



Higher Degree Research (HDR) Fee Merit Scholarship

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. INTRODUCTION

Each year the Australian National University ('the University') may offer a number of awards known as the Higher Degree Research (HDR) Fee Merit Scholarship ('the Award').

Funding for this Award has been provided by the University.

The objective of the Award is to encourage and support outstanding international¹ HDR candidates to enable them to pursue a Higher Degree Research program.

2. BENEFITS

The Award may contain any or all of the following benefits:

- A. **International Student Fees:** The Award covers the recipient's International Student Fees (for tuition) for the duration of the Award; and

The recipient is responsible for making payment of any other administrative fees, by the prescribed date as set by the University each session. Recipients of this Award are responsible for the cost of books, study materials, accommodation and all other costs of study.

3. DURATION

The duration of the full-time Award will be four (4) years for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), or two (2) years for Master of Philosophy; less:

- i. periods of enrolment already undertaken for the Higher Degree Research degree; and/or
- ii. such shorter period as is stated in the letter of offer.

Periods of paid sick leave taken in accordance with the *Research Awards Rule 2021*, as well as maternity and parental leave are additional to the normal duration of the Award.

There are no extensions offered under this Award.

4. PROGRAM LEAVE

There are no paid leave benefits offered under this Award.

The University may approve unpaid program and scholarship leave of absence on personal grounds, which does not exceed a total period of 12 months during the period of the Award, after which the recipient may resume the Award. If the unpaid program and scholarship leave of absence exceeds 12 months, the recipient may not be eligible for resumption of the Award.

An application for unpaid program and scholarship leave of absence for more than 12 months will only be considered if there are exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the recipient and must be approved by the Delegated Authority in the College.

¹ A student who is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen or the holder of Australian permanent resident status, and is required to hold a visa to study in Australia and liable for international student fees (ISF) payable to the University either by the student or a sponsor

Unpaid program and scholarship Leave is aggregated and awarded only in one-week blocks for a full-time recipient and two-week blocks for a part-time recipient.

Recipients may apply for unpaid program and scholarship leave by completing the relevant section of the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form in ISIS.

5. ELIGIBILITY

The Award is available each year to a prospective/continuing student who:

- (a) is an international student enrolling full-time in an accredited HDR course of study at the University;
- (b) has also been awarded an ANU University Research Scholarship; and
- (c) has normally achieved a minimum of H1 or H1 equivalent in their prior studies.

6. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

No application for the Award is required as eligible students are automatically considered based on meeting the eligibility criteria or conditions prescribed under the Eligibility section.

7. SELECTION

Selection of this Award requires each of the ANU Colleges to convene a selection committee to score and rank ALL eligible H1 (or equivalent) applicants in a merit-based process. Overall ranking includes consideration of:

- (a) academic merit and research potential, based on their academic record, referee reports and other evidence; and
- (b) Research Potential, support from the prospective supervisor and location in which the research will be undertaken; and
- (c) English Language competency; and
- (d) comparison with other applications received in the same Award round.

The selection committee reserves the right to make no award if it considers there is no applicant of sufficient merit. The selection committee may also vary the number of Awards and/or offer the Award at other times in exceptional circumstances or based on the standard of applications or students (where funds allow).

8. CONCURRENT HOLDING OF AWARDS

A recipient of the Award is not permitted to concurrently hold other fee scholarships, awards, grants or bursaries with this Award.

A recipient of the Award is permitted to concurrently hold other non-fee scholarships (including the University Research Scholarship), awards, grants and bursaries subject to the terms of the corresponding section in the conditions of award of the other scholarship/bursary/grant/award that they are holding.

9. DEFERMENT

The Award must be taken up no later than the date specified in the letter of offer, unless otherwise approved by the Delegated Authority.

10. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

A recipient of this Award is required to remain enrolled full-time in an eligible Higher Degree Research (HDR) program of study at the Australian National University.

The recipient is required to maintain eligibility for their ANU University Research Scholarship. Should the recipient lose eligibility to hold their ANU University Research Scholarship, this Award will also terminate.

A part-time Award may be offered or approved if the recipient has reasons acceptable to the University which preclude full-time study for part or all of the program of study. In such cases the University must be satisfied that the reasons relate to caring commitments, a medical condition, a disability or other circumstance which limits the recipient's capacity to undertake full-time study.

An Award cannot be transferred to another tertiary institution.

11. SUSPENSION OF AWARD

A recipient may apply to the College for suspension of their Award. A suspension may be appropriate if a recipient is studying at another institution and receives an award for that study. In these circumstances the duration of the Award will be reduced by the periods of study undertaken towards the degree during suspension of the Award (unless the study was undertaken overseas as part of a Commonwealth Government financially supported international postgraduate research scholarship or award).

The University may suspend the Award where a recipient has:

- (a) outstanding fees; or
- (b) an outstanding debt with the University; or
- (c) outstanding HDR program milestone/s; or
- (d) been found to be in breach of a statute, rule or policy or procedure of the University.

The Award will be suspended when at least five working days have passed since the University advised the recipient in writing that the milestones, debt and/or fees are outstanding, until the milestones have been met or the outstanding fees and/or debt have been paid. Under these circumstances, the recipient will forfeit payment of the Award for the period of time that their Award is suspended.

12. CESSATION OF AWARD

The Award ceases or should be surrendered:

- (a) if a student no longer meets the eligibility requirements;
- (b) at the conclusion of the period outlined in section 3;
- (c) on the date on which the recipient withdraws or ceases to attend the University other than for approved absences;
- (d) if a recipient fails to enrol as required in section 5;
- (e) if a recipient changes their program or course without permission to retain the Award;
- (f) if a recipient breaches academic or behavioural standards set by the University under the *Discipline Rule (2021)* and *Academic Integrity Rule (2021)*;

whichever is earliest.

13. REPAYMENT OF FUNDS

A recipient who is taking leave from their program, or changing their enrolment intensity from full-time to part-time, must submit the prescribed [Manage My Degree - HDR](#) form in a timely manner and, where possible in advance, in order to avoid receiving an overpayment of their Award. In circumstances where an overpayment does occur, these will be recovered in accordance with the ANU Procedure - Overpayments.

HDR Fee Merit Scholarship (8/2025)

14. PROVIDING FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

The Award is based on the information provided to the University. The Award may be withdrawn at any stage if incorrect, false or misleading information is provided or relevant information is withheld. This includes circumstances where the false information is unrelated to the assessment for the Award.

15. VARIATION TO CONDITIONS OF AWARD

In exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, section 0 of these Conditions of Award may be varied by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research) on the recommendation of the chair of the selection committee.

16. TAXATION & CENTRELINK

Recipients are responsible for seeking taxation and Centrelink advice (if applicable) regarding their own individual circumstances. Awards may be regarded as taxable income if a recipient is enrolled on a part-time basis.

For information on how the Award may affect Centrelink benefits, see this website <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/income/>

17. ACCOMMODATION

It is the recipient's responsibility to obtain residential accommodation. Information on student accommodation and application forms are available from the University Accommodation Services. Information may be found on the Web at: <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/accommodation>

18. PUBLICITY

The recipient may be requested to participate in publicity for the Award from time to time. This may include publicity in the country of residence or of schooling. Recipients may be contacted for an interview and photograph. The University may also publicise the Award by publishing the names of the recipients. Arrangements for such publicity will be made through the ANU College or ANU Communications and Engagement (ACE).

Recipients will also be required to acknowledge funding from the Award should the outcomes lead to publication.

19. DISCLOSURE AND DONOR CONTACT

For the purposes of reporting on the impact of awards, the name, program name and demographics (for example: age, country or town of residence) relating to a recipient of the Award may be disclosed to donors supporting the Award. This will not include recipient contact details. The recipient may be asked to write a personal note of thanks or to meet with donors. Any contact between a donor and a recipient will be facilitated by the ANU Advancement Office or an authorised representative of the University.

20. CONTACT WITH THE AWARD OWNER

All enquiries regarding the Award and changes, issues, or further information after acceptance should be made to: *Graduate Research Office (GRO)*
Email: hdr.candidature@anu.edu.au

21. DISCLAIMER

The recipient of the Award is subject to *The Australian National University Act 1991* as amended, and to the Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Resolutions of the University.

The Award does not carry any commitment by the University for future employment.

These Conditions of Award should be read in conjunction with the *Research Awards Rule 2021* and Higher Degree Research Policy and Procedures available from the [ANU website](#).

22. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES & RULES

HDR Legislation, policies and procedures - <https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/hdr-policies-procedures>

HDR Scholarships Policy - https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_7926387

HDR Scholarships Procedure - https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_7926390

ANU Academic Integrity Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00997>

ANU Discipline Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00998>

ANU Student Code of Conduct <https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/program-management/student-code-of-conduct>