

Graduate Research Scholarships

Conditions of Award

Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship

Macquarie University Research Excellence Scheme (MQRES) Scholarship

Section 1 – Preamble

These Conditions of Award must be read in conjunction with the [RTP Scholarship Policy of Macquarie University](#), the [Graduate Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#) and other relevant policies.

Scope

These Conditions of Award will apply to:

- (1) Domestic students holding a stipend scholarship (**Scholarship**) at Macquarie University, funded by the Research Training Program (RTP) or the Macquarie University Research Excellence Scheme (MQRES).
- (2) International students holding a stipend scholarship (**Scholarship**), a tuition fee offset scholarship (**Tuition Offset Scholarship**), or both, at Macquarie University, funded by the Research Training Program (iRTP) or the Macquarie University Research Excellence Scheme (iMQRES).

Definitions

Domestic student means an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident.

International student means a student who is not an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen, or an Australian permanent resident.

Section 2 – Conditions of Award

Applications

- (1) Scholarship and Tuition Offset Scholarship holders are expected to enrol full-time and on-site.
- (2) Scholarships may be awarded to those undertaking a Master of Research (MRes), Master of Philosophy (MPhil), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), including combined PhD courses.
- (3) Macquarie University assesses and ranks applicants primarily on academic merit and research experience. PhD Scholarship applicants are assessed against standard [rating criteria](#), which may be reviewed and updated from time to time, and typically receive a score out of 10. MRes Scholarship applicants are ranked based on the Grade Point Average (GPA) of their qualifying degree.
- (4) The alignment of the proposed research topic with the University's research priorities and the strength of the supervisory team may also be considered.
- (5) Specific eligibility criteria apply to research pathway scholarships, which support Macquarie University students as they **progress** through the research pathway. This includes students progressing from the Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) or Graduate Diploma of Research (GradDip) to the MRes, or the MRes to the PhD.

Scholarship components

- (6) Full-time scholarship holders will receive a base stipend (living allowance) of **\$39,700 per annum** (2026 rate). This amount is indexed annually.
- (7) The full-time stipend is currently tax-exempt under Section 51-10 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. Tax exemption status is determined by the Australian Government, and the University cannot guarantee its continuation. Scholarship holders are responsible for seeking their own taxation advice.

- (8) In exceptional circumstances where part-time study is approved, the stipend is paid at **50% of the full-time rate** and may be taxable.
- (9) Stipend holders may receive additional concurrent income in the form of a stipend top-up to support general living costs, up to a maximum of **100% of the stipend value**. If concurrent income exceeds this limit, the Scholarship will be terminated. This clause applies only to scholarship income related to supporting general living costs in connection with the course of study. Income unrelated to the course, or income received for the course but not for general living costs, is excluded. See Employment Conditions (clauses 43–49).
- (10) Unless otherwise arranged, stipend payments are made **fortnightly in arrears**, from the commencement date of the Scholarship until the end of the Scholarship tenure, or as outlined in clause 54.
- (11) Stipend entitlements for Cotutelle and Joint PhD students are set out in the Letter of Offer.
- (12) International Tuition Offset Scholarship holders will not receive direct payment of tuition fees. Instead, the Graduate Research Academy (GRA) will arrange payment directly on their behalf for the duration of the Tuition Offset Scholarship tenure, as specified in the Letter of Offer.
- (13) The Tuition Offset Scholarship covers **tuition fees only**. It does **not** cover an [International Out of Time fee \(iOOT fee\)](#). If an iOOT fee is incurred due to an extension of the thesis Expected Work Submission (EWS) date, the student is responsible for paying that fee in full.

General leave conditions

- (14) Scholarship leave is subject to approval of leave from candidature. Refer to the [Graduate Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#).
- (15) The paid leave provisions below apply to scholarship holders whose base stipend is funded through the RTP, iRTP, MQRES or iMQRES. If the scholarship is partially or fully funded by a unit or organisation external to the GRA (including a top-up stipend), the scholarship holder must check their individual scholarship agreement for the applicable paid leave provisions.
- (16) International students must be aware of their visa obligations. Refer to the [Graduate Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#) for information on the University's obligations and the impact of leave on an International Student Visa.
- (17) If a scholarship holder does not resume study after an approved period of leave, the scholarship will be terminated.

Annual leave

- (18) Full-time scholarship holders are entitled to **20 working days** of paid annual leave per year of study.
- (19) Unused annual leave accrues and rolls over to subsequent years.
- (20) Scholarship holders must obtain their supervisor's agreement before taking leave.
- (21) Taking annual leave does not extend the EWS date.
- (22) Any unused annual leave remaining when the Scholarship ends or is terminated will be forfeited.

Sick leave

- (23) Scholarship holders are entitled to **10 working days** of paid sick leave per year, credited at the start of each year of candidature.
- (24) Unused paid sick leave accrues and rolls over to subsequent years.
- (25) Scholarship holders taking sick leave must inform their supervisor as soon as practicable.
- (26) Sick leave requires a medical certificate issued by an Australian Registered Doctor or General Practitioner (GP), or equivalent, specifying the dates of illness.
- (27) Scholarship holders must notify the GRA of the illness within **14 days**, unless prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond their control.
- (28) Approved paid sick leave will extend the scholarship holder's EWS date and Scholarship end date.

Parental leave

- (29) Scholarship holders who have completed 12 months of candidature (equivalent to 1 EFTSL) are entitled to **20 weeks** of paid parental leave when they are the primary carer of a child, on the birth or adoption of that child. Scholarship holders who are the partner of the primary carer are entitled to **60 working days** of paid parental leave.
- (30) Scholarship holders should apply for paid parental leave at least **4 weeks before** the expected date of birth. The application must be accompanied by a medical certificate from a medical practitioner stating the expected date of birth.

- (31) Parental leave extends the scholarship end date.
- (32) Scholarship holders who have not yet completed 12 months of candidature and have given birth, adopted a child, are the primary carer of a child, or are the partner of the birth parent may access paid leave through the Personal Leave provisions.
- (33) To support scholarship holders in returning to study after parental leave, the University will approve at least **6 months of part-time stipend** payments on application, provided a Change of Attendance to part-time enrolment is also approved. Applications for part-time enrolment must be made in accordance with clauses 10–14 of the [Graduate Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#).

Personal leave

- (34) Scholarship holders are entitled to **60 working days of paid personal leave** over their entire candidature where they have exhausted other leave types.
- (35) The total period of personal leave, and circumstances for which personal leave will be granted, is in accordance with the [Graduate Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#).
- (36) Unpaid personal leave periods must be taken as leave from candidature and will extend the scholarship end date by an equivalent period.

Internship leave

- (37) Internship leave is available in accordance with the [Graduate Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#).
- (38) Scholarship holders approved for internship leave will have their base stipend suspended for the duration of the leave. For paid internships, alternative stipend arrangements may apply.

Family and domestic violence leave

- (39) Scholarship holders undertaking a full-time study load are entitled to **10 working days** of paid family and domestic violence leave per year.
- (40) Family and domestic violence leave does not accrue over the life of the scholarship and does not roll over to subsequent years.

Place of research

- (41) Scholarship holders and Tuition Offset Scholarship holders are expected to enrol on an onsite basis, in accordance with the [Offsite Research Enrolment Policy](#) and these Conditions of Award.
- (42) Cotutelle and joint award degree scholarship holders will not receive a stipend from Macquarie University while undertaking research at the overseas partner institution, unless the Cotutelle or Joint PhD agreement specifies otherwise.

Employment

- (43) Scholarships are awarded to support Scholarship holders' general living costs while they study full time.
- (44) In accordance with the [Graduate Research Rules](#), full-time enrolment requires an average commitment of at least **35 hours per week** throughout the year on a course of research and advanced study (17.5 hours per week for part-time enrolment). Scholarship holders who engage in other activities, including paid employment, must not reduce their average weekly hours devoted to their research below this minimum.
- (45) Scholarship holders may undertake paid employment of no more than **910 hours per scholarship year**, equivalent to an average of approximately 17.5 hours per week. Scholarship holders wishing to exceed 17.5 hours per week of paid employment must seek approval from their Research Training Director before doing so. Any paid employment or other activities that temporarily reduce the minimum weekly hours devoted to the research project must be recorded in the student's progress review.
- (46) Scholarship holders employed by the University must not hold a position exceeding half-time (**0.5 FTE**). Scholarships are not available to University employees holding a position greater than 0.5 FTE.
- (47) Scholarship holders must discuss intended employment with their supervisor and agree on an appropriate amount of time to spend in employment without affecting their study. Note that the agreed amount may be less than the University's recommended maximum.
- (48) Teaching, academic work or other forms of employment are not obligations under these Conditions of Award.

- (49) Scholarship holders on an International Student Visa must comply with their visa conditions regarding work rights.

Scholarship retention, expiration and termination

- (50) Continuation of Scholarships and Tuition Offset Scholarships is subject to satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the [Graduate Research Continuation Policy and Procedure](#), and compliance with these Conditions of Award.
- (51) For domestic students, termination of the Scholarship means stipend payments will cease.
- (52) For international students, termination of the Scholarship, the Tuition Offset Scholarship or both means the relevant payments will cease.
- (53) Scholarships and Tuition Offset Scholarships expire at the end of the tenure stated in the Letter of Offer.
- (54) The Scholarship, the Tuition Offset Scholarship or both will be terminated in the following circumstances:
- The holder withdraws from their course.
 - The holder does not comply with one or more scholarship obligations.
 - The holder exceeds their paid employment conditions as outlined in clauses 43-49.
 - The thesis is submitted (for PhD/MPhil students only).
 - Following due enquiry, the University concludes that the holder has not carried out their course of study with competence and diligence, has not complied with the terms of the scholarship offer, has failed to maintain satisfactory progress, or has committed serious misconduct.

Where a Scholarship is involved, stipend payments will be suspended for the duration of the enquiry or appeal process.

Transfer

- (55) Scholarships are not transferable between universities. A scholarship held at another institution will not be recognised or continued at Macquarie University, and a Macquarie University scholarship cannot be transferred to another institution.
- (56) Scholarship holders leaving Macquarie University are responsible for securing appropriate scholarship funding to continue their studies at another institution.

Changes in enrolment

- (57) All changes to enrolment are governed by the [Graduate Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#).
- (58) Changing from full-time to part-time will generally result in the termination of the Scholarship unless special consideration is approved. Where changes are approved, the scholarship tenure will be adjusted accordingly, along with any applicable paid leave provisions.
- (59) If the Scholarship holder does not apply for changes to their enrolment at least four weeks prior to the change being effective, there may be an overpayment of stipend, which the Scholarship holder will be required to repay.

Obligations

- (60) Scholarship holders and Tuition Offset Scholarship holders who are unable to continue their degree, other than while on approved leave, must notify the GRA so that the scholarship can be terminated.
- (61) Scholarship holders are required to repay to the University any stipend or allowances that have been overpaid, whether due to non-compliance with these Conditions of Award or any other cause.
- (62) Scholarship holders and Tuition Offset Scholarship holders must ensure that the scholarship contribution is acknowledged in any publication or produced work — including books, articles, newsletters, and other literary or artistic works — that relate to their research project, whether published during or after the completion of their course, by themselves, their supervisor or any other party.
- (63) Recipients of an RTP or iRTP Scholarship, or related parties, must acknowledge the Commonwealth's contribution by including the following statement in any acknowledgement:
“This research was supported by the Commonwealth through an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship [DOI: [10.82133/C42F-K220](#)].”
- (64) All Scholarship holders and Tuition Offset Scholarship holders are responsible for familiarising themselves with and complying with relevant University policies, procedures and guidelines, including the [Macquarie University Code for Responsible Conduct of Research](#), the [Student Conduct Procedure](#), the [Intellectual Property Policy](#) and the [Research Data Management Policy and](#)

[Procedure.](#)

- (65) Scholarship holders and Tuition Offset Scholarship holders must not provide false or misleading information to the University. Where there is reason to believe this obligation has not been met, the University reserves the right to reassess the holder's entitlement to the scholarship.

Review

- (66) Scholarship holders and Tuition Offset Scholarship holders may request the Graduate Research Management Committee to review decisions affecting their scholarship in relation to the implementation of these Conditions of Award.
- (67) Requests for review must be submitted to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research) within **4 weeks** of the date of the original decision being communicated to the student.
- (68) The University reserves the right to interpret and amend these Conditions of Award and to make final decisions regarding the terms and conditions for scholarship and Tuition Offset Scholarship holders.

Status and Details

Status	Current
Effective Date	March 2026
Review Date	
Approval Authority	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Approval Date	
Expiry Date	
Responsible Officer	Simon Handley Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research)
Responsible Executive	Sakkie Pretorius Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Enquiries Contact	Catherine Murphy Director, Services and Governance (Graduate Research)

Associated Information

[Research Training Program Scholarships Policy](#)

[Graduate Research Continuation Policy and Procedure](#)

[Graduate Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#)