



GAME CHANGE FUND SUPPORTING CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. INTRODUCTION

Each year the *Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions (ICEDS)* may offer up to two awards known as the Game Change Fund Supporting Climate Change Research (“the award”).

The objective of the award is to provide game-changing support to the emerging generation of bright PhD scholars from rural and remote areas to contribute to game-changing climate change research, adaptation and mitigation outcomes.

Funding for this award has been provided by a group of donors led by Graham Waters, Anne-Marie Waters, and Ray Kiley.

2. BENEFITS

Value: The value of the award will be stated in your letter of offer. The recipient will receive the scholarship as a percentage split between fortnightly stipend payments.

Duration: The duration of a full-time award will be three years or such shorter period as is stated in the letter of offer, but no longer than the approved ANU HDR base stipend Scholarship (if relevant). An extension of six months will be available by application, to eligible students.

Periods of study already undertaken for the PhD degree and periods of study undertaken for the PhD degree during suspension of the award will be deducted from the duration of the award.

Extension: If eligible, a recipient may apply for an extension of the award by completing the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form. The maximum period of extension is six months and an extension may be sought only where the research has been delayed by circumstances beyond the scholar's control and is related to the research and is not of a personal nature.

PROGRAM & SCHOLARSHIP LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

Personal Leave: The University may approve unpaid program and scholarship leave of absence on personal grounds, which does not exceed a total period of twelve months during the tenure of the scholarship, after which the student may resume the scholarship. If the unpaid program leave of absence exceeds twelve months, the student may not be eligible for resumption of the scholarship.

An application for program and scholarship leave of absence for more than twelve 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.

Leave is aggregated and awarded only in one-week blocks for a full-time student and two-week blocks for a part-time student.

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

Maximum Leave Entitlements

In no circumstances can the program and Scholarship leave of absence exceed two years in total (which includes personal, medical, maternity and paternity leave).

Payments for this scholarship will not continue during these types of leave.

3. ELIGIBILITY

The award will be available each year to a prospective or continuing, PhD student who meets the following **Eligibility Criteria**:

- a) a domestic and/or international student; and
- b) enrolled or about to enrol full-time in a program of study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Australian National University (applicants must apply for the award within 6 months of commencing their PhD); and
- c) undertaking a PhD project related to climate change, supported by a developed project brief; and
- d) meets one or more of the following considerations: identifies as Aboriginal Australian or Torres Strait Islander; is from a rural or remote area; is from a Pacific Island Nation; or is from a disadvantaged background or has experienced financial hardship.

Applications that don't meet these criteria will not be considered. Priority may be given to applicants under 32 years of age.

4. SELECTION

Selection will be made on the basis of the following **Selection Criteria**:

- a) Relevance and applicability of the project to solve challenges presented by climate change. Applications that don't have climate change responses (adaptation or mitigation or their interaction) as a core component of the proposed research will not be considered; and
- b) The potential for the prospective PhD Scholar to actively engage with decision-makers with regards to their research project may also be considered; and
- c) Academic merit, potential and performance based on their academic records, referee reports and other evidence; and
- d) The applicant's background and reasons for seeking the scholarship including the applicant's demonstration of how the scholarship could be a game-changer for their own development.

5. APPLICATION

Applications shall be called for with a closing date as set by the *Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions (ICEDS)*. Applicants should submit the following documents:

a) A concise letter (1-2 pages) addressing all of the Eligibility Criteria. Applications that do not meet the Eligibility Criteria will not be considered. The letter must also outline the applicant's background and explain why this scholarship would be a game-changer for them.

b) A concise project brief (1-2 pages) that explicitly addresses the Selection Criteria and outlines the applicant's supervisory arrangements.

c) Supporting documents relating to the Selection Criteria, including:
(i) 1-2 references from supervisors and/or other relevant sources; and
(ii) Academic transcripts and other relevant documents.

d) CV.

These documents are to be emailed to ICEDS prior to the closing date.

The award will be offered to a student by an external Selection Committee consisting of at least three persons from the following groups: academics not working at the ANU who have a background in climate change research and/or decision-making; and/or experts in community development and/or policy; and/or members of civil society interested in transformational change.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to make no award if it considers there is no applicant of sufficient merit.

6. CONCURRENT HOLDING OF AWARDS

A recipient of the award is permitted to concurrently hold other scholarships, 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.

7. DEFERMENT

The award cannot be deferred.

8. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

The recipient is required to remain enrolled full-time in a program of study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Australian National University in the program for which the award is offered.

In exceptional circumstances, a part-time award may be offered or approved if the student has reasons acceptable to the University that preclude full-time study for part or all of the course of study. In such cases the University must be satisfied that the reasons relate to caring commitments, a medical condition or a disability, with appropriate supporting documentation provided, for example a medical certificate.

The recipient is required to complete the annual progress reviews and be assessed as making satisfactory progress toward all PhD milestones. The recipient is expected to engage with ICEDS with regard to research progress to discuss the value of the scholarship on a non-onerous schedule to be discussed with the recipient (likely 6 monthly discussions).

Research findings generated through the scholarship may be published in scientific journals or other publications, with appropriate acknowledgement to ICEDS.

An award cannot be transferred to another institution.

9. SUSPENSION OF AWARD

A recipient may apply for suspension of their award. The approval of a suspension will be at the discretion of the ICEDS. 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 an award where a recipient has:

- a) outstanding fees;
- b) an outstanding debt with the University; or
- c) outstanding PhD milestone/s

An award will only be suspended once a reasonable amount of time (more than 20 working days) has passed since the fees and/or debt and/or milestones were due and once the University has advised the recipient in writing that the milestones, debt and/or fees are outstanding. Under these circumstances, the recipient will forfeit payment for the period of time that their award is suspended.

10. CESSATION OF AWARD

The award ceases:

- a) at the conclusion of the period outlined in section 2; or
- b) on submission of the thesis for examination; or
- c) on the date on which the recipient withdraws or ceases to attend the University other than for approved absences; or
- d) if a recipient is no longer meeting or has breached the conditions of award; or
- e) if a recipient breaches academic or behavioural standards set by the University under the Academic Misconduct & Discipline Rules; or
- f) if the recipient is no longer enrolled in the program for which the award was offered.

11. REPAYMENT OF FUNDS

A recipient who is taking leave from their program, or changing intensity from full-time to part-time, is expected to submit the prescribed 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, the overpayments will generally be recovered in line with the ANU Overpayments Procedure.

In the situation where a recipient is overpaid an amount in excess of a full fortnightly disbursement, the University may recover the overpayment by withholding future stipend payments at the same rate that the stipend was overpaid.

In cases of overpayment or outstanding financial debts to the University, service restrictions are applied to students. Service restrictions include temporarily withholding students' access to:

- a) enrol or re-enrol in a program or course;
- b) obtain a transcript of academic record;
- c) acquire results of any assessment in a course or program;
- d) receive a degree, diploma, certificate or other Award of the University.

12. PROVIDING FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

The offer of an award is based on the information provided to the University. An 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 in offering the award.

13. VARIATION TO CONDITIONS OF AWARD

In exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis section 6 and/or 7 of these conditions of award may be varied by the DVC on the recommendation of the Chair of Selection Committee.

14. TAXATION & CENTRELINK

Recipients are responsible for seeking taxation and Centrelink advice regarding their own individual circumstances. Scholarships/grants/awards may be regarded as taxable income if a recipient is enrolled on a part-time basis.

For information on how your award may affect your Centrelink benefits, please refer to this website: <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/income/>

15. 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/students/services/accommodation>

16. PUBLICITY

The recipient may be requested to participate in publicity for the award from time to time. This may include publicity in the state or territory 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 *Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions (ICEDS)* or Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Office of the University.

17. CONTACT WITH THE ANU

All enquiries regarding the award and changes, issues, or further information after acceptance should be made to:

Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions
Email: iced@anu.edu.au

18. DISCLAIMER

The recipient of this 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 of a scholarship/grant does not carry any commitment by the University for future employment.

These conditions of award should be read in conjunction with the University's Research Awards Rule and Candidature and Supervision Policies.

19. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, RULES & RESOURCES

ANU Research Awards Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01979>

ANU Overpayments Procedure – https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_000599

ANU Academic Misconduct Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2015L02025>

ANU Discipline Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2015L02046>

Thesis Allowance Requirements - <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/theses-reimbursement>

Research Scholarship Information (including reimbursement and claim forms) - <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/scholarships-support/research-scholarship-information>