with written exhibition guide), creative work. Must be published or accepted for publication (in press) with verifiable evidence. Manuscripts under preparation or under review will not be scored.	2 points each
Academic conference presentation, non-refereed research report.	0.5 points each

- (18) Final applicant scores will be compiled and ranked in order of numerical merit. The cut-off for successful scholarship recipients for each College will be determined in line with funding available by the Dean of Graduate Research, who will determine the final award of RTP scholarships.

- (19) Outcomes will be issued to successful applicants by no later than 10 December 2021.

Section 8 – Scholarship Award and Conditions

- (20) Successful applicants must commence their HDR program by no later than 1 February 2022.
- (21) Successful applicants are encouraged to undertake an internship as a component of their program and make satisfactory progress.
- (22) Scholarship recipients are required to undertake their studies 'on campus'. However, candidates may study at other locations for periods of less than one semester to undertake activities such as fieldwork, if approved.
- (23) Scholarship recipients are required to remain enrolled full time in their research degree, unless approval is granted by the Dean of Graduate Research to enrol part time due to extenuating circumstances.
- (24) Scholarship recipients must not undertake paid employment of more than eight hours per week, Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- (25) The conditions outlined in the University's [Research Training Program Scholarship Policy](#) and these Guidelines will apply to these scholarships.
- (26) The Scholarship will consist of a 3.5 years Stipend (equivalent to the Research Training Program Stipend base rate), up to 4 years Tuition Fees, and in accordance with the Research Training Program Scholarship Policy, and where appropriate a relocation reimbursement of up to \$1,500.

Section 10 – Timeline

Applications close	11 October 2021
Outcomes issued	10 December 2021
Must commence by	1 February 2022

Section 11 – Confidentiality

- (27) The deliberations and decisions of colleges, committees and/or delegated officers relating to allocation, selection and award of scholarships are confidential.

Section 12 – Appeals

- (28) Unsuccessful applicants for research scholarships may lodge an appeal against the outcome. Appeals will only be considered on issues of administrative process, not against academic evaluations of the College or any committee in relation to the scoring process.
- (29) The appeal must be in writing by the applicant, include a concise statement of the reasons for the appeal, and be lodged with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) (DVCRI@newcastle.edu.au), within 25 working days of the date of the letter advising the outcome of the application for the scholarship.
- (30) The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and/or nominee(s) will review the administrative processes taken and will take into account the applicant's reasons for the appeal, the information contained in the original application for a scholarship, and the Research Training Program Scholarships – Strategic Engagement Scheme Guidelines.
- (31) The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) will determine the outcome of the appeal as either:
- a. the administrative procedures for scholarship selection were applied correctly, and the application is unsuccessful;
 - b. the administrative procedures for scholarship selection were not applied correctly, but the variation in the ranking of the application was not sufficient for the applicant to be awarded a scholarship, and the application is unsuccessful; or
 - c. the administrative procedures for scholarship selection were not applied correctly, and a scholarship will be awarded.

Status and Details

Status	Current
Effective Date	3 September 2021
Approval Authority	Dean of Graduate Research
Approval Date	3 September 2021
Expiry Date	
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