

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP) SCHOLARSHIP  
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS  
2024  
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL**

The Commonwealth Government's Research Training Program (RTP) (in effect as of 1 January 2017) provides funding to universities to support the research training of both domestic and international Higher Degree Research (HDR) candidates.

The University offers Higher Degrees by Research students the opportunity to apply for Australian Government RTP scholarships. The Graduate School administers these scholarships.

Those seeking a scholarship must confirm that they meet the eligibility criteria before consulting with the relevant Director of Higher Degrees Research Training in the Faculty before preparing an application.

Applicants must confirm prior to submitting an application for a scholarship that they have suitable proposed supervisors who are both willing and eligible to supervise the applicant should they be successful in being awarded a scholarship.

**Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship.**

Detailed information regarding the policies that govern these scholarships can be found as follows:

1. [Australian Government Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#)
2. [Southern Cross University Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships Policy](#)

To be eligible for an Australian Government RTP Scholarship Stipend, an applicant must be a domestic or an international student enrolled in an accredited course of study at an Australian Higher Education Provider.

An applicant will not be selected for an Australian Government RTP Scholarship Stipend unless the University is satisfied that the candidate meets the scholarship eligibility criteria as well as the admission requirements of the award in which they are applying to enrol.

Applications will only be considered where the documentary evidence is complete and sufficient.

## 1. SELECTION PROCESS AND TIMING

Applications for Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships are open for application on 14 August 2023 and closes midnight 15 October 2023. Successful applicants will be notified in or around early December 2023. Each successful applicant will be required to promptly notify the Graduate School of their acceptance or non-acceptance.

**Australian Government RTP Scholarship Stipend (Domestic):** It is expected that applicants awarded a scholarship will commence no later than 31 March in the year of the award but, at the discretion of the Dean, Graduate School, a later starting date may be permitted. Normally no award may be commenced beyond 30 June in the year of the award.

Scholarship recipients are expected to enrol full time on campus.

**Australian Government RTP Scholarship Stipend (International):** Unless the Dean, Graduate School approves an alternative commencement date, scholarship recipients should normally commence no later than 30 September in the year of the award.

Scholarship recipients are expected to enrol full time on campus.

Recipients of scholarships must have their enrolment accepted by the University and must maintain continuous enrolment until submission of the Thesis (excepting approved periods of interruption). If these conditions are not met, the Scholarship will lapse.

## 2. APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT TO CANDIDATURE

An application for a scholarship is **NOT** an application for admission to candidature. Applicants who are not already enrolled with the University or have not begun the application process must apply for enrolment as soon as they have received and accepted notification of a scholarship offer.

A successful scholarship application does not necessarily result in a successful application for admission. Scholarship payments cannot commence until the Dean, Graduate School, has approved an application for admission and the student has completed enrolment formalities.

It is recommended that, if postgraduate study is dependent on obtaining a scholarship, you should submit the application for the Scholarship and wait for the outcome before officially applying for admission. If you are successful in securing the Scholarship, you will be invited to apply online to commence the admission to candidature process.

## 3. REFEREES' REPORTS

Referees must be persons who can relevantly report on the applicant's academic ability and/or potential. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the Referees' reports are received by 15 October 2023. Referees will be required to send the report directly to the Graduate School once complete. The referee report can be found on the Graduate School website [here](#).**

If the reports are too late for consideration, the application will be disadvantaged. The Referees' reports are provided to the University in confidence, and the University may seek further information from the referee.

#### 4. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Australian Government RTP Scholarship Stipend (International) pays the compulsory tuition fees and Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) costs that an international student would ordinarily incur.

Ordinarily, all students who are not Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents are required to pay tuition fees for University courses. These students are also required to pay the OSHC. For details about fees and other relevant information, please refer to the [How to Apply page](#) on the Graduate School website.

#### 5. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

If your first language is not English, then you must satisfy the University that your standard of English is sufficient for you successfully to study here. You must submit:

- Appropriate level of English proficiency (International English Language Test Score (IELTS) Academic (or equivalent) with a minimum 7.0 in Writing and no other band less than 6.5)
- Other evidence of the ability to study in English may be considered. No evidence may be more than two years old at the date of application. For citizens of some countries, an IELTS test is required by the Government of Australia for the granting of a student visa. You are advised to contact the nearest Australian diplomatic mission to clarify whether this includes your citizenship: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

#### 6. PART-TIME Scholarship

***NOTE: International students who receive a scholarship are not eligible for part-time enrolment.***

Part-time Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship stipends (domestic) are only available to those who can demonstrate **significant caring commitments or a medical condition** that precludes full-time study. Part-time awards are not available for financial reasons such as supplementing earnings.

Applicants who seek part-time enrolment whilst in receipt of a scholarship must attach a statement of reasons when they submit their application for consideration. They also require the agreement of their supervisor and the relevant Director of Higher Degree Research Training to the part-time arrangement.

An applicant for a part-time Australian Government RTP Scholarship stipend will be ranked with applicants for full-time study. An offer will include their reasons for part-time study whilst in receipt of a scholarship stipend being approved. Scholarship recipients will be responsible for investigating tax implications.

## Graduate School

With the permission of his or her supervisor and the Graduate School, a student who has been approved to study part-time may revert to full-time study at any time.

### 7. TENURE

The maximum duration of an RTP Stipend and Fee offset Scholarship is three years and three months full-time equivalent for a student undertaking Research Doctorate studies and two years for a student undertaking Research Masters studies. The duration of the Scholarship will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the Scholarship.

### 8. LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

- 1-2-page research proposal.
- Copy of birth certificate or passport.
- Copy of citizenship certificate. (If International applicant).
- Copy of academic transcripts and certificates.
- Copy of English Language Proficiency documentation. (If International applicant).
- Copy of foreign language documents: as well as a scan of a certified copy or original, you must submit a scan of an official certified translation into English. (If applicable)
- Copy/evidence of any publication in English. Please number these publications from 1 to 5. (i.e. link to publication/ URL etc).

Applicants must submit their completed application as well as all documents electronically to [hdrscholarships@scu.edu.au](mailto:hdrscholarships@scu.edu.au).

Applicants are encouraged to retain a copy of their complete application and all attachments for their records.

### 9. CERTIFIED DOCUMENTS

Scanned copies of original documents, or scans of certified copies of the originals, must be supplied by applicants. A certified copy is a copy that has been officially certified as a true copy of the original:

- In Australia, by a Justice of the Peace. Details of local JPs can be obtained through the University administration, the Yellow Pages of a telephone directory, or a police station;
- Overseas, by an Australian Government representative office. If this is not possible, a local magistrate or similar official may be used.

For verification purposes, successful applicants may be asked to produce the originals of submitted documents. Failure to produce these could lead to the withdrawal of an offer.

## Graduate School

**Academic Transcripts and Certificate Records:** Examination result notifications do not constitute an academic record and will be rejected. If your University does not provide official, detailed academic records, you must submit an original letter from them giving full details of the courses you completed towards your qualification(s), the period over which you took those courses, and the results, including grades.

**Foreign Language Documents:** as well as a scan of a certified copy or original, you must submit a scan of an official certified translation into English.

**If your academic records are not from SCU,** you may be disadvantaged if we cannot make a comparison with our standards, particularly in relation to our grades of Honours. Where possible, SCU uses Country Education Profiles issued by the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) to determine the Australian equivalent of an overseas qualification. AEI-NOOSR is located within Australian Education International (AEI) in the Department of Education, Science and Training.

Other evidence, by way of an independent assessment of the quality of the overseas institutions, also may be submitted. In addition, you may ask the Head of the School or Special Research Centre (SRC) in which you worked, or the Director of Higher Degree Research Training of the School/SRC you seek to enter at Southern Cross University, for a written opinion of the equivalence of your degree to an Australian grade of Honours, which you can attach to your application. Note that the people concerned are not obliged to provide you with such a written opinion.

If you have a Master's by Thesis award, you may assist your case by providing official evidence of:

- a) The proportion of research culminating in the Thesis that you completed towards the total requirements for the degree;
- b) the grade of pass, if any (e.g. Hons 1);
- c) The quality of an ungraded award by attaching, if possible, the Examiners' reports.

Applicants may have the research component of a Master's by Coursework assessed by an independent and qualified person for equivalence to Honours. However, while it may do so, the University is not obliged to accept the assessment and will not be responsible for any costs involved.

## 10. ENQUIRIES AND EMAIL ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION

Graduate School

Southern Cross University

**Telephone:** (+61) 02 6626 9147 or (+61) 02 6626 9426    **E-mail:** [hdrscholarships@scu.edu.au](mailto:hdrs Scholarships@scu.edu.au)