Conditions of Award 2016

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

Version 4, Effective 5 September 2016

Graduate Research Scholarships
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 4.1).

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)
The IPRS is funded by the Australian Government. 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 Australian Award (formerly 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)**

The MIPRS and VMIPRS is funded by Monash University. 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;
- 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 **Definitions**

- **Compassionate and compelling circumstance** mean circumstances that are generally beyond the student’s control and have an impact on the student’s ability to study, for instance: serious illness or injury, pregnancy or childbirth, care responsibilities for dependants, visa processing delays, traumatic experiences, and political upheaval or natural disaster in the student’s home country.
- **Full-time student** means a student who enrols for 37.5 points or more over a half year period.
- **Part-time period** means either 1 January to 30 June, or 1 July to 31 December.
- **Offer year** means the offer year specified in your scholarship offer.
- **Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)** means OSHC Essential (Single, Multi or Family) arranged by the University.
- **Your course** means the course specified in your scholarship offer.

3 **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 5).

4 **Duration and transfer between research degrees**

4.1 **Duration of award**

The maximum award duration for doctoral studies is three years for a full-time, or six years for part-time. The maximum award duration for master’s studies is two years for a full-time, or four years for part-time.

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 http://www.monash.edu/graduate-research/future-students/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 the course/scholarship later, but must begin by 30 June (end of year round) or 31 December (mid-year round), or the offer will be withdrawn.

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.

4.2 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. 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. Master’s students are not entitled to an extension.

4.3 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 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 completing a master’s degree may continue on his/her scholarship for doctoral studies for the total maximum period of three years 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 expires on submission of a thesis for examination, the awardee must ensure that the progression to a doctoral degree 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.

5 Overseas Student Health Cover
International students are required to hold 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

International students are required to hold 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.

Graduate Research Services, Graduate Education, arranges payment of the standard OSHC through the Monash preferred provider, Allianz Global Assistance for new commencing IPRS, MIPRS and VMIPRS awardees only, for the maximum duration of the scholarship.

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

7 Research allowance – VMIPRS awardees ONLY
A research allowance of up to $A550 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.

8 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.

9 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. 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. For awardees in the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, studies ceases 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 fails to fulfil an admission requirement or a condition of their 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, or 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, 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.
If a scholarship is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred as a result of an error.

10 Repayment of Scholarship
An awardee is required to repay any scholarship payment within 4 weeks of receiving the payment if:

- the payment is made in error or the awardee has been overpaid,
- the awardee is no longer enrolled in the period the scholarship is paid,
- the awardee does not meet the conditions of the scholarship or is ineligible for the scholarship including situations where,
  - the awardee has provided false information; or
  - the awardee has been made a scholarship offer in error.

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

12 False or misleading information
If the awardee has provided false or misleading information and as a result a scholarship is awarded or continued, the scholarship may cease.

13 Complaints and Grievances
Students may submit a complaint or grievance in relation to the application of this procedure in accordance with the Student Complaints and Grievances Policy and the Student Complaints and Grievances Procedure (http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/management/complaints-grievance-policy.html).

14 Privacy
All personal information collected by the University is governed by the University's Privacy Policy. For further information, refer to the University’s privacy statement (http://www.privacy.monash.edu.au/).