

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

Revised May 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

Revised May 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 standard duration of graduate research program (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 the specific benefits, entitlements, allowances and obligations that apply to their candidature. The Letter of Offer constitutes the authoritative statement of these arrangements and prevails in the event of any inconsistency. Benefits and entitlements apply only from the effective date specified in the Letter of Offer, unless expressly stated otherwise.

1. Eligibility

In accordance with the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, this section distinguishes between:

- **Commonwealth eligibility requirements** (Section 1.1) – set by the Australian Government under Section 14 of the Guidelines 2025; and
- **Adelaide University additional requirements** (Sections 1.2–1.3) – set by Adelaide University as part of our competitive selection process.

All applicants must meet both Commonwealth and University requirements to be eligible for scholarship consideration.

1.1 Commonwealth Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a Research Training Program Scholarship (RTPS), applicants must meet the following Commonwealth eligibility requirements set out in section 14 of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*:

- (a) The applicant must be a domestic student or an overseas student eligible to enrol in a research program at Adelaide University.
- (b) In relation to RTP Fees Offset, the applicant must not be receiving an equivalent award or scholarship from the Commonwealth Government designed to offset higher degree by research fees.

1.2 Adelaide University Additional Eligibility Requirements

In addition to the Commonwealth requirements in Section 1.1, applicants must meet the following criteria set by Adelaide University:

(a) Eligible programs

The applicant must be a domestic student or an overseas student eligible to enrol in a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program at Adelaide University.

(b) Qualification Completion Requirements

Incomplete qualifications will not be considered when determining scholarship eligibility. A qualification will only be considered if it has been satisfactorily completed and acceptable documentary evidence of completion has been provided by the scholarship closing date.

- (i) Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents completing a coursework qualification in the semester of application at an Australian university will be eligible for consideration. International students must be completing a coursework qualification in the semester of application, or have completed a coursework qualification within the most recent four semesters at Adelaide University or a foundation university (the University of Adelaide or University of South Australia).
- (ii) Australian citizens and permanent residents completing a research degree in the semester of application at an Australian university will be eligible for consideration only if they have submitted their thesis for examination by the scholarship closing date. International applicants will be eligible only if they are completing a research degree at Adelaide University or a foundation university (the University of Adelaide or University of South Australia), and 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.

(c) English Language Proficiency (*International applicants only*)

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.

(d) Previous or Current Scholarships

Applicants must not currently be in receipt of an RTP Scholarship (RTPS), an overseas sponsored scholarship, or any other equivalent award or scholarship from the Commonwealth Government designed to offset research degree tuition fees.

(e) Prior Qualifications

Applicants must not hold an equivalent research degree at, or higher than, the level for which they are applying.

(f) Commencement Requirements

Applicants must be able to commence their research program in the periods specified in **Section 4 (Commencement)**.

(g) Re-application

Applicants who have previously applied and were unsuccessful may re-apply for admission and a scholarship in any subsequent round.

(h) Indigenous Student Requirements (*RTP Indigenous Scholarships only*)

To be eligible for the Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (Indigenous), applicants must provide formal evidence that they meet the Commonwealth definition of an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person. This may be demonstrated through:

- a Confirmation of Aboriginality issued by a recognised Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisation; or
- a statutory declaration confirming Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent made in accordance with Commonwealth requirements.

1.3 Additional Requirements for Currently Enrolled Graduate Research Students (RTP Scholarships only)

The following additional eligibility and selection criteria apply only to applicants seeking an RTP Scholarship (RTPS), and are determined by the University in accordance with section 18 of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*:

- (a) Currently enrolled graduate research students may apply only for an RTP Scholarship (not an Adelaide University Research Scholarship (AURS)). Consideration will be given only to academic work completed prior to the commencement of the current research degree candidature.
 - (b) Currently enrolled graduate research students must have a minimum of:
 - (i) 2 years of candidature remaining if applying for a Doctor of Philosophy scholarship; or
 - (ii) 6 months of candidature remaining if applying for a Master of Philosophy scholarship.
 - (c) In accordance with Adelaide University's competitive selection priorities, and as permitted under the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, Adelaide University may prioritise scholarship support for commencing students. Accordingly, competitive scholarships preference may be given to new applicants entering a graduate research program as compared to students already enrolled in an equivalent research degree at Adelaide University.
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2. Benefits

Research Training Program Scholarships (RTPS) are provided by Adelaide University on behalf of the Australian Government under the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*.

Adelaide University Research Scholarships (AURS) are funded by Adelaide University.

The following benefits are provided as applicable to scholarship recipients:

2.1 Living Stipend

In accordance with Section 18 of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, base and maximum RTP Stipend rates are determined as advised by the Department of Education from time to time. In 2026:

Full-time students

Full-time graduate research students receive a **tax-exempt stipend of \$36,500 per annum in 2026** (indexed annually in accordance with Part 5-6 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003) for up to 3.5 years, no extension possible.

Half-time students

Half-time graduate research students receive a **taxable stipend of \$18,250 per annum in 2026** (indexed annually in accordance with Part 5-6 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003) for up to 7 years, no extension possible.

RTP Stipend for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Full-time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples receive a **tax-exempt stipend of \$53,608 per annum in 2026** (indexed annually in accordance with Part 5-6 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003).

Half-time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples receive a **taxable stipend of \$26,804 per annum in 2026** (indexed annually in accordance with Part 5-6 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003).

Important notes on stipend

- **Half-time awards are not exempt from taxation.**

- 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.
- 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.

In accordance with Section 18 of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, stipend payments are processed fortnightly in arrears. To meet Commonwealth compliance standards for direct payment:

- Payments must be made into an account held in the student's own name.
- The account must be with an Australian Authorised Deposit-taking Institution (ADI).
- Payments cannot be made into third-party accounts or overseas bank accounts.

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

(a) Domestic Graduate Research Students:

All graduate research students who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand receive the benefit of an RTP Fees Offset, which extinguishes the student's liability to pay tuition fees for their graduate research program at Adelaide University for the standard duration of the program.

The RTP Fees Offset is provided through the support of the Australian Government. These funds are not paid to the graduate research student but are paid to the University by the Australian Government to offset the student's tuition fee liability.

(b) International (Overseas) Graduate Research Students:

- (i) For international students in receipt of a Research Training Program Scholarship (RTPS), the RTP Fees Offset will cover all or part of the tuition fees charged. Any gap between the RTP Fees Offset and the tuition fees charged will be waived by Adelaide University for the standard duration of the graduate research program.
- (ii) All international graduate research students in receipt of an Adelaide University Research Scholarship (AURS) have their tuition fees waived for the standard duration of the graduate research program.

2.3 Allowances

The following allowances are provided in accordance with Section 15(1)(c) of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025* as RTP Allowances to assist students with ancillary costs of undertaking a higher degree by research.

(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:

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

The following allowances are provided by Adelaide University as additional support beyond Commonwealth requirements.

(iii) Early Submission Allowance

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

- 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 full time equivalent) stipend equivalent.
- If a stipend overpayment was incurred at the time of thesis submission, the amount will be deducted from the allowance.
- 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

For domestic scholarship holders, the RTPS/AURS stipend payments and fee offset/waiver benefits will be adjusted in accordance with changes to their study load (i.e., changes from full-time to half-time or vice versa).

Please note that half-time stipends are taxable.

In accordance with Australian student visa requirements, international graduate research students are not permitted to enrol on a half-time basis.

4. Commencement

4.1 Commencement Date

Domestic and onshore international graduate research students should commence their research program for which the scholarship is awarded within 3 months of the commencement date 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 will commence from the date on which research candidature begins.

- To initiate payments, students must submit a completed Online Enrolment Form to the Adelaide University Graduate Research School and lodge their Australian banking details via the Student Portal.
- All payments are subject to the mandatory Commonwealth banking and identity requirements specified in **Section 2.1**.

4.3 International Student Visa Responsibilities

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.

4.4 Withdrawal of Scholarship Offer

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

- Does not meet the University admission criteria;
- Does not meet the Commonwealth RTP eligibility requirements in Section 1.1 or the Adelaide University competitive scholarship eligibility requirements in Sections 1.2–1.3;
- Does not commence by the agreed date;
- Fails to provide documentation required after a provisional offer;
- Is in breach of any of the requirements or in response to a failure to comply with legislative acts or national security obligations, including the [University Foreign Interference Taskforce \(UFIT\), Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector](#);
- Does not meet legislative requirements or conditions as outlined by the Australian Government under the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025* and/or Adelaide University; or
- Provides false or misleading information or documentation.

5. Period of Support

In accordance with Section 16 of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, the period of support for RTP Scholarships is:

Program	Research Training Program and Adelaide University Research Scholarships
MPhil	Stipend and Tuition Fee Waiver: Up to a maximum of two (2) years (full time equivalent) <i>OSHC: up to 30 months</i>
PhD	Stipend: up to a maximum of three (3) years and six (6) months (full time equivalent); or up to a maximum of four (4) years (full time equivalent) for RTPS Indigenous scholarship holders Tuition Fee Waiver: up to a maximum of four (4) years (full time equivalent) <i>OSHC: up to 54 months</i>
PhD with eligible Research Internship	Stipend: up to a maximum of three (3) years and nine (9) months (full time equivalent) Tuition Fee Waiver: up to a maximum of four (4) years (full time equivalent) <i>OSHC: up to 54 months</i>

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.

5.1 Calculation of Period of Support

- A student's period of support is calculated from the commencement of their relevant course of study.
- In accordance with Section 16(3) of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, a student's period of support will be increased by the length of any periods of the following approved leave:

- Additional paid personal leave (comprising sick and carer's leave) (up to 60 working days over life of stipend) – Section 18(6)(d)
 - Paid parental leave (minimum 20 weeks per child) – Section 18(6)(f)
 - Paid partner leave (if approved by University) – Section 18(6)(g)
 - Paid family and domestic violence leave – Section 18(6)(h)
- (c) In accordance with Section 16(4) of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, a student's period of support will be increased by the length of any approved RTP Scholarship Suspension (leave without pay).
- (d) Periods of paid recreation leave (up to 20 working days per year, full time equivalent) and paid personal leave (up to working 10 days per year, full time equivalent) do **not** extend the period of support.

There are no extension provisions for stipend support beyond the periods specified above.

5.2 Reductions to Period of Support

The duration of the scholarship will be reduced by any:

- (a) Credit received for previous study towards the current degree (if transferring an award from another institution); or
- (b) Suspension of the award without intermission of candidature (i.e., scholarship suspended but candidature continues).

5.3 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.

Non-lodgement of milestones or unsatisfactory progress may result in suspension or termination of Living Stipend payments.

5.4 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.

5.5 Deferral

A scholarship should be taken up in the intake for which it was awarded (see **Section 4 Commencement**). Scholarships will not be deferred except in exceptional circumstances, subject to approval from the Pro Vice Chancellor Graduate Research Training.

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

Leave entitlements are adjusted proportionally for half-time graduate research students as specified in each subsection below. All leave provisions in this section apply in accordance with Section 18(6) of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*.

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

6.1 Recreation Leave

(a) Commonwealth Requirement:

In accordance with Section 18(6)(a) of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, graduate research students in receipt of an RTP Stipend are entitled to paid recreation leave as follows:

- (i) **Full-time students:** 20 working days of paid recreation leave for each year in which they receive a stipend.
- (ii) **Half-time students:** 10 working days of paid recreation leave for each year in which they receive a stipend.

(b) Accrual and Roll-over:

In accordance with Section 18(6)(c) of the Guidelines 2025, paid recreation leave will accrue over the duration of the scholarship and will roll over to subsequent years.

(c) Effect on Period of Support:

Periods of recreation leave do **not** extend the normal duration of the scholarship award.

(d) Forfeiture:

Recreation leave not taken during the tenure of the award is forfeited upon termination of the scholarship in accordance with Section 18(7) of the Guidelines 2025.

6.2 Personal Leave (Including Sick Leave and Carer's Leave)

(a) Standard Personal Leave Entitlement:

In accordance with Section 18(6)(b) of the Guidelines 2025, graduate research students in receipt of an RTP Stipend are entitled to paid personal leave as follows:

- (i) **Full-time students:** 10 working days of paid personal leave for each year in which they receive a stipend.
- (ii) **Half-time students:** 5 working days of paid personal leave for each year in which they receive a stipend.

(b) Use of Personal Leave:

In accordance with Section 18(6)(e) of the Guidelines 2025, personal leave may be used for:

- (i) Periods of personal illness or injury (sick leave); and
- (ii) Family caring responsibilities (carer's leave), including the primary care of a family member.

All uses of personal leave require equivalent supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates for illness).

(c) Accrual and Roll-over:

In accordance with Section 18(6)(c) of the Guidelines 2025, personal leave will accrue over the duration of the scholarship and will roll over to subsequent years.

(d) Additional Personal Leave for Extended Illness:

In accordance with Section 18(6)(d) of the Guidelines 2025:

- (i) For medically substantiated periods of illness, graduate research students may receive up to a total of 60 working days of additional paid personal leave over the life of the RTP Stipend.
- (ii) This additional leave will only be available once all accrued personal leave entitlements under Section 6.2(a) have been exhausted.
- (iii) A medical certificate must be provided to access this additional leave.

(e) Effect on Period of Support:

In accordance with Section 16(3) of the Guidelines 2025:

- (i) Standard personal leave (10 days per year for full-time students, 5 days per year for half-time students) does not extend the period of support.
- (ii) Additional personal leave of up to 60 working days under Section 6.2(d) does extend the period of support.

(f) Unpaid Personal Leave:

Periods of unpaid personal leave longer than the entitlements specified above may be accessed through leave without pay provisions (see Section 6.5).

6.3 Parental Leave

(a) Paid Parental Leave for Primary Carers:

In accordance with Section 18(6)(f) of the Guidelines 2025:

- (i) Graduate research students who are the birth parent or primary adoptive parent and who have completed 12 months of study while in receipt of an RTP Stipend are entitled to a minimum of 20 weeks of paid parental leave for each child for whom the student will be the primary carer, on the birth or adoption of the child.
- (ii) This entitlement applies separately for each child (i.e., 20 weeks per child).

(b) Paid Partner Leave (Discretionary):

In accordance with Section 18(6)(g) of the Guidelines 2025 and subject to Adelaide University's preferred practice:

- (i) Graduate research students who are partners of the birth parent or primary adoptive parent and who have completed 12 months of study while in receipt of an RTP Stipend may be approved for a period of paid partner leave on the birth or adoption of a child.
- (ii) Up to 10 working days of paid partner leave may be approved by Adelaide University in such circumstances.

(c) Students with Less Than 12 Months Enrolment:

Graduate research students who have been enrolled for less than 12 months while in receipt of an RTP Stipend are not entitled to paid parental leave and must utilise recreation leave or unpaid leave of absence provisions for parental purposes.

(d) Effect on Period of Support:

In accordance with Section 16(3) of the Guidelines 2025, periods of paid parental leave and paid partner leave (if approved) **will extend** the period of support by the amount of leave taken.

6.4 Family and Domestic Violence Leave

(a) Entitlement:

In accordance with Section 18(6)(h) of the Guidelines 2025, graduate research students in receipt of an RTP Stipend are entitled to paid family and domestic violence leave as follows:

- (i) **Full-time students:** 10 working days of paid family and domestic violence leave for each year in which they receive a stipend.
- (ii) **Half-time students:** 5 working days of paid family and domestic violence leave for each year in which they receive a stipend.

(b) Non-Accrual:

In accordance with Section 18(6)(i) of the Guidelines 2025, family and domestic violence leave:

- (i) Does not accrue over the duration of the scholarship; and
- (ii) Does not roll over to subsequent years.

Unused family and domestic violence leave in one year cannot be carried forward to the next year.

(c) Effect on Period of Support:

In accordance with Section 16(3) of the Guidelines 2025, periods of paid family and domestic violence leave will extend the period of support by the amount of leave taken.

(d) Confidentiality:

The University will handle all requests for family and domestic violence leave with appropriate sensitivity and confidentiality in accordance with relevant University [policies](#) and support services.

6.5 Leave Without Pay

RTPS and AURS will be suspended during periods of leave without pay (i.e., no stipend payments will be made during this period).

(a) Maximum Duration:

- (i) Graduate research students may apply for leave without pay for periods not exceeding 12 months in total during the tenure of the award.
- (ii) In special circumstances, this may be extended to a total of 24 months with approval of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Training.
- (iii) Requests for periods beyond 24 months will not be considered.

(b) Effect on Period of Support:

In accordance with Section 16(4) of the Guidelines 2025, approved periods of leave without pay (RTP Scholarship Suspension) **will extend** the period of support by the amount of leave taken.

(c) Overpayment Recovery:

Graduate research students will be required to repay any scholarship monies received during periods for which they were not entitled (e.g., due to late lodgement of leave applications). Any overpayment will either be:

- (i) Automatically recovered in full upon return from leave; or
- (ii) Invoiced for payment if the student does not return.

6.6 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 up to 20 days, during which prospective jurors are required to attend court each day to determine if their services will be required.

Graduate research students called for jury service should consult with the Adelaide University Graduate Research School regarding appropriate leave arrangements.

6.7 Cultural Leave

(a) Entitlement:

Graduate research students who have formally identified with the University as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Peoples may apply for up to 10 paid working days of cultural leave per year, in addition to recreation leave entitlements.

(b) Purpose:

Cultural leave is provided for the purpose of fulfilling cultural requirements and obligations that are recognised as part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

(c) Non-Accrual:

This leave does **not** extend the period of candidature and is **not** accrued (i.e., unused cultural leave does not roll over to subsequent years).

6.8 Forfeiture of Leave Upon Termination

In accordance with Section 18(7) of the Guidelines 2025, all leave entitlements referred to in this section are forfeited when the RTP Stipend is terminated, regardless of the reason for termination.

6.9 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 Work and Progress Expectations

Graduate research students are required to maintain an appropriate level of engagement with their research in accordance with their enrolment status:

- (a)** Full-time enrolled graduate research students are expected to commit approximately 40 hours per week to their research program.
- (b)** Half-time enrolled graduate research students are expected to commit approximately 20 hours per week to their research program.
- (c)** If graduate research students undertake employment (paid or voluntary), they must ensure that it does not impede satisfactory academic progress.
- (d)** In accordance with Section 22(3)(g) of the Guidelines 2025, the University's RTP Scholarship Policy may identify circumstances in which work will not be approved, including restrictions on the number of hours students can work.

7.2 Consequences of Inadequate Progress

Graduate research students who do not meet required progress milestones will have their Living Stipend payments suspended in accordance with University policy and Section 21 of the Guidelines 2025.

7.3 Work Commitments and Extensions

Work commitments (whether paid or voluntary) will not be considered applicable grounds for extension to the scholarship or candidature period.

7.4 Application to Half-Time Scholarship Holders

Half-time scholarship holders are subject to the same conditions and obligations as full-time scholarship holders as indicated above, adjusted proportionally for their half-time enrolment status.

8. Top-up Scholarships

- (a) Scholarship holders may accept scholarships or top-up funding from other sources to supplement their primary RTP or AURS scholarship, subject to the conditions in this section.
- (b) All external scholarship agreements must be forwarded to the Adelaide University Graduate Research School for review and legal clearance prior to acceptance.
- (c) Top-up scholarships can only be paid where a graduate research student is currently in receipt of an Adelaide University Research Scholarship (AURS), a Research Training Program Scholarship (RTPS), or an equivalent award, unless the funding source is external to the University and the funding documentation specifies that it is awarded as a top-up scholarship.
- (d) In accordance with the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, there are no Commonwealth-imposed restrictions on the total value of additional scholarships or stipends that RTP Scholarship recipients may hold in addition to their RTP Stipend. The only Commonwealth restrictions relate to RTP Fees Offset (Section 14(b) of the Guidelines 2025), which prohibits students from receiving another Commonwealth award designed to offset research degree fees.
- (e) Graduate research students may also obtain operating funds for fieldwork, equipment, travel, conference attendance, or other research expenses not covered by the major award. There is no limit on the value of these funds.
- (f) 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. Graduate research students may not accept external scholarships until written approval has been received from the Adelaide University Graduate Research School.

9. Suspension of Award

A graduate research student who wishes to take leave of absence should refer to **Section 6 Leave Entitlements**.

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:

- (i) Automatically recovered in full upon return from leave; or
- (ii) Invoiced for payment if the student does not return from leave.

Non-Lodgement of Milestones: In accordance with Section 21(c) of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, 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. The scholarship may be terminated if milestones continue not to be met (see **Section 13 – Termination**).

Graduate research students placed on administrative leave will have their living stipend payments suspended. In accordance with Section 16(4) of the Guidelines 2025, where the leave is an approved leave entitlement under Section 6, the end date of the scholarship will be extended by the duration of the approved leave.

10. Research off Campus

10.1 Study Away

Payments will continue during periods of study away. Any period of study away will not extend the period of award. For information regarding Research Internships, refer to **Section 12 – Research Internships (PhD graduate research students only)**.

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.

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**.

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 Entitlements**.

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.

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.

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

Adelaide University Research Scholarships (AURS) are not transferable to another university.

Graduate research students who wish to transfer to another university may continue to receive their RTP scholarship support only if:

- (i) The new university agrees to continue the RTP Scholarship;
- (ii) The new university has sufficient RTP Grant amounts available to support the transfer; and
- (iii) The new university has received information from Adelaide University regarding any RTP Scholarship payments already received by the graduate research student and the duration of RTP Scholarship support already consumed.

In accordance with Section 16(5) of the Guidelines 2025, the student's period of support will not be increased as a result of the transfer. The receiving university can only provide support for the remaining period of support.

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.

If a transfer is approved, in accordance with Section 16(5) of the Guidelines 2025, the period of support already consumed at the previous university will be deducted from the maximum period of support available at 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.

- The research internship must be undertaken at an eligible 'Research End-User' (excluding affiliates, controlled entities, subsidiaries, or other higher education providers).
 - Graduate research students must be progressing satisfactorily in candidature and not have previously received funding from Adelaide University for participation in a research internship.
 - International graduate research students must be able to complete the proposed internship and doctoral degree within the student visa duration (where applicable).
 - All graduate research students completing a research internship are required to complete the relevant Graduate Researcher Development Program requirements prior to commencement.
 - 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.
 - Research and development activities must be related to the graduate research student's area of research.
 - A document detailing research and development activities must be signed by the Research End-User, the supervisor and the student within 18 months of candidature (for full-time students); or within 36 months of candidature (for half-time students).
 - For specific information regarding scholarship holders intending to undertake an APR Internship opportunity (3–5 months), please contact the Adelaide University Graduate Research School.
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13. Termination

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

- Submission of the thesis.
- Scholarship expires or is no longer available.
- Graduate research student no longer meets the eligibility criteria to hold the award.
- The graduate research student has not fulfilled the obligations of the award.
- Where a graduate research student has not completed compulsory milestones by the due date or has not made satisfactory progress.
- A graduate research student withdraws from study, ceases to be enrolled or does not apply for approved leave or suspension of award.
- A graduate research student has provided false or misleading information.
- 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

14.1 General Obligations

- (a) Graduate research students are subject to the University's policies, procedures, and program requirements as outlined in the Adelaide University Student Code of Conduct and other relevant University policies.
- (b) Graduate research students must comply with all conditions specified in their Letter of Offer and these Conditions of Award.
- (c) Graduate research students must maintain satisfactory academic progress and meet all milestone requirements as specified by their academic program.

14.2 Acknowledgement of Commonwealth Contribution

In accordance with Section 23 of the *Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarships) Guidelines 2025*, graduate research students in receipt of an RTP Scholarship must ensure that the Commonwealth's contribution is acknowledged when, at any time during or after completion of their research program, they (or their supervisor or any other party) publish or produce material such as:

- Books
- Journal articles
- Conference papers
- Newsletters
- Other literary or artistic works
- Any other outputs related to the research project

(a) Required Form of Acknowledgement:

In accordance with Section 23(3) of the Guidelines 2025, the acknowledgement **must state exactly**:

"This research was supported by the Commonwealth through an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship [DOI: <https://doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220>]."

The Commonwealth's contribution must be acknowledged in a prominent place and in an appropriate form in any published or produced material.

(b) ORCID Requirement:

In accordance with Section 23(4) of the Guidelines 2025:

- (i) If a graduate research student who has been awarded an RTP Scholarship has an Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID), the student **must** include the RTP digital object identifier (DOI) in their ORCID record.
- (ii) The RTP DOI to be included is: <https://doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220>
- (iii) This requirement ensures proper acknowledgement of Commonwealth support through the student's research profile.

14.3 Reporting Requirements

Graduate research students must:

- (a) Inform the Adelaide University Graduate Research School promptly of any changes to their circumstances that may affect their scholarship eligibility or conditions;
 - (b) Submit required progress reports and attend milestone reviews as specified by their academic program;
 - (c) Notify the Graduate Research School of any external scholarships, awards, or employment that may affect their scholarship (see **Section 8 – Top-up Scholarships**); and
 - (d) Maintain accurate and up-to-date contact information with the University.
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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: +61 8 8313 5882

Email: research.scholarships@adelaideuni.edu.au

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