

# **RTPS/AURS CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

**Graduate Research Scholarships for Master of  
Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)  
graduate research students commencing from  
January 2026**

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# RTPS/AURS CONDITIONS OF AWARD

## Graduate Research Scholarships for Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) graduate research students commencing from January 2026

### Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship

- The Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship includes RTP Stipend, RTP Fees Offset for the duration of the graduate research program, and RTP Allowances.

### Adelaide University Research Scholarship (AURS)

- Adelaide University Research Scholarships include Stipend, RTP Fees Offset (Australian graduate research students) or Tuition Fee Waiver for the duration of the scholarship (international graduate research students), and RTP equivalent Allowances.

**Please note:** For the purposes of this document, periods of support and leave benefits are indicated as full-time equivalent. Entitlements for half-time enrolled graduate research students are on a pro-rata basis.

These conditions apply to recipients of the above-named scholarships only. However, all graduate research students must refer to their Letter of Offer for any specific benefits, entitlements, allowances or obligations which may apply.

## 1. Eligibility

To be eligible for scholarship consideration:

- i. Applicants must be eligible to enrol in a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program at Adelaide University.
- ii. Incomplete qualifications will not be considered when determining scholarship eligibility unless the qualification has been satisfactorily completed and acceptable evidence provided by the scholarship closing date.
  - a) Australian and onshore international students completing a coursework qualification in the semester of application at an Australian university (University of Adelaide and University of South Australia only for international students) will be eligible for consideration.
  - b) Australian and onshore international applicants completing a research degree qualification in the semester of application at an Australian university (University of Adelaide and University of South Australia only for international students) will only be eligible for consideration if they have submitted their thesis for examination by the scholarship closing date.  
**Note: examination results must be provided within 3 months of the scholarship closing date.**

- iii. International applicants must provide evidence of meeting the minimum English language proficiency requirements for direct entry by the scholarship closing date for their application to be considered.
- iv. Applicants must not currently be in receipt of an RTP Scholarship, an overseas sponsored scholarship, or any other equivalent award or scholarship from the Commonwealth Government designed to offset research degree fees.
- v. Applicants must not hold an equivalent research degree at, or higher than, the level for which they are applying.
- vi. Applicants must be able to commence their research in the periods listed in **Section 4 Commencement**.
- vii. Applicants who have previously applied and were unsuccessful may re-apply for admission and a scholarship in any subsequent round.

**Additional Criteria only applicable to Research Training Program Scholarships (RTPS)**

- viii. Applicants for an RTPS must not be in receipt of an equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake the proposed degree (equivalent being defined as greater than 75% of the base stipend).
- ix. Currently enrolled graduate research students may only apply for an RTPS (not an AURS). Consideration is only given to work completed prior to the current graduate research program for which a scholarship is being sought.
  - a) Currently enrolled graduate research students should have a minimum of 2 years candidature remaining (if applying for a PhD scholarship) or 6 months (if applying for a Masters scholarship).
  - b) Preference will be given to new applicants who are not enrolled in an equivalent research degree.
- x. To be eligible for the Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (Indigenous), applicants must provide a formal *Confirmation of Aboriginality and/or Torres Strait Islander Heritage*.

## 2. Benefits

Research Training Program Scholarships are provided by Adelaide University on behalf of the Australian Government. Adelaide University Research Scholarships are funded by Adelaide University.

The following benefits for Adelaide University Research Scholarship are provided as applicable:

### 2.1. Living Stipend

- i. Full-time graduate research students receive a tax-exempt stipend of \$36,500 per annum in 2026 (indexed annually) for up to 3.5 years, no extension possible. Half-time graduate research students receive a taxable stipend of \$18,250 per annum in 2026 (indexed annually) for up to 7 years, no extension possible.

- ii. RTP Stipend for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples  
Full-time graduate research students receive a tax-exempt stipend of \$53,608 per annum in 2026 (indexed annually).  
Half-time graduate research students receive a taxable stipend of \$26,804 per annum in 2026 (indexed annually).
- iii. Half-time awards are not considered to be exempt from taxation. Note: award amounts may fall below the tax-free threshold; however, depending on the individual situation of the recipient may be subject to taxation. Graduate research students are advised to seek independent financial advice to ensure any taxation liability can be met should total income go beyond the tax-free threshold.
- iv. The level of the stipend does not depend on the graduate research student's personal circumstances. The stipend will not be reduced during the period of tenure unless a graduate research student converts from full-time to half-time candidature.

## **2.2. Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset and Adelaide University Tuition Fee Waiver**

All **Australian graduate research students** receive the benefit of an RTP Fee Offset which covers the cost of tuition fees as a graduate research student at the University for the standard duration of the program. The RTP Fee Offset is provided through the support of the Australian Government and is valued at between 40,600 and \$52,200. Note that these funds are not paid to the graduate research student but are paid to the University by the Australian Government to offset tuition fees.

For **international students in receipt of a Research Training Program Scholarship**, any gap between the RTP Fee Offset and the tuition fees charged is waived by Adelaide University for the standard duration of the graduate research program.

All **international graduate research students in receipt of an Adelaide University Research Scholarship** have their tuition fees waived for the standard duration of the graduate research program.

## **2.3. Allowances**

- i. Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)  
(International graduate research students only)

For Student Visa (Subclass 500) holders, the award will provide a compulsory standard BUPA Comprehensive Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) Single policy for the student for the standard duration of the graduate research program\*, as fixed at time of acceptance.

\*Master of Philosophy: up to a maximum of 30 months

\*Doctor of Philosophy: up to a maximum of 54 months

Note, the OSHC commences two weeks before arrival and covers additional time upon expiry of the scholarship to ensure visa obligations are met during examination time. Please refer to your *Offer of Admission* for details.

ii. Relocation Allowance

A graduate research student who relocates to Adelaide to commence their program of study at Adelaide University is entitled to receive a relocation allowance to contribute towards incoming travel and removal expenses (for one-way travel via the most direct route). The maximum value of the allowance is:

- a) Domestic graduate research student: up to AUD\$1,000.
- b) International graduate research student: up to AUD\$1,500.

iii. Early Submission Allowance

Award holders who submit their thesis for examination prior to their scholarship expiry date may be eligible for an early submission allowance.

- a) The value of the allowance is calculated according to the amount of scholarship tenure remaining upon thesis submission and is capped at up to two months (40 working days FTE) stipend equivalent.
- b) If a stipend overpayment was incurred at the time of thesis submission, the amount will be deducted from the allowance.
- c) The allowance will be paid as one lump sum, directly into the graduate research student's nominated Australian bank account, within 4 weeks of thesis submission.

### **3. Study Load**

- 3.1.** For domestic scholarship holders, the RTPS/AURS will be adjusted in accordance with their study load; i.e. change from full-time to half-time or vice versa.
- 3.2.** International graduate research students are not permitted to enrol half-time.

### **4. Commencement**

#### **4.1. Commencement Date**

Domestic and onshore international students should commence their research program for which the scholarship is awarded within 3 months of the commencement date/research period listed on their offer letter.

Offshore international students should commence their research program for which the scholarship is awarded as soon as possible within the research period listed on their offer letter.

#### **4.2. Payment**

Living Stipend payments for scholarship holders begin from the date on which research candidature commences (if the graduate research student is in Australia) after submission of the completed Online Enrolment Form and Banking Authority to the Adelaide University Graduate Research School.

Graduate research students will be paid fortnightly in arrears, directly into the Australian bank account nominated by the graduate research student. No payments will be made into overseas bank accounts.

International graduate research students are required to pay any visa application fees and meet the costs of any medical examinations associated with the issue or renewal of visas. It is the responsibility of the graduate research student to ensure they hold a valid visa while in Australia.

**4.3.** The University may withdraw the offer of a scholarship and allocate it to another applicant if an applicant:

- Does not meet the admission criteria.
- Does not commence by the agreed date.
- Fails to provide documentation required after a provisional offer.
- Does not meet legislative requirements or conditions as outlined by the Australian Government and/or University.
- Provides false or misleading information or documentation.

## 5. Period of Support

Program	Research Training Program and Adelaide University Research Scholarships
MPhil	Stipend and Tuition Fee Waiver: up to 2 years OSHC: up to 30 months
PhD	Stipend: up to 3 years and 6 months (RTPS Indigenous: up to 4 years) Tuition Fee Waiver: up to 4 years OSHC: up to 54 months
PhD with Research Internship	Stipend: up to 3 years and 9 months Tuition Fee Waiver: up to 4 years OSHC: up to 54 months

*OSHC relevant for international graduate research students only, refer to Section 2.3(i)*

Note, the OSHC commences two weeks before arrival and covers additional time upon expiry of the scholarship to ensure visa obligations are met during examination time. Please refer to your *Offer of Admission* for details.

There are no extension provisions.

The duration of the scholarship will be reduced by any:

- Credit received for previous study towards the current degree (if transferring award from another institution)
- Suspension of the award without intermission of the candidature.

### 5.1. Continuation

Scholarships are renewable annually, subject to satisfactory progress determined by the outcome of academic milestone reviews and/or other formal progress reviews undertaken throughout the year.

### 5.2. Conversion of Award

The University may approve conversion of an award for a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) study to a scholarship leading to a PhD, or, the conversion of an award for a PhD to a scholarship leading to an MPhil.

An award for PhD studies can be converted to an MPhil if the conversion takes place within the first two years of candidature. A graduate research student may be required to reimburse the University for any payments received in excess of the two-year limit.

The maximum duration of a converted award becomes that for the new candidature, either a maximum of two years for an MPhil or three and a half years for a PhD (four years for RTPS Indigenous).

A graduate research student completing an MPhil may continue the award for PhD studies provided there is no interval between MPhil and PhD candidature, or that such an interval is covered by suspension of the award. Because a scholarship normally expires on completion of a degree, the graduate research student must ensure that the progression to the PhD or suspension of the award is arranged before the MPhil studies are completed.

### 5.3. Deferral

An award should be taken up in the intake for which it was awarded. **See Section 4 Commencement.** Awards will not be deferred.

Application for periods of leave with the express purpose of deferring the commencement date of the award will not be approved unless exceptional circumstances exist, and permission is granted by the Adelaide University Graduate Research School. Where permission has been granted, the return from leave date must fall within the same commencement period (refer to **Section 4 Commencement** and **Section 5 Period of Support**) and may not extend into a subsequent period.

## 6. Leave Entitlements (entitlements are adjusted accordingly for half-time graduate research students)

Leave of absence will not be permitted during the final 14 days of the scholarship.

### 6.1. Recreation Leave

Graduate research students are entitled to 20 working days of paid recreation leave per year. Periods of recreation leave do not extend the normal duration of the award. Recreation leave not taken during the tenure of the award is forfeited.

## **6.2. Sick Leave**

- i. Graduate research students are entitled to 10 working days paid sick leave per year (accruable). This period does not extend the normal duration of the award.
- ii. Carer's leave related to the primary care of a family member may be applied for under the allocation of sick leave and requires equivalent supporting documentation.
- iii. For medically substantiated periods of illness lasting longer than 10 working days per year, graduate research students may receive up to a total of 60 working days paid sick leave that is additional to the normal duration of the award. This leave will only be utilised once all accruable sick leave within tenure has been exhausted.
- iv. Unpaid Sick Leave - periods of unpaid sick leave longer than 60 working days may be accessed through leave of absence provisions.

## **6.3. Parental Leave**

- i. Graduate research students who are the birth parent or primary adoptive parent and have been enrolled for a period of over 12 months full-time are able to apply for up to 60 working days of paid parental leave. This period will extend the normal duration of the award.
- ii. Graduate research students who are partners of the birth parent or primary adoptive parent and who have been enrolled for a period of over 12 months full-time are able to apply for up to 10 working days of paid parental leave. This period will extend the normal duration of the award.
- iii. Those enrolled for less than 12 months full-time are required to utilise recreation leave or unpaid leave of absence provisions.

## **6.4. Leave Without Pay**

- i. The scholarship will be suspended during periods of leave without pay.
- ii. Graduate research students may apply for leave without pay for periods not exceeding 12 months in total during tenure of the award. In special circumstances, this may be extended to a total of 24 months with approval of the Pro Vice Chancellor Research Training. Note: requests for further periods beyond 24 months will not be considered.
- iii. Graduate research students will be required to repay any monies received to which they ceased to be entitled for any periods of unpaid leave. Any overpayment will either be automatically recovered in full upon return from leave or be invoiced for payment.

## **6.5. Jury Service Leave (Australian graduate research students only)**

Adelaide University recognises that graduate research students may occasionally be required to attend jury service. Jury service is usually for a period of 20 days and prospective jurors are required to attend court on each day to see if their services will be required.

## **6.6. Cultural Leave**

Graduate research students who have formally identified with the University as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Peoples may apply for up to 10 paid days of cultural leave per year, in addition to recreation leave entitlements, for the purpose of fulfilling cultural requirements and obligations that are recognised as part of their culture. This type of leave does not extend candidature and is not accruable.

## **6.7. Return from Leave of Absence**

Graduate research students granted leave of absence are required to inform the Adelaide University Graduate Research School of resumption of candidature. Failure to do so may result in termination of scholarship and/or candidature.

## **7. Employment (Paid or voluntary work)**

- 7.1. Graduate research students are required to maintain an appropriate level of contact hours in accordance with their enrolment. The expectation is that full-time enrolled graduate research students commit about 40 hours per week to their research program (part-time students 20 hours). If graduate research students undertake employment, they must ensure that it does not impede academic progress. Graduate research students who do not meet required progress milestones will have their Living Stipend payments suspended.
- 7.2. Work commitments will not be considered applicable grounds for extension to the scholarship (or candidature).
- 7.3. Half-time scholarship holders are subject to the same conditions and obligations as a fulltime scholarship holder indicated above.

## **8. Top-up Scholarships**

- 8.1. Scholarships or top-up funding from other sources may be accepted by scholarship holders to top up their main award.
- 8.2. Top-up scholarships can only be paid if a graduate research student is currently in receipt of an AURS or RTPS or equivalent, unless the funding source is external to the University, and the scholarship documentation specifies that it is awarded as a top up scholarship.
- 8.3. For RTP Scholarship recipients, the total value of the additional awards must not exceed 75% of the value of the main award.
- 8.4. Applicants cannot hold an AURS when they are in receipt of another scholarship that exceeds the value of the AURS.
- 8.5. Graduate research students must forward a copy of any external scholarship agreements to the Adelaide University Graduate Research School (for review and legal clearance) prior to acceptance of any other scholarship.

- 8.6.** Graduate research students may also obtain operating funds for fieldwork, equipment, travel or other expenses not covered by the major award. There is no limit on the value of these funds.
- 8.7.** Graduate research students must inform the Adelaide University Graduate Research School of any proposed supplementation of a major award from Adelaide University sources for approval.

## **9. Suspension of Award**

- 9.1.** A graduate research student who wishes to take leave of absence should refer to **Section 6 Leave Entitlements**.
- 9.2.** Graduate research students who receive payments during a period of leave without pay (due to late lodgement of leave form) will be required to repay monies received to which they are not entitled. Any overpayment will either be automatically recovered in full upon return from leave or be invoiced for payment.
- 9.3. Non-Lodgement of Milestones:** Graduate research students who do not meet required progress milestones will have their Living Stipend payments suspended. No reimbursement for periods of suspension under these circumstances will be granted.
- 9.4.** Graduate research students placed on administrative leave will have their living stipend payments suspended.

## **10. Research off Campus**

### **10.1. Study Away**

- i. Payments will continue during periods of study away.
  - ii. Any period of study away will not extend the period of award.
  - iii. For information regarding 'Research Internships' refer to **Section 12. Research Internships (PhD graduate research students only)**.
- 10.2.** Unless remote candidature has been approved by the Pro Vice Chancellor Research Training, graduate research students may undertake research outside Australia ('study away') for periods not exceeding 12 months in total during the tenure of an award. Joint PhD Award graduate research students are exempt from this Clause.
- 10.3.** Australian graduate research students should consult with the Adelaide University Graduate Research School and should not leave Australia before approval for study away is given. See also **Section 6 Leave Entitlements**.
- 10.4.** International graduate research students should consult with [International Student Support] to check any visa implications as soon as possible and should not leave Australia before approval for study away is given. See also **Section 6 Leave Entitlement**.
- 10.5.** Approval for continued tenure of an award will only be given where the overseas study is essential for completion of the graduate research student's degree at

Adelaide University. The graduate research student must remain enrolled at Adelaide University and have arrangements for supervision approved.

- 10.6. By formal arrangement, the University may approve a graduate research student to undertake research at organisations outside the higher education system. Arrangements for the graduate research student's supervision, training, research freedom and support must be approved by Adelaide University. The University will retain overall responsibility for the study program. The graduate research student must remain enrolled in the graduate research program at Adelaide University.
- 10.7. The award may be terminated if the graduate research student does not resume studies at Adelaide University at the end of any period of approved absence.

## **11. Transfer of Award**

- 11.1. Adelaide University Research Scholarships are not transferable to another university
- 11.2. Graduate research students who wish to transfer to another university may continue to receive their RTP scholarships only if their new university agrees to their continuation and subject to the new university having sufficient RTP grant amounts available. The new university must ensure that it has received information from Adelaide University on any RTPS payments the graduate research student has received and the duration of the RTPS already consumed.
- 11.3. Graduate research students who wish to transfer their RTP scholarships from another university to Adelaide University should first apply for admission to the degree through the normal process. The Adelaide University Graduate Research School will confirm whether the University is able to accept the transfer of an award. There is no guarantee that an RTP scholarship awarded by another institution can be transferred to Adelaide University.

## **12. Research Internships (PhD graduate research students only)**

Adelaide University is supporting eligible research internships with a 3-month extension of their AURS or RTPS for PhD graduate research students (3 years and 9 months in total). Further eligibility conditions apply as below and upon advice from the Adelaide University Graduate Research School.

- 12.1. The research internship must be undertaken at an eligible 'Research End-User' (excluding affiliates, controlled entities, subsidiaries, or other higher education providers).
- 12.2. Graduate research students must be progressing satisfactorily in candidature and not have previously received funding from Adelaide University for participation in a research internship.
- 12.3. International graduate research students must be able to complete the proposed internship and doctoral degree within the student visa duration (where applicable).

- 12.4. All graduate research students completing a research internship are required to complete the relevant Graduate Researcher Development Program requirements prior to commencement.
- 12.5. The internship must be a minimum of 60 full-time days in duration/ minimum of three calendar months and can be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis. Mode of attendance can vary, i.e. full-time block, set days per week, part-time, face-to-face or virtual.
- 12.6. Research and development activities must be related to the graduate research student's area of research.
- 12.7. A document detailing research and development activities must be signed by the Research End-User, the supervisor and the student by 18 months of candidature.
- 12.8. For specific information regarding scholarship holders intending to undertake an APR Internship opportunity (3-5 months), please contact the Adelaide University Graduate Research School.

## 13. Termination

Termination of the scholarship will take place in the following circumstances:

- i. Submission of the thesis.
- ii. Scholarship expires or is no longer available.
- iii. Graduate research student no longer meets the eligibility criteria to hold the award.
- iv. The graduate research student has not fulfilled the obligations of the award.
- v. Where a graduate research student has not completed compulsory milestones by the due date or has not made satisfactory progress.
- vi. A graduate research student withdraws from study, ceases to be enrolled or does not apply for approved leave or suspension of award.
- vii. A graduate research student has provided false or misleading information.
- viii. A graduate research student is guilty of serious misconduct in terms of the *University Student Code of Conduct*.

A graduate research student receiving benefits to which they are not entitled will be required to repay the University on receipt of an invoice.

**International graduate research students only:** if the Fee Offset/Tuition Fee Waiver expires or is terminated before submitting the thesis for examination (and candidature is extended beyond the standard program duration) then the graduate research student will revert to a full fee-paying graduate research student for the remainder of extended candidature and all associated expenses will be the graduate research student's responsibility.

## 14. Graduate Research Student Obligations

Graduate research students are subject to the University's policies, procedures and program requirements.

Graduate research students in receipt of an RTP Scholarship must acknowledge the Commonwealth's contribution when, at any time during or after completion of their research program, the recipient of an RTP Scholarship, his/her supervisor or any other party, publishes or produces material such as books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works which relate to the research project carried out by the recipient of an RTP Scholarship. The Commonwealth's contribution must be acknowledged in a prominent place and in an appropriate form, including the RTP digital object identifier (DOI). The acknowledgement must state **“This research was supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship [doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220](https://doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220)”**

## **15. Grievance Procedures**

The appropriate appeal procedures for graduate research students are those defined by the [Student Complaints Resolution Procedure](#).

## **16. Enquiries and Information**

Enquiries about these conditions may be addressed to the Graduate Research School team at:

**Telephone:** TBC

**Email:** [research.scholarships@adelaideuni.edu.au](mailto:research.scholarships@adelaideuni.edu.au)

**These Scholarship Conditions of Award may be changed without notice to comply with any legal or University requirements.**