Faculty International Tuition Scholarship (FITS)

Conditions of Scholarship 2020

1  General

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

In assessment, scholarships are considered for applicants who hold an Australian or New Zealand bachelor’s degree with first class honours, or qualifications and/or research experience deemed equivalent by the University. Applicants must also satisfy the English language proficiency levels set by the University.

International awardees must 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 Overseas Student Health Cover policy approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing.

2  Faculty International Tuition Scholarship (FITS)

2.1  Nature of Scholarship

The scholarship is provided to cover the tuition fees set by Monash University and payable by the awardee for each year of the course, fully funded by the academic unit. Overseas Student Health Cover is not included in this scholarship.

2.2  Eligibility

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 (i.e. PhD or research professional doctorate), are eligible for this scholarship. Students must be undertaking study in a subject area identified by the University as one of its areas of research concentration.

The Scholarship will not be available to students who:

- already completed a doctoral degree at the same course level (for example, are applying to undertake a second doctoral degree);
- already completed a graduate research master’s degree at the same course level, unless intending to undertake a doctoral degree;
- are enrolled or are intending to enrol as a research student under Monash’s external mode regulations;
- as a result of prior studies would be entitled to a maximum tenure for less than 12 months;
- are in receipt of another equivalent award/scholarship offering similar benefits;
- have previously held a Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset (formerly IPRS), MIPRS or VMIPRS. An exception may be made in the case of a doctoral student where the prior scholarship was for a research master’s degree that was completed;
2.3 **Duration of scholarship**
For doctoral studies, the standard duration of a full-time scholarship is three years and three months equivalent full-time. The Maximum duration for research master’s study is two years.

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

Awardees who are yet to commence their degree are required to enrol and take up their scholarship by the preferred commencement date of their program.

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 within the applicable admission period of the relevant round, i.e. by 30 June (Round 3) or 31 December (Round 1), or the offer will be withdrawn. Formal approval for a late candidature commencement must be sought from Monash Graduate Research Office (MGRO).

2.4 **Extension Provisions**
A doctoral student making satisfactory progress may apply for a maximum extension of up to three months. Master’s students are not entitled to an extension.

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. A request for an extension must be submitted prior to the end date of the scholarship. An extension will not be approved after the scholarship has ended.

2.5 **Transfer 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 scholarship will be adjusted accordingly. The maximum duration of a transferred scholarship becomes that for the new research degree minus periods of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the conversion.

2.6 **Change academic units/programs and field of education**
The scholarship cannot be transferred to another department, school, faculty or institution unless the new academic unit is within the Faculty and agrees to fund 100% of the tuition fees.

3 **Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)**
International students are required to hold visa length Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) whilst enrolled and conducting their research in Australia. OSHC is not included in this scholarship and is the responsibility of the student. Students accompanied by their spouse and dependents under the age of 18 must ensure that they are also covered by OSHC whilst in Australia.

The current Monash preferred provider for OSHC is Allianz Global Assistance.

4 **Student visa requirements**
It is the responsibility of awardees to ensure that they hold a valid visa whilst in Australia.
5 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 specified in section 3.5 of the Handbook for Doctoral Degrees or section 3.4 of the Handbook for Research Master’s Degrees.

6 Termination
The scholarship will be terminated on the day the thesis is submitted for examination or at the end of the award, whichever is earlier.

The scholarship will be terminated before this time:
- if it is determined that the awardee fails to fulfil an admission requirement or a condition on their continuing enrolment, or fails to maintain satisfactory progress;
- if the awardee’s enrolment is terminated for any reason, or the awardee is found guilty of a serious case of academic or research misconduct with Part 7 of the Monash University (Council) Regulations, or if 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, and when approval has not been obtained to hold the award on a part-time basis;
- 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 converts to writing up away;
- if the awardee ceases to be an on-campus student;
- on the granting of Australian or New Zealand citizenship or Australian permanent residency status to the student. Awardees will be required to meet the tuition fees owing, where they fail to advise the Faculty of any change in visa status.

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

FACULTY INTERNATIONAL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have read these conditions carefully and agree to abide by them and any subsequent amendments which may be made during the tenure of my scholarship.

Name (Please print): ______________________________________________________________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

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