Information to support negotiating scholarship funding with external partners

1. PhD scholarships: 3 years in length
   a. Domestic – stipend only $27,082 pa in 2018, indexed annually (approx. 2% historically)
   b. International – the above stipend PLUS relevant tuition fees need to be paid. Annual tuition fees depend on program, approximately $31,000 (Low Cost MRES) to $43,000 (High Cost PhD) per year increases annually (approx. 6%) [http://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/fees-and-costs](http://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/fees-and-costs)
   c. Externally funded stipend rates can be higher, depending on negotiations. The rate commonly quoted is the Australian Government’s Research Training Program (RTP) standard rate quoted above.

2. Master of Research Scholarships: 1 or 2 years in length
   a. Domestic $8000 Year 1 (if eligible – there are some conditions) and fee paid as Government Commonwealth Supported Places. Standard RTP rate for Year 2 depending on grade in Year 1 or external academic performance for direct entry to Year 2.
   b. International – the above stipends PLUS tuition fees need to be paid. Refer to the website for fees. [http://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/fees-and-costs](http://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/fees-and-costs)
   c. Suitably qualified students receive MQ MRes stipends - if external partner wants to pay, can be higher amounts.

3. Top up scholarships are an option
   a. Student has already met the criteria for both admission and Government/MQ scholarship
   b. Top ups can’t be more than 75% of the main scholarship stipend rate (Government requirement for primary scholarship to be tax free)

4. Other research student costs
   a. OSHC for international students – student normally pays themselves, this could be covered in the scholarship
   b. Separate conditions of award for externally funded scholarships in line with contracts as normally externally funded have not included paid sick leave etc. This would add cost to the external partner, could be part of negotiations (sick leave 84 days, maternity leave 84 days = total max 6 months if all entitlements claimed). If contribution is a top up these conditions must apply to base scholarship which is funded by MQ. Top up can be capped at a total amount.
   c. PhD students at Macquarie receive funding support for training, conferences etc. from their Faculties/Departments which varies across the Faculties. Candidates can also apply for the PGRF $5000 near the end of their degree. An external partner could pay for more of this research support.

5. Other Considerations
   a. Criteria for direct entry to PhD at MQ must be met. It is useful to consider that candidates may qualify for a bundle offer (MRes Yr 2 + PhD) so helpful to both sell the benefits of the MRes and factor in the costs for this type of support.
   b. Criteria for receiving externally funded scholarships can be different from normal MQ scholarship selection criteria BUT enrolment criteria is not negotiable [http://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/how-to-apply/entry-criteria](http://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/how-to-apply/entry-criteria)
c. PhD candidates are not employees, and should not be considered as “cheap labour”
d. Transparent, competitive selection processes are expected, and need to be documented – infrastructure levy not charged when this is the case as per the MQ indirect costs policy: grants for a specific and competitively awarded Fellowship or Scholarship
e. Contract with MQ to include negotiation on IP, confidentiality, access to data sources, any additional reporting requirements for the students
f. Some funding bodies have full student agreements the students need to sign with them to cover the detail (eg CMCRC) otherwise deed poll is used to cover IP and confidentiality requirements between the student and MQ now that a third party is involved associated with the overarching agreement signed between the University and external body. MQ has a standard agreement template to assist in these arrangements.
g. Tax - Under section 51-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 scholarships paid to full-time candidates for educational purposes are treated as exempt income for the candidate. Part time students receiving scholarships through MQ payroll are taxed.

6. Benefits to the partners

a. Include tangible link to MQ and to research and potential promotion of this collaboration in publications, website etc.

7. Internal Process

a. An application needs to be submitted to PURE under the academic’s name, alerting Research Services that the application is in progress.
b. Once the candidate and academic have been notified of the outcome, the academic will need to inform Research Services and HDRO. Research Services will contact OFS for external account code set up and HDRO will facilitate the agreement execution (checking by legal and final sign off by DVC-R) in the case of scholarship only arrangements. The agreement is then returned to Research Services to aid with the account set up.
c. Candidates need to complete an LAC Top Up form in the case of top us scholarships. The LAC Top Up form needs to be signed by the candidate, supervisor, Faculty Financial Delegate prior to return to HDRO.

NOTE

The Research Services Pre-Award team can help you with non-grant funding sources, including the identification, development and management of relationships with external partners. Contact your Research Partnerships Manager.