Higher Degree Research Office
Scholarships for Domestic Higher Degree Research Candidates
Information for Applicants 2016

2016 APA Round
Australian Postgraduate Awards
Scholarships

Applications close: 31 October 2015

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this leaflet as at July 2015, guidelines for these awards may be subject to change.

Section 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

The Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) is a Government funded scholarship offered to domestic higher degree research candidates of exceptional promise. The number of APA places funded varies from year to year.

All applications are competitively rated and ranked. First ranked applicants will be offered an available APA scholarship.

Successful applicants will usually have an outstanding academic record; a history of scholarships and prizes at the undergraduate and/or postgraduate level; and may have evidence of peer-reviewed research activity.

Successful first round applicants are usually notified in the first week of December 2015, with candidates expected to commence their award in first semester 2016.

Section 2: HOW TO APPLY

The Higher Degree Research Office at Macquarie University uses a single online application to apply for both candidature and scholarship.

To apply:

1. Go to [http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/how_to_apply](http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/how_to_apply) and follow the steps to complete an application. This includes uploading electronic copies of:
   a. original or certified copies of all academic transcripts. An official translation into English must be included if documents are not in English;
   b. a certified copy of your birth or citizenship certificate, or your ID card, or the identity page of your passport
   c. an original or certified copy of documents providing evidence of any name change
   d. a project proposal outline with reference list (check with Faculty/Department of interest for length)

2. Arrange for TWO academic referees: If one is your proposed supervisor, then please obtain a third reference. A referee report form should be forwarded to your nominated referees. Your referee does not have to fill in information they cannot comment on, and may attach a letter if they have additional comments for the selection committee. A standard referee report form is available from the HDR Scholarships Forms and Conditions webpage: [http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships/forms_and_conditions](http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships/forms_and_conditions).

   Each referee should complete and return the form directly to the University no later than 6 November 2015. Due to the number of applications and reports we receive we would ask you to please check directly with your referee if you wish to confirm if these reports
were sent. If time permits, we will send you an email if we have not received your referee’s reports.

**Important Note:** Referee reports are checked for authenticity. Referees may be contacted to verify details. Once completed, referee reports should not be returned to the applicant. The referee is requested to mail, fax or email this report directly to the University at the address provided.

**Applications may not be considered if all required documentation has not been received**

Application instructions and the link to the application form is available at: [http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/how_to_apply](http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/how_to_apply)

### Section 3: General Scholarship Conditions

This information provides a general overview. Applicants should always review the terms of their individual award conditions in their letter of offer.

All successful APA applicants will receive a fortnightly stipend at the Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) stipend rate, currently $25,849 pa, tax exempt (2015). APA scholarship holders are awarded a scholarship for up to three years for a full-time PhD candidate and for up to two years for a Masters of Philosophy candidate. Any prior enrolment in a research degree (EFTSL) will reduce the duration of scholarship.

APA holders currently receive Research Training Scheme (RTS) support to cover research degree tuition costs.

*Part-time awards are generally only granted where significant caring commitments or a medical condition limits the candidate’s ability to undertake full-time study. Requests for a part-time award should be accompanied by a medical certificate or other appropriate evidence. The part time APA rate is $12,924 pa (2015) and is taxable.*

### Section 4: General Eligibility Criteria for Domestic Scholarships

Awards will only be available to applicants who:

- are Australian/New Zealand citizens
  
  *OR*
  
  have been granted Australian Permanent Residency by the closing date

- are either already enrolled in, or intending to commence a PhD or MPhil in 2016

Awards will not be available to those who:

- are receiving another equivalent or major award, scholarship or salary to undertake the proposed program
- have already completed a research Doctoral degree or its equivalent
- have already completed a higher degree in research at the same level or at a higher level than the proposed candidature
- have previously held an APA or APAI for more than 6 months

Award-holders may:

- be in receipt of minor awards, allowances or other earnings which are supplementary to an APA, or derived from part-time work undertaken within the guidelines set by the Higher Degree Research Committee
- receive stipend top-up funding from industry to a maximum equivalent to 75% of the basic APA stipend rate
- be in receipt of additional funds for field work, equipment and other such expenses not covered by the award. Funds towards overseas travel costs may be obtained from other sources.
Selection Criteria

- Macquarie University ranks applicants on the basis of academic merit and research potential. Successful applicants will usually have an outstanding academic record; a history of scholarships and prizes at the undergraduate and/or postgraduate level; and may have evidence of peer-reviewed research activity.

Further information about the requirements and rating of higher degree research scholarships at Macquarie University can be found at the ‘Scholarship Requirements’ webpage: http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships/scholarship_requirements.

- Applicants must meet the criteria for entry into a PhD or MPhil at Macquarie University

Further information regarding eligibility requirements can be found at:
http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/research_degrees/doctor_of_philosophy_phd
http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/research_degrees/master_of_philosophy_mphil

SECTION 5: ASSESSMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS GAINED OVERSEAS

In order to rank all applicants against a common standard of assessment, the University refers to the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) Country Education Profiles for the assessment of qualifications gained at overseas institutions. These guidelines provide a comparison of the overseas qualification against the Australian system of education. Please note that failure to provide adequate documentation such as full transcripts of all tertiary studies (and an official English certified translation if the original is not in English) may jeopardise your application.

You may include other documentation of your achievements as appropriate, to assist in the assessment of your application. It is recommended that you also discuss your qualifications and application with an academic staff member in your proposed area of study.

More information is available at the Australian Government’s Study in Australia web resource: http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

Information about currently available HDR scholarship opportunities is published on the Higher Degree Research Office website (web address below).

For enquiries regarding conditions of award, or the scholarship application process contact:

Higher Degree Research Office – Scholarships (02) 9850 9782
Building C5C, Level 3 East or (02) 9850 1893
Macquarie University NSW 2109 Fax (02) 9850 6198
Australia Email: hdrschol@mq.edu.au

WEBSITE: http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships

APPEAL PROCEDURES

If you consider that your application has been incorrectly assessed in the application process, then you may appeal in writing to the Director, Higher Degree Research Office on hdrmanagement@mq.edu.au within 4 weeks of the notified outcome.