

School of Graduate Research

HDR Scholarship Principles

The principles set out below represent the minimum scholarship support provided to enrolled candidates at RMIT. The following definitions apply:

Fee scholarship	A scholarship which covers the program fees that would have otherwise been payable by the HDR student
Scholarship	A term which can refer to both a fee scholarship, a stipend or a combination of the two
Stipend	A payment made to an HDR candidate to assist with general living costs
Supplementary scholarship	A payment made to an HDR candidate to assist with general living costs as a single payment or regular payments. Typically, supplementary scholarships can only be awarded where an existing stipend is in place.

- Academic staff in receipt of research funding may elect to provide HDR candidates with stipend, international tuition fee scholarship, overseas student health cover (OSHC) and supplementary scholarships.
- Requests to provide these scholarships must be made via the [Scholarships Nomination form](#).
- Scholarships must only be provided to HDR candidates for educational purposes and to support the timely completion of their research degree.
- In order to comply with Australian taxation laws, scholarships must not be provided for work done for the University whether it is relevant to the candidate's research or not. Where the work forms part of a formal program of study, then a scholarship is appropriate.
- Candidates may undertake employment at the University but those in receipt of a stipend must observe the conditions regarding employment as outlined in the scholarship [terms and conditions](#).
- All scholarships must be awarded through a fair, transparent, merit-based selection process which takes into account the University's commitment to equity and diversity. It is expected that documentation demonstrating this can be made available upon request.
- The RMIT RTP stipend is the [minimum stipend offered](#).
- All stipends are indexed annually in line with indexation applied to centrally awarded scholarships.
- SGR will only issue offers for INTON candidates where a fee scholarship is paired with a stipend. SGR will not issue offers for INTON candidates for a fee scholarship only or stipend only except where a candidate requires a fee scholarship in order to secure a stipend provided by a 3rd party. All such offers are conditional on the applicant successfully obtaining the stipend scholarship.
- SGR will provide visa-length Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for international candidates on the following scholarships:
 - RTP Stipend Scholarships (RSS)
 - RMIT Research Stipend Scholarships (RRSS)
 - Vice-Chancellor's PhD Scholarships (VCPS)
- Scholarships nominated by a School/College must provide visa-length OSHC.
- All RMIT-managed scholarships are made available under the same [terms and conditions](#). [Terms and conditions](#) for RMIT HDR scholarships are closely aligned to the Commonwealth Government's Research Training Program (RTP) Guidelines and managed by SGR.
- Once a candidate accepts an offer and enrolls, the scholarship must be provided to the candidate as specified on the offer letter.
- Stipend scholarships can only be paid to Australian bank accounts.
- Supplementary scholarships may only be paid to candidates by members of their supervisory team or be **provided** by a School or College. They comprise fortnightly payments paid to the candidate for a specified period of time or a once off lump sum payment. There is no minimum duration of a supplementary scholarship. Approval must be sought from the Director Research Training Services where a supplementary scholarship is offered without a stipend in place.

16. For commencing candidates, the minimum duration of a PhD scholarship is 3 years and the maximum duration is 3.5 years and, for Masters by Research degrees, the duration is 2 years only.
17. Scholarships awarded to candidates already enrolled (or previously enrolled) must be awarded for the remainder of candidature.
18. Academics may elect to pay a candidate a scholarship whilst under examination. These scholarships are to be paid from RE/RI/IO accounts and must be given on the explicit understanding that no work is to be provided in return. If work is required, this is an employment engagement and must be handled through recognised HR channels.