Conditions of Award (Tuition) 2017

- RTP Fees Offset
- Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (MIPRS) and
- Vera Moore International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (VMIPRS)

Version 1, Effective 1 January 2017
2017 Conditions of Award (Tuition)

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This document is to be read in conjunction with the Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017, Chapter 2: Admission to doctoral enrolment of the Handbook for Doctoral Degrees and Chapter 2: Admission to research master’s enrolment of the Handbook for Research Master’s Degrees, and the Conditions of Award (Stipend) and are deemed in the interim and in combination as equivalent to a Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship Policy as specified by the Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017. Monash University reserves the right to make minor amendments to these conditions without prior notice.
1 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.

- **Domestic student** has the same meaning as defined in the [Higher Education Support Act 2003](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2003C0086).

- **Graduate research degree** means a *research doctorate or research master's degree* for which at least two-thirds of the student load for the degree is required as *research work*. Interchangeable with higher degree by research (HDR), as defined under the [Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017](https://www.dtic.mil/whs/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a670451.pdf).


- **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.

- **RTP** means the *Research Training Program*, as defined under the [Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017](https://www.dtic.mil/whs/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a670451.pdf).

- **RTP Allowance** means a type of RTP Scholarship to assist with ancillary costs incurred by a graduate research student in undertaking a graduate research degree, as defined under the [Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017](https://www.dtic.mil/whs/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a670451.pdf).

- **RTP Fees Offset** means a type of *RTP Scholarship* to assist with course fees that would otherwise be payable by a graduate research student, as defined under the [Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017](https://www.dtic.mil/whs/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a670451.pdf).

- **RTP Scholarship** means a form of support awarded to a student in terms of support items listed in paragraph 1.6.1 of the [Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017](https://www.dtic.mil/whs/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a670451.pdf).

- **Your course** means the graduate research degree specified in your scholarship offer.

2 RTP Fees Offset (domestic students)

2.1 **Students who commenced on or before 31 December 2016**

From 1 January 2017, the Research Training Scheme (RTS) will be replaced with the RTP Fees Offset.

Students with a RTS place will be transferred to a RTP Fees Offset effective 1 January 2017.

A RTP Fees Offset covers all course tuition fees. Other applicable fees, such as Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF), remain the responsibility of the student.

In 2017, the estimated annual value of Australian Government support for an RTP Fees Offset is in the range of $28,900 – $41,500, and may vary by indexation in subsequent years.

The total duration of funding will be equivalent to the course duration specified in the course offer letter and be no more than 4 years (EFT) for students enrolled in Doctoral courses and no more than 2 years (EFT) for students enrolled in research master’s courses.
2.2 **Students commencing 2017**
In 2017, all students commencing a graduate research degree at Monash will be provided with a RTP Fees Offset.

A RTP Fees Offset covers all course tuition fees. Other applicable fees, such as Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) will be the responsibility of the student.

In 2017, the estimated annual value of Australian Government support for an RTP Fees Offset is in the range of $28,900 – $41,500, and may vary by indexation in subsequent years.

3 **RTP Fees Offset (international students)**

3.1 **International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) students**
From 1 January 2017, the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) will be replaced with the RTP Fees Offset.

Students who commenced a graduate research degree at Monash University on or prior to 31 December 2016 and who are in receipt of an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) will be transferred to a RTP Fees Offset effective 1 January 2017. Existing arrangements for their Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) will be unaffected by this change.

A RTP Fees Offset covers all course tuition fees.

International students on a RTP Fees Offset will be allocated a RTP Allowance which covers the costs of a standard Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) policy in accordance with section 8 below.

3.2 **General provisions for a RTP Fees Offset**
A student will only be awarded an RTP Fees Offset as a result of a competitive selection process. RTP Fees Offsets are offered for full-time study in a graduate research degree at one of Monash University’s Australian campuses.

A RTP Fees Offset covers all course tuition fees. As part of their offer of admission to Monash, a student will be provided with the actual fee estimating the annual value of Australian Government supported provided by the RTP Fees Offset.

3.3 **Eligibility for a RTP Fees Offset**
Priority will be given to 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 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.

RTP Fees Offsets will not be available to those who are in receipt of an equivalent award to offset HDR fees.
In its competitive selection process, priority will be given to students who have not:

- already completed a doctoral degree or equivalent;
- already enrolled, or who are not intending to enrol as a graduate research student under Monash’s external mode regulations.
- already completed a research master’s degree or equivalent unless intending to undertake a doctoral degree;
- previously held an IPRS;
- held an Australian Award (formerly AusAID scholarship) within the two years prior to commencement of their award.

4 **Special conditions (all RTP Fees Offset students)**
There is a legislative requirement that awardees who are in receipt of a RTP Fees Offset acknowledge the Australian Government’s support in any published materials related to their research project. This relates to any time, both during and after completion of their graduate research degree. Materials include items such as books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works which relate to the awardee’s research project.

The acknowledgement must include mention of the awardee’s support through an “Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship”.

5 **Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (MIPRS) and Vera Moore International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (VMIPRS)**
The MIPRS and VMIPRS is funded by Monash University.

Applicants 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 (i.e. PhD or research professional doctorate) are eligible for these tuition scholarships.

These tuition awards will not be available to applicants 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 Award (formerly AusAID scholarship) within the two years prior to commencement of their award, unless an exemption is granted by AusAID (Canberra).

6 **Nature of award – MIPRS and VMIPRS (international students)**
The MIPRS and VMIPRS cover the tuition fees and the Student Services and Amenities fee set by Monash and payable by the awardee for each year of the degree.

The MIPRS and VMIPRS also cover the cost of standard Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) as per section 8 below.
7  **Research allowance (VMIPRS awardees ONLY)**

A research allowance of up to $550 per annum may also be payable to VMIPRS 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 awardee’s research area.

8  **Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)**

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

There are three types of standard 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 while in Australia.

Graduate Research Services, Monash Graduate Education, arranges payment of the standard OSHC through the Monash preferred provider, Allianz Global Assistance, for the maximum duration of the award.

For international students on a RTP Fees Offset, the costs of the OSHC will be covered by a RTP Allowance.

9  **Duration (international students)**

9.1  **Duration**

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 commencement date as stated in their course offer letter.

Where employment commitments or circumstances beyond the awardee’s control prevent an awardee from taking up the award by this date, the awardee may be permitted to commence the course/award later, but must begin by 30 June (end of year round) or 31 December (mid-year round), or the offer will be withdrawn.

For the end of year round, the earliest date an award can be taken up is 1 January of the following year. For the mid-year round, the earliest date is 1 August of the year for which the offer is made.
9.2 Extension provisions
A doctoral student 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 tuition scholarship. An extension will not be approved after the tuition scholarship has ended.

There are no provisions for an extension for students undertaking a research master’s.

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

11 Residency (international students)
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.

12 Termination (international students)
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.
13 **Transfer between graduate 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.

14 **Transfer of tuition award**
A tuition scholarship awarded by the University is not transferable to another institution.

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

16 **Student 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).

17 **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/).