



Graduate Research School

UNSW INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

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GENERAL INFORMATION

UNSW Sydney (UNSW) offers the following prestigious scholarships to candidates of exceptional research potential to undertake a higher degree by research at UNSW. Scholarship applicants will be automatically considered for all of the scholarships available for their specific residency, to undertake either a Research Doctorate or a Research Masters degree, as appropriate.

Applicants must also meet the conditions and application requirements for admission, which can be found at <https://research.unsw.edu.au/how-apply-enrol-research-degree>.

Scholarship applications are ranked competitively and awards are made on the basis of academic merit, research experience and research potential.

Applicants should check the relevant deadlines prior to applying, at <https://research.unsw.edu.au/key-dates>.

These Guidelines do not include the Scientia PhD Scholarship. Scientia applicants should see <http://www.2025.unsw.edu.au/apply/>.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships are available for international candidates.

1. International Research Training Program (RTP) – *Replaces the former International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS). The fee component is funded by the Department of Education and the stipend is funded by UNSW.*

The International RTP provides the following benefits:

- Payment of tuition fees and an annual stipend of \$26,682* provided for three and a half years for a Research Doctorate, and two years for a Research Masters. No extensions are possible beyond this time
- In addition some Faculties may provide a supplementary scholarship for the top ranked applicants
- Reimbursement of Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the scholarship duration (for the student and their dependants)
- Relocation Allowance for costs associated with relocating themselves, their spouse and dependents to Sydney/Canberra when this is necessary to undertake the study
- Thesis Allowance for costs associated with the production of a Research Masters or Research Doctorate thesis
- Exemption from NSW Government State School Fees for children of the candidate. Please check the UNSW International website for up-to-date information: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/support-families> or <http://www.decinternational.nsw.edu.au/study/schools/temporary-residents#fees-exemptions-refunds>
- In addition, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) may provide a NSW Government Travel Concession. Please note that the continued renewal of this benefit is at the discretion of TfNSW.

2. University International Postgraduate Award (UIPA) – *This scholarship is funded by UNSW.*

The UIPA provides the following benefits:

- Payment of tuition fees and an annual stipend of \$26,682* provided for three and a half years for a Research Doctorate, and two years for a Research Masters. No extensions are possible beyond this time
- In addition some Faculties may provide a supplementary scholarship for the top ranked applicants
- Exemption from NSW Government State School Fees for children of the candidate. Please check the UNSW International website for up-to-date information: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/support-families> or <http://www.decinternational.nsw.edu.au/study/schools/temporary-residents#fees-exemptions-refunds>

3. Tuition Fee Scholarship plus a Faculty Research Stipend (TFS) – *This scholarship is funded by UNSW.*

The TFS provides the following benefits:

- Payment of tuition fees funded by UNSW and an annual stipend of minimum \$26,682* funded by the Faculty, School or Supervisor provided for three and a half years for a Research Doctorate, and two years for a Research Masters. No extensions are possible beyond this time. Stipend funds must come from genuine research sources, independent of the candidate or their family. Self-support is not permitted in conjunction with the TFS fee component.
- Exemption from NSW Government State School Fees for children of the candidate. Please check the UNSW International website for up-to-date information: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/support-families> or <http://www.decinternational.nsw.edu.au/study/schools/temporary-residents#fees-exemptions-refunds>

*2017 stipend rate (indexed annually)

DOMESTIC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships are available for domestic candidates

1. Domestic Research Training Program (RTP) – *Replaces the former Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA). The scholarship is funded by the Department of Education.*

The Domestic RTP provides the following benefits:

- An annual stipend of \$26,682* provided for three and a half years for a Research Doctorate, and two years for a Research Masters. No extensions are possible beyond this time
- In addition some Faculties may provide a supplementary scholarship for the top ranked applicants
- Relocation Allowance for costs associated with relocating themselves, their spouse and dependents to Sydney/Canberra when this is necessary to undertake the study
- Thesis Allowance for costs associated with the production of a Research Masters or Research Doctorate thesis

2. University Postgraduate Award (UPA) – *This scholarship is funded by UNSW.*

The UPA provides the following benefits:

- An annual stipend of \$26,682* provided for three and a half years for a Research Doctorate, and two years for a Research Masters. No extensions are possible beyond this time
- In addition some Faculties may provide a supplementary scholarship for the top ranked applicants
- Relocation Allowance for costs associated with relocating themselves, their spouse and dependents to Sydney/Canberra when this is necessary to undertake the study
- Thesis Allowance for costs associated with the production of a Research Masters or Research Doctorate thesis

*2017 stipend rate (indexed annually)

ELIGIBILITY

Applications are ranked competitively and awards are made on the basis of academic merit, research experience and research potential. In the case of TFS awards, a Faculty or School or Supervisor funded stipend must be available in order to be offered the TFS.

1. Qualifications

Scholarships are only available to applicants who hold an appropriate four year degree of Bachelor with first class Honours or equivalent qualification/experience, from the University of New South Wales or equivalent institution. This qualification must be in a field relevant to the proposed area of research.

- All Honours results, Research Masters thesis examination outcomes and/or other grades required for determining Honours 1 equivalence must be finalised and provided by 15 January (for Semester 1) or 15 July (for Semester 2). If results will not be finalised by these dates candidates should apply for the subsequent scholarship round.
- You must have completed at least four years of full-time equivalent tertiary education (for exceptions to this see the next section).

2. Qualification Equivalence

Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor degree with Honours 1 **may** be considered to have equivalent qualifications if they have demonstrated research performance, relevant professional or direct research experience, for example:

- Publication of research papers e.g.
 - A published book or chapter in an edited book

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- A published research article in a refereed international journal
- A published or refereed conference paper, a published or refereed presenting author abstract or a published research report
- Have held membership or fellowship or prestigious learned professional organisations by advanced study, examination and professional practice
- Exhibition
 - Of international standard in multiple venues, or a series of performances for which reviews in significant outlets are available (with a published catalogue/program)
 - In a public gallery or museum or in a private gallery of standing in which the artist was invited to exhibit (with a published catalogue)
 - Visual work(s) held in significant national or international collections or commissioned by Government or the corporate sector
- Relevant professional experience at a responsible level or direct research experience of at least two years since graduation (eg) industry appointment.

3. Residency

For International Research Scholarships, candidates must:

- Be an international student
- Meet international student visa requirements as specified by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), including the requirement to purchase and maintain a standard of Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health.

For Domestic Research Scholarships, candidates must:

- Be an Australian citizen, Australian Permanent Resident, or New Zealand citizen[^]
- [^]applicants who have Australian Permanent Residency pending may apply and be awarded a conditional scholarship. Residency must be confirmed by no later than 31 March for Semester 1 commencement, or by 31 August for Semester 2 commencement.

4. Enrolment

Candidates cannot:

- Defer a scholarship beyond the date outlined in the scholarship offer letter. If an awardee wishes to commence a research degree in a later semester, they must re-apply for the next scholarship round
- International students: Please note Visa applications and processing times can vary. Students should allow adequate time for processing of student visa applications.

Candidates must:

- Be enrolled/enrolling in a full-time higher research degree (Research Doctorate or Research Masters) at UNSW for the appropriate semester.
- Students must enrol and commence the scholarship before 31 March for Semester 1, or 31 August for Semester 2.
- Be undertaking study in a subject area identified by UNSW as one of its areas of research concentration: <http://research.unsw.edu.au/unsw-areas-research-strength>

5. Previous Study/Scholarship

- Holders of RTP International/UIPA scholarships at UNSW who are granted permanent residency during the tenure of that scholarship will be considered for an equivalent domestic scholarship (RTP Domestic and UPA respectively). Such candidates must inform the GRS within 7 days of obtaining Permanent Residency
- If an applicant for the RTP has held an Australia Awards scholarship within two years prior, they need to obtain permission from the Australian Government before applying. There are strict procedures and criteria that must be applied when considering an externally funded Doctorate scholarship or post-Doctorate fellowship in Australia on completion of an Australia Awards funded course of study. In exceptional circumstances the Australian Government may approve the deferral of the requirement to return home immediately after completion of the degree for which the Australia Award was held. Please refer to the Australian Government Scholarship Handbook, <http://dfat.gov.au/about->

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[us/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx](https://www.unsw.edu.au/publications/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships-policy-handbook.aspx) or contact AustraliaAwards@unsw.edu.au for details.

Applicants will NOT be eligible for a scholarship if they:

- Continue to hold an equivalent (same monetary value) award, scholarship or salary providing a benefit greater than 75% of the main award stipend rate to undertake the proposed program
- Are receiving a scholarship for which course tuition is a component under any other scholarship scheme to which the Australian Government makes a substantial contribution
- Are receiving a primary scholarship stipend or tuition fee scholarship from any source, including UNSW, or under another scholarship scheme to support them in their Research Doctorate or Research Masters at UNSW.
- International only:
 - are a candidate for Research Doctorate (or Research Masters transferring to Doctor or Philosophy) and will have completed two semesters of full-time equivalent higher degree research candidature prior to the semester for which the scholarships are being awarded.
 - are a candidate for Research Masters (or Research Doctorate transferring to Research Masters) and will have completed one semester of full-time equivalent higher degree research candidature prior to the semester for which the scholarships are being awarded.

6. English proof

UNSW does not accept English waiver requests for scholarship applicants commencing a research degree. This means you must meet the requirements through the following three channels:

- [English Language Tests and University English Courses](#)
- [Prior study in the medium of English](#)
- [Other qualifications](#)

All scholarship applicants must meet UNSW English requirements by the scholarship **deadline**.

This is a change in policy, and will come into effect for Round 2 applicants onwards. If your request for a waiver was submitted prior to the 7th April 2017, this will still be considered.

7. Domestic only – Part-time Awards

Part-time study is equivalent to 50% of full-time study. Part-time scholarships are only approved in the following exceptional circumstances:

- Demonstrable significant carer commitments or where medical conditions prevent full-time study
- The candidate is undertaking a Joint Research Engagement (JRE) Engineering Cadetship, Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship program, or other approved Industry partnership concurrently with the research degree

Part-time scholarships are **not** available for those seeking part-time status to undertake employment.

To apply for part-time scholarships, a statement of reasons must be provided, along with a supporting statement from the proposed supervisor, and any other relevant documentation. Applicants must demonstrate the following:

- Carer responsibilities for a pre-School aged child; or
- Carer responsibilities for School aged children as a sole parent with limited access to outside support; or
- Carer responsibilities for an invalid or disabled spouse, child or parent; or
- A medical condition which limits their capacity to undertake full-time study (supported by a medical certificate)

CONDITIONS

1. Duration

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All awards are provided for three and a half years for a Research Doctorate, and two years for a Research Masters. No extensions are possible beyond this time.

Students who commence in a Research Masters and then transfer to a Research Doctorate are eligible for an extension to the three and a half years duration (minus prior study as outlined in point 2).

Students who gain an extension to the main award who also hold additional forms of scholarship (such as Faculty top-ups) will not automatically be eligible to receive an extension to the additional scholarships.

2. Prior study

The duration of any of the scholarships will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the scholarship and during suspension of the scholarship.

3. Acceptance and Deferral

Once a scholarship has been awarded, it can be taken up for any Semester starting prior to the start deadline stated on the offer letter. Awardees are not able to defer the offer beyond that time, but may re-apply for the scholarship by contacting the GRS.

Students are encouraged to enrol and commence their studies no later than the Semester dates outlined in the [Academic Calendar](#). This particularly applies if any coursework components are being undertaken in conjunction with the research program.

4. Leave entitlements

Leave entitlements are only valid while candidates are enrolled (with the exception of unpaid semester and maternity leave), and prior to the termination of the scholarship.

Leave type	Award type	Time of eligibility	Application required?	Duration	Supporting documentation?	Scholarship & candidature extended?
Paid Annual Leave	All	After 6 months FTE completed of award	No. This is managed directly with supervisor.	Maximum of 20 days per year. Days may be accrued over the life of the award.	No	No
Unpaid leave in semester block**	All	N/A	Yes – see Variation to Candidature	6-12 months	Yes – please see Variation to Candidature	Yes
Unpaid leave not in semester blocks**	All	N/A	Yes – email request to Candidature Management Officer	Variable	No	No. This time is deducted from the scholarship duration.
Paid Sick Leave/Carer's leave <10 days	All	After 6 months FTE completed of award	No. This is managed directly with supervisor.	Maximum of 10 days per year. Days may be accrued over the life of the award.	No	No
Paid Sick Leave/Carer's leave >10 days	Domestic RTP/ UPA	After 6 months FTE completed of award	Yes – email request to Candidature Management Officer	84 days total over the duration of the award.	Yes - medical certificate or primary carer's certificate, and any other supporting documentation	Yes
Maternity Leave	Domestic RTP/ UPA	After 12 months FTE completed of award	Yes - email request to Candidature Management Officer if remaining enrolled, or Variation to Candidature if taking candidature leave	84 days combined total over the duration of the award. Students can apply for further unpaid leave – see above	Yes - medical certificate, and any other supporting documentation	Yes. Scholarship extended in all cases, candidature only extended if student takes program leave

** International students please check visa requirements before applying.

5. Work and other income

Award holders are permitted to undertake a limited amount of paid work/employment or receive income (eg from another scholarship or award). However, the employment or source of income must not interfere with the research or the ability to undertake full-time study and cannot be accepted as grounds for an extension of the scholarship. It is UNSW's expectation that full-time postgraduate research students will spend a minimum of 35 hours per week on their research candidature. It is not possible to be employed full-time and undertake full-time study (including UNSW staff lectureships).

Visa holders must ensure that any work unrelated to their course requirements is consistent with the conditions of their visa.

Income from other sources (eg work and other scholarships) that is paid to specifically support or undertake research cannot exceed a combined amount of 75% of the primary award stipend base rate. Scholarship holders must inform the Graduate Research School of any other scholarship held or awarded during candidature.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DETAILS

Scholarships are open for and assessed in 4 Rounds throughout the year. These rounds, named Round 1-4, will be open to both International and Domestic applicants.

The round numbers do not correspond with the same number Semester, so applicants must ensure they view the GRS Key Dates page to check which scholarship round they should apply for. Late and/or Out of Round applications will not be accepted.

Scholarships are applied for within the online Admission application, and applicants should not submit multiple applications. See <https://research.unsw.edu.au/how-apply-enrol-research-degree> for full details on how to apply and information regarding required documentation.

Applicants who have already applied for admission without a scholarship will be required to apply separately for the scholarship. These students should email international.grs@unsw.edu.au / domestic.grs@unsw.edu.au, advising which scholarship round they wish to apply for.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

Due to the number of applications that are submitted, the GRS is unable to send a separate notification that an application has been received other than the automated acknowledgement that is emailed to students after completing the online application for Admission and Scholarship.

Scholarship outcomes are released separately to admission outcomes. The scholarship release date is available at <https://research.unsw.edu.au/key-dates>. Please note that the date outlined is the first date of release only. Outcomes are released on an ongoing basis over some months, and will depend on a number of factors including when a student has submitted their final degree marks, and when the admission outcome has been finalised.

Outcomes cannot be released prior to this date.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines for the APA, as provided by the Commonwealth Government, can be found at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2012L02535>. Guidelines for all other awards are based on these same Guidelines.