2014 Scholarship Conditions of Award
(last updated: 9 June 2014)

International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS), Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (MIPRS) and Vera Moore International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (VMIPRS)

1 Eligibility

1.1 General
Scholarships are offered for full-time research at postgraduate level for study at one of Monash University’s Australian campuses.

Awardees must hold an Australian or New Zealand bachelor’s degree with first class honours, or qualifications and/or research experience deemed equivalent by the University.

Awardees must meet international student visa requirements as specified by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), including the requirement to purchase and maintain a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Awards will not be available to those who, as a result of prior studies would be entitled to a maximum tenure of less than 12 months (see section 3.1).

Awards will not be available to students who:
- are in receipt of another equivalent award offering similar benefits;
- are enrolled or are intending to enrol as a research student under Monash’s external mode regulations.

1.2 International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS)
Students who are citizens of all overseas countries, except New Zealand, and who are commencing a full-time research master’s degree or doctoral degree (ie PhD or research professional doctorate) are eligible for these awards. Students must be undertaking study in a subject area identified by the University as one of its areas of research concentration. Students who commenced their research studies in the current or previous year may be considered for an IPRS only if they were unable to apply for a scholarship prior to commencement of studies.

Students who commenced a higher degree by research at an Australian institution and terminated that enrolment within six months of commencement may also be considered for an award.

Awards will not be available to students who:
- already completed a doctoral degree or equivalent;
- already completed a research master’s degree or equivalent unless intending to undertake a doctoral degree;
- have previously held an IPRS for a doctoral degree;
- have previously held an IPRS for a research master’s degree unless that degree was completed and the second IPRS is for a doctoral degree;
- have held an AusAID scholarship within the two years prior to commencement of their award.

1.3 Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (MIPRS) and Vera Moore International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (VMIPRS)
Students who are citizens of all overseas countries, excluding New Zealand, and who are intending to undertake, or who are currently enrolled for a full-time research master’s or doctoral degree (ie PhD or research professional doctorate) are eligible for these awards.

Awards will not be available to students who:
- have already completed a doctoral degree or equivalent, unless the proposed research area for the second doctoral degree is significantly different;
have already completed a research master’s degree unless intending to undertake a PhD or research professional doctorate;

have previously held a MIPRS or VMIPRS. An exception may be made in the case of a doctoral student where the prior award was for a research master’s degree.

have held an Australian Agency for International Development scholarship within the two years prior to commencement of their award, unless an exemption is granted by AusAid (Canberra).

2 Nature of award

The scholarship is provided to cover the tuition fees and the Student Services and Amenities fee set by Monash and payable by the awardee for each year of the course. The IPRS, MIPRS and VMIPRS scholarships also meet the cost of standard Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the awardee, their spouse and any dependants (see section 4).

3 Duration and conversion of award

3.1 Duration of award

The maximum duration of a full-time award is three years for doctoral studies and two years for master’s studies.

The duration of an award will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award or taken during the suspension of the award (unless the study was undertaken as part of an Australian Government financially supported international postgraduate research scholarship or award, such as an Endeavour Award).

Awardees who are yet to commence their degree are required to enrol and take up their award by the preferred commencement date set by their faculty. The preferred commencement dates are available from www.monash.edu.au/migr/apply/accept/scholarship/commencement-date/.

Where employment commitments or circumstances beyond the awardee's control prevent an awardee from taking up the scholarship by this date, the awardee may be permitted to commence later, but must begin by 30 June (end of year round) or 31 December (mid-year round), or the offer will be withdrawn. Formal approval for a late start must be sought from the Graduate Research Committee.

The earliest date a scholarship can be taken up is 1 January (end of year round) and 1 August (mid-year round) of the year for which the offer is made.

3.2 Extension provisions

A doctoral student making satisfactory progress may apply for a maximum extension of up to six months. An extension will only be approved where research has been delayed by circumstances beyond the student’s control and where such delays could not have been reasonably anticipated at the commencement of the degree. The grounds for an extension must be related to study and not of a personal nature. Extensions beyond this period, which bring the total length of the course to a maximum of four years, will be at the discretion of the Graduate Research Committee and will only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances. Master’s students are not entitled to an extension.

3.3 Transfers between research degrees

If an awardee is permitted to transfer from a research master’s to a doctoral degree or from a doctoral degree to a research master’s degree, the maximum duration of the award will be adjusted accordingly. The maximum duration of a transferred award becomes that for the new research degree minus periods of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the conversion.

An awardee who completes a research master’s while on a MIPRS or VMIPRS may continue on his/her scholarship for doctoral studies (for the total maximum period allowed i.e. 3.5 years including the period of support while a master’s student) provided there is no interval between master’s and doctoral studies, or that such interval is covered by suspension of the scholarship. As a scholarship normally expires on submission of a thesis for examination, the awardee must ensure that the progression to a doctorate, or suspension of the scholarship is arranged before the master’s studies are completed.

An awardee who completes a research master’s while on an IPRS cannot use the remainder of the award for the first part of their doctoral degree.
Overseas Student Health Cover (IPRS, MIPRS and VMIPRS only)

International students are required to hold visa length Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while enrolled and conducting their research in Australia.

There are three types of OSHC cover:
- Single policy covers the holder of a student visa only
- Dual policy covers the holder of a student visa plus either one adult spouse or recognised de-facto partner or one or more dependent children
- Multi-family covers the holder of a student visa plus more than one dependant which can only include one adult spouse or recognised de-facto partner and one or more dependent children.

Students accompanied by their spouse and dependants under the age of 18 must ensure that they are also covered by OSHC whilst in Australia.

The Monash University Institute of Graduate Research (MIGR) arranges payment of the standard OSHC through the Monash preferred provider, Worldcare for new commencing IPRS, MIPRS and VMIPRS awardees for the duration of their visa.

Student visa requirements

It is the responsibility of awardees to ensure that they hold a valid visa while in Australia.

Research allowance – VMIPRS awardees ONLY

A research allowance of up to $550 per annum may also be payable to VMIPRS awardees. There is no provision for a research allowance for IPRS and MIPRS awardees. Research expenses are items such as journal subscriptions, conference attendance/study away from the University expenses and lab expenses. All claims must be directly related to the awardees research area.

Residency

Awardees are required to reside within daily commuting distance to a Victorian campus to allow frequent and systematic use of the University’s facilities, including use of physical resources, formal research training and daily face-to-face contact with supervisors if required. An awardee may be permitted to pursue part of their research at institutions or locations outside their approved campus location as per the entitlements outlined in the relevant handbook.

Termination

The award will be terminated on the day the thesis is submitted for examination or at the end of the award; whichever is earlier. For awardees in the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, the studies cease upon the submission of the exegesis and the examination of an exhibition of visual work. Art, Design and Architecture awardees who have remaining scholarship tenure will be permitted to remain on scholarship for a maximum period of three months after the submission of the exegesis to finalise the exhibition of visual work.

Awards will be terminated before this time:
- if it is determined that the awardee has not fulfilled his/her obligations, has not meet the eligibility criteria or fails to maintain satisfactory progress;
- if the awardee’s enrolment is terminated, the awardee is found guilty of academic misconduct or of the awardee fails to maintain their enrolment;
- if the awardee relinquishes the scholarship or withdraws from the course;
- when the awardee ceases to be a full-time student engaged in full-time research;
- if the awardee does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave or does not make arrangements to extend the period of approved leave;
- if the awardee accepts another equivalent award to undertake the research degree providing a benefit greater than 75% of the stipend rate and does not comply with the criteria in section 3.1;
- if the awardee converts to external student or writing up away;
- on the granting of permanent resident status to the student. Awardees will be required to meet the tuition fees owing, where they fail to advise the Monash University Institute of Graduate Research (MIGR) of any change in visa status.

If a scholarship is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error.

Transfer

A scholarship awarded by the University is not transferable to another institution.