Macquarie University Research Training Pathway Scholarship (RTP and iRTP) Conditions of Award 2016

Summary

This document outlines the 2016 Conditions of Award for the Macquarie University Research Training Pathway Scholarship Scheme. It is consistent with requirements of the Macquarie University Research Strategic Framework and the 2016 Macquarie University Research Training Pathway Scholarship (RTP and iRTP) Scheme Schedule.

These Conditions of Award cover eligibility requirements, entitlements and other conditions for the award and retention of a domestic Research Training Pathway (RTP) scholarship and international Research Training Pathway (iRTP) scholarship.

These conditions apply only to candidates awarded an RTP or iRTP scholarship who commence at Macquarie in 2016.

This scholarship is not transferable to any other institution.

Detail

1. Eligibility

The domestic Research Training Pathway (RTP) scholarship and international Research Training Pathway (iRTP) scholarship are subject to funding availability and applicant eligibility. The letter of offer to the successful scholarship applicant will specify details of the awarded scholarship.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of the criteria outlined below to support and ensure excellence in research training skills for domestic candidates enrolled in the Bachelor of Philosophy/Master of Research (BPhil/MRes) or international candidates enrolled in the Master of Research (MRes) degree.

To hold an award a person must:

a) fulfill the criteria and be enrolled as a student for the Macquarie University Bachelor of Philosophy/Master of Research (BPhil/MRes) or the Master of Research (MRes) program

b) be enrolled as an internal student

c) be enrolled on a full-time attendance basis, unless special approval has been granted for receipt of a part-time award

d) not be in receipt of another award, scholarship or salary considered to be equivalent to or to duplicate the purpose and benefits of the scholarship. An equivalent award is defined as an amount of money which is greater than 75% of the basic stipend rate

e) not withhold or provide false or misleading information to the University. Where there is reason to believe this condition has not been upheld, the University reserves the right to reassess the student’s entitlement to the award.

f) Students who receive 32 credit points of advanced standing may enter the MRes program in Year 2. These students must also meet the standard entry requirements for admission and will be considered for scholarship in a competitive process. Refer Section 2.
2. Ongoing Eligibility

Continued eligibility for the RTP or iRTP scholarship is subject to satisfactory academic performance, as outlined below, and continued full-time enrolment in the BPhil/MRes or MRes program.

Any variations to enrolment, including but not limited to deferral, suspension, change of study load or change of residency status, may affect the scholarship holder’s eligibility for the scholarship.

Year 1

Full time enrolled students who are awarded a RTP or iRTP scholarship will be paid a stipend of AUD$4000 in Session 1. Students who achieve a minimum overall weighted average of 65 at the end of Session 1 will be eligible for a stipend of AUD$4000 in Session 2.

If a student withdraws from any unit(s) after the census date in either Session 1 or Session 2 in Year 1, and becomes ineligible, the student will not be entitled to receive RTP or iRTP scholarship funding for that session. Any payments that have already been made will be regarded as an overpayment and will need to be returned to the University.

Year 2

Eligibility for Year 2 stipend will be determined through a competitive ranking process, based on the performance of all Year 1 units for existing Master of Research students. Exempt units will not be counted for calculation of the ‘weighted average’. The final weighted average of all BPhil candidates will be ranked and only the top ranked candidates will be awarded the Year 2 scholarship.

Candidates enrolling in Session 3 will also be considered provisionally based on their completed units. Final outcome for eligibility will be dependent on meeting the required scholarship allocation cut-off weighted average.

New commencing BPhil applications received by the deadline which have been given the maximum exemption and will enter directly into Year 2 will go through a competitive ranking process in December. Their applications will be benchmarked against the progressing cohorts with regard to the scholarship cut-off weighted mark. Top ranked candidates will be recommended for the Year 2 stipend. These will be reviewed and be approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Domestic candidates

In 2016, full-time domestic candidates entering the second year of the program who have been ranked for scholarship will receive a stipend at the same rate as the Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) for PhD ($26,288 pa in 2016, tax exempt and subject to indexation).

International candidates

The University offers a limited number of scholarships to international MRes Year 2 candidates through the competitive IPRS (International Postgraduate Research Scholarship) round each year. Applicants for admission to PhD, who are offered entry to MRes Year 2 and 3-year PhD, and who rank competitively for an IPRS scholarship, may be offered a scholarship to cover their MRes Year 2 tuition fees and a living allowance stipend (MRes/PhD bundle offers).

Applicants will have to complete an HDR Application for Candidature and Scholarship.

3. Scholarship Components

3.1 Stipend

Year 1

The Year 1 RTP and iRTP scholarship allowance in 2016 for full-time enrolled award holders is AUD$8,000 per annum tax free, paid in two tranches following confirmation of continued enrolment after each sessional census date. Approved part-time scholarship holders will be paid a pro-rata taxable amount based on course unit enrolment.
Year 2
The Year 2 RTP and iRTP scholarship allowance in 2016 for full-time enrolled award holders is AUD$26,288 per annum, as per conditions outlined in Section 2. Year 2 scholarship payments will be made fortnightly in arrears from the date of confirmation of enrolment until the end of the year or date of withdrawal, in the case of students withdrawing from the program during the year. Approved part-time domestic scholarship holders will be paid a pro-rata taxable amount based on enrolment study load.

The stipend for the full-time award is currently tax exempt under Section 51-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. This tax exemption status is determined by the Australian Government and no guarantee can be given by the University on this matter. It is the responsibility of individual award holders to seek their own taxation advice.

3.2 Tuition fee support

Domestic candidates
All domestic scholarship holders in Year 1 of the Bachelor of Philosophy/Master of Research (BPhil/MRes) are provided a Commonwealth supported place. Commonwealth supported students are liable for a student contribution towards the units they study.

All domestic scholarship holders in Year 2 of the Master of Research (MRes) program are provided with a Commonwealth sponsored place under the Research Training Scheme (RTS) and are not required to pay tuition fees.

International candidates
If approved as part of a co-funded or other agreement, the University may provide full or partial tuition fee support for international candidates in Year 1 and/or Year 2 of the approved program. Details will be specified in the letter of offer.

4. Part-time enrolment

Part-time scholarships are ordinarily unavailable, and will be only be granted in circumstances where a student is unable to study full-time due to compelling reasons, such as documented evidence of significant carer responsibilities or a medical condition. A part-time scholarship will not be granted for reasons related to paid employment, and international student requests are subject to visa restrictions. The University may require part-time students to convert to full-time if compelling reasons approved no longer apply.

5. Employment

In Year 2, the University recommends that paid employment should take up no more than 14 hours per week on average throughout the year (728 hours per scholarship year). Scholarship holders must discuss their intended part-time employment with their MRes Advisors and supervisor and seek agreement on the appropriate amount of time they may spend in employment without affecting their study. This may be less than the University’s recommended rate. The undertaking of teaching or academic work or any other form of employment shall not be regarded as an obligation under the conditions of the scholarship. International students must check their individual visa requirements.

Scholarship holders who are employed full-time, or for more than the number of hours recommended above, may be required to relinquish their scholarship.
6. Sick Leave

Year 1

In the first year, enrolment is based around sessional dates and breaks are scheduled. If performance within study terms has been impacted by a serious and unavoidable disruption (as defined in the Macquarie University Disruption to Studies Policy and procedure) such that they do not reach their usual demonstrated performance level, students should discuss their situation with their Faculty MRes Advisor and follow the University’s Disruption to Studies procedure.

Year 2

Scholarship holders may submit a request for sick or other leave where the illness or other circumstance will have serious impact and disrupt their program of study. All requests for leave should be discussed and endorsed by the MRes Advisor and supervisor and accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation, such as a medical certificate. Applications are considered individually on a case-by-case basis. Scholarship payments may be suspended as a result of any approved leave from the program.

7. Obligations of the scholarship holder

a) A scholarship holder who is unable to pursue their degree, other than while on approved leave, must notify the Scholarships Officer, Higher Degree Research Office, so the scholarship can be terminated.

b) Scholarship holders are required to repay to the University any allowances or stipend overpaid, whether through the student’s failure to comply with the conditions governing the scholarship or from any other cause.

c) While the scholarship holder may be free to publish any results arising from research completed while on scholarship, any publications must acknowledge that the work was done while holding the scholarship.

d) Scholarship holders must be aware of and comply with the University’s research ethics policies and procedures about the gathering and use of data, and comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, and relevant external and internal ethical guidelines (see http://www.research.mq.edu.au/research_integrity ).

e) The conduct of all Macquarie University research must adhere to The Macquarie Code irrespective of its funding source or whether it requires ethical review.

f) Failure to adhere to The Macquarie Code or the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007) may be a ground for disciplinary action (see Part B: Resolving Allegations of Breaches or Research Misconduct).

g) All Macquarie University staff and students have an obligation to report any possible breaches of The Macquarie Code or the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007), or possible research misconduct to the Director, Research Ethics and Integrity. The preparation and presentation of reports should follow The Macquarie Code, and include any advice received from a Research Integrity Advisor, as well as indicating if the individual wishes that their identity is protected. Reports should be made in writing.

8. Review process

Students may request a review by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) of any decision affecting their scholarship in relation to the implementation of these scholarship Conditions of Award.
Students wishing to request a review should submit the request to the Director, HDRO within four weeks of the date of the original decision as advised to the applicant.

9. The University
The University reserves the right to amend these Conditions of Award for commencing scholarship holders.

Related Plans/Resources/Documents

Macquarie University Strategic Research Framework 2015-2024

Macquarie University Research Training Pathway Scholarship (RTP and iRTP) Scheme 2016

Macquarie University Disruption to Studies Policy

Macquarie University Disruption to Studies Procedure

Research Integrity at Macquarie University http://www.research.mq.edu.au/research_integrity

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