

# 2019 Masters of Research (MRes) Stipend Scholarship

## Conditions of Award

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These Conditions of Award are to be read together with the Recipient's Scholarship Offer.

### 1. MRes Stipend Scholarship Student Eligibility Requirements

- 1.1 A Stipend Scholarship Recipient (“**Recipient**”) must:
- (a) be a **Domestic** student, selected for a Stipend Scholarship (“**Scholarship**”) by nomination at the discretion of the University, or as a result of a competitive selection process. The selection of the Recipients for a MRes 2019 Scholarship will be based on the published selection criteria for the Scholarship, as detailed on the Curtin Scholarship webpage and/or detailed in the document in the expression of interest, as applicable.
  - (b) have submitted a Honours Degree thesis at Curtin University in 2018 and have been assessed to have obtained a First or Upper Second Class award for the thesis;
  - (c) be undertaking a Masters of Research, Higher Degree by Research (“**HDR**”) course;
  - (d) be enrolled as a full-time **internal** student, unless the student has gained approval under exceptional circumstances, by the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor Research Excellence (or delegate) to study on a part-time basis;
  - (e) the MRes will be undertaken in the same research area of the Honours award, unless approved by the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor Research Excellence
  - (f) not be receiving an equivalent award, scholarship or salary providing a benefit greater than 75% of the minimum base Research Training Program (RTP) stipend rate (75% Rule) to undertake the HDR. Income earned from sources unrelated to the course of study is not subject to the 75% Rule.
- 1.2 For the purposes of this MRes Stipend Scholarship - Conditions of Award 2019:
- (a) a student complying with (1.1) above is defined as a Recipient;
  - (b) a Domestic Student is as defined in the Higher Education Support Act (HESA) 2003 Act;
  - (c) the HESA Act 2003 is defined as the main piece of legislation governing higher education in Australia;
  - (d) a Higher Degree by Research is defined as a Doctor of Philosophy, Masters by Research, Masters of Research or Professional Doctorate by Research course, where research typically forms two-thirds or more of the program of learning;
  - (e) a Higher Education Provider is defined as:
    - (i) a constitutional corporation that offers or confers a regulated higher education award; or
    - (ii) a corporation that:
      - (A) offers or confers a regulated higher education award; and
      - (B) is established by or under a law of the Commonwealth or a Territory; or
      - (C) a person who offers or confers a regulated higher education award for the completion of a course of study provided wholly or partly in a Territory.
  - (f) an Internal student is defined as an on-campus student whose mode of attendance involves regular ongoing face-to-face learning at the institution for the purpose of supervision and/or instruction.

- (g) a Leave of Absence is defined as a formally approved break in candidature which does not count against the minimum and maximum duration of study, per clause 10 of Rule No. 10 Made Pursuant to Statute No. 12 – Enrolment: Degree of Doctor by Research and clause 10 of Rule No. 11 Made Pursuant to Statute No. 12 – Enrolment: Degree of Master by Research.
- (h) Conditional status is defined as the academic status associated with the Recipient's enrolment where the Recipient is constrained by conditions to be met by a set deadline determined by the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee or the Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Excellence.
- (i) Good Standing is defined as the academic status associated with the Recipient's enrolment where the Recipient has achieved satisfactory course progress and is permitted to continue in the course.
- (j) a Scholarship Offer is a proposal of support provided to a Recipient to assist with expenses associated with study at Curtin which includes acceptance of terms and conditions relating to the Scholarship.

For the purposes of these Conditions of Award:

- (k) External Funding Party is defined as an external individual or an entity with which the University engages, transacts or associates in the achievement of its objectives.
- (l) Research Training Program (RTP) is defined as a single flexible pool of government funding to support both Domestic and International students undertaking Research Doctorate, Masters of Research and Masters by Research degrees.

## **2. Commencement**

- (a) Unless there are exceptional circumstances, Recipients offered a Scholarship are expected to commence the degree within the dates specified in the letter of offer or the Scholarship will be withdrawn by the University. Approval to commence the Scholarship after the dates specified in the letter of offer of the awarding year must be obtained from the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Excellence. Scholarships cannot be deferred past Wednesday, 6 March 2019.

## **3. Period of Support**

- (a) Recipients are entitled to a maximum of 8 months full-time equivalent study if undertaking Masters of Research (MRes). A Recipient's period of support is detailed in the Recipient's Scholarship Offer.
- (c) The duration of the Scholarship will be increased by any periods of paid sick leave approved by the University. See 17.1(a).

## **4. Scholarship Extensions**

- (a) No extensions are available for Masters of Research Recipients.
- (b) Work commitments, as defined in clause 11, cannot be accepted as grounds for an extension of duration of the Scholarship.

## **5. Value of Scholarship**

### **5.1 Stipend and additional allowances**

- (a) A Recipient's stipend scholarship value is set out in the Recipient's Scholarship Offer.
- (b) An allowance for the MRes recipient of \$750 will be provided at the successful completion of Milestone 3 to be used for the thesis printing and associated research consumables expenses.
- (c) The University will administer to each full-time Recipient an approved stipend which may be indexed in accordance with the method set out in Part 5-6 of the Act, and is exempt

from taxation. Where a full-time Recipient is not enrolled over the full period of the year because of a late commencement or periods of suspension, the University will provide at least the proportion of the annual stipend for the period in which study is undertaken for that year.

- (d) Part-time Recipients are only entitled to the approved part-time stipend rate. Part-time stipends are not exempt from taxation. The part-time rate is adjusted for taxation so that part-time Recipients receive half the amount paid to full-time Recipients.
- (e) The Recipient is permitted to:
  - (i) obtain funds for fieldwork, equipment or other expenses not covered by the Scholarship;
  - (ii) obtain funding for overseas travel costs from other Australian Government awards or any other source; and
  - (iii) Receive income derived from part-time work undertaken within the Conditions set by the University.

## **6. Approval of a Part-time Scholarship**

- (a) Request to undertake part-time study must be made in writing to the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Excellence. In approving a part-time Scholarship, the institution must be satisfied that the Recipient has an exceptional circumstance which limits the Recipient's capacity to undertake full time study. The University may approve a part-time Scholarship where a Recipient has:
  - (i) carer responsibilities for a pre-school child;
  - (ii) carer responsibilities for school-aged children as a sole parent with limited access to outside support;
  - (iii) carer responsibilities for an invalid or disabled spouse, child or parent; or
  - (iv) a medical condition, which limits the capacity to undertake full-time study (supported by medical certification).
- (b) A part-time Scholarship is not available to Recipients seeking to undertake paid employment on a full-time, or on a substantial part-time basis.
- (c) Where the applicable Scholarship is funded by an External Funding Party, approval to undertake part-time study must be provided by the funding body before the request can be considered by the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Excellence.
- (d) Where applicable Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Excellence has the discretion to offer part-time Scholarships falling outside clause 6 (a). Such Scholarships may be subject to variation in period of support as defined in Clause 3, and will be defined within the Scholarship Offer.
- (e) Scholarship Recipients approved to study part-time may revert to full-time study at any time with the permission of the University.

## **7. Changing Course**

- (a) The Recipient is required to continue the thematic research area of their Honours thesis for the body of the MRes enrolment. In exceptional circumstances Curtin University may approve a Recipient's request to change his/her research course however this will result in the candidate withdrawing from the MRes course and following this, may result in:
  - (i) The candidate applies for the Honours award within 12 months of the date of the cessation of the MRes enrolment; and / or
  - (ii) The candidate applies for a MPhil (level 9 course) or Doctoral (Level 10 course).
  - (iii) where the candidate withdraws from the MRes the Honours award should be applied for within 12 months and all costs including an administration fee will be covered by the candidate and

- (iv) the change of course has the approval of the University Graduate Studies Committee.
- (b) Where a Recipient changes his/her course of study to another HDR degree the period of enrolment in the MRes is included in the enrolment support period for the HDR. This includes changes from one field of education to another. For example, a Recipient who has completed 8 months of a Masters of Research and then changes to a different Masters of Research will only be entitled to a further 16 months full-time equivalent study.
- (c) MRes Scholarship cannot be transferred to another University or course. Individuals who receive a MRes living stipend scholarship (not funded by an external party) who then withdraw from the MRes are able to apply for internal living stipend scholarship for another HDR course. However, if successful the duration of the new living stipend scholarship will be reduced by the equivalent of the living stipend (duration) received in the MRes scholarship.
- (d) Individuals who withdraw from the MRes and apply for a scholarship in a new HDR course more than 12 months after their withdrawal date are exempt from clause 7(c)
- (e) Recipients are expected to complete their candidature at Curtin University.

## **8. Multiple award options for the MRes candidate**

- (a) A Recipient who enrolls in a Masters of Research degree has choices of specific pathways to different awards. In all cases full declaration of content and attribution in the thesis is required for each unique award. Some of the outcomes that may be approved includes the candidate:
  - (b) Withdrawing from the MRes and applies for the Honours award, then use the MRes additional research activities for the basis of a PhD. In such cases the enrolment of the MRes contributes to the enrolment period in the new HDR. Further, since the Honours thesis has contributed to the Honours award, the recipient will need to complete a Milestone #1 candidacy for the new HDR project to affirm the research plan and feasibility.
  - (c) Receives the MRes award and foregoes their Honours Award. Individuals who receive the MRes award are not able to use that work to upgrade to a PhD.

## **9. Downgrade from a Research Doctorate Degree to a Masters by Research Degree**

- (a) There are no options for a current Doctoral Students to enrol in an MRes course.

## **10. Suspension of Scholarship**

- (a) Recipients may apply for a suspension of their Scholarship for up to 2 months. The approval of suspensions will be at the discretion of the University.
- (b) Where the applicable Scholarship is funded by an External Funding Party, approval to suspend the Scholarship must be provided by the External Funding Party.
- (c) In exceptional circumstances, Recipients may apply for suspensions of their Scholarship beyond 2 months, and the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Excellence must be satisfied that the exceptional circumstances are beyond the Recipient's control and warrant a further suspension of the Scholarship.
- (d) Periods of suspension approved pursuant to clause 11 (a) should be covered by a Leave of Absence to cease the enrolment. Such periods will be deducted from the maximum period of the tenure of the Scholarship.
- (e) The University may suspend the Scholarship if the Recipient has been placed on Conditional status by the University, and has failed to meet those conditions within the specified timeframe.
- (f) The Scholarship stipend will not be back paid during the suspension period, per clause 14 (d), if a Recipient is re-instated to Good Standing.

## **11. Employment**

- (a) The University does not require Recipients to undertake employment.

- (b) In agreed circumstances, the University may permit a Recipient to undertake a limited amount of University teaching or other work, as long as these activities do not interfere with progress in the HDR course.
- (c) There is no limit on the income a Recipient can receive from part-time employment. Recipients are expected to seek independent advice on taxation matters relating to such employment.
- (d) A full-time Recipient is permitted to undertake during weekdays no more than eight hours part-time paid employment between 9.00am to 5.00pm. This excludes university holidays.
- (e) Recipients are expected to dedicate four days a week to study.
- (f) Fractional-time or casual academic-equated appointments will not be permitted unless there is compliance with clause 11 (d).
- (g) Volunteer work or service to University committees will not be permitted unless there is compliance with clause 11 (d).

## **12. Off-Campus Research**

- (a) The University may approve Recipients conducting up to 2 months of their research off-campus and/or outside Australia. Approval will only be granted if the research is essential for completion of the degree.
- (b) The University will only approve overseas research if there is adequate supervision, the Recipient remains enrolled and the work can be credited to the Recipient's postgraduate program.
- (c) The Recipient must have declared the intention to travel for the purpose of the MRes research in the application and appropriate milestone report with appropriate ethics clearance prior to undertaking research overseas.
- (d) Failure to resume study at the University on the date specified for return after a period of approved off-campus research may result in the Scholarship being terminated as detailed in clause 15.

## **13. Research at Other Organisations**

- (a) The University may approve a Recipient conducting a substantial amount of research at organisations outside the higher education system provided that adequate support, supervision, training, and research freedom for the Recipient is available at the other organisation and on the understanding that the University will still be responsible for the Recipient.
- (b) The rights to intellectual property should be resolved prior to commencement at the other organisation.
- (c) The required ethics approval from the University will be obtained prior to conducting this research.

## **14. Termination of Scholarship**

14.1 The Scholarship will be terminated in the following circumstances:

- (a) on the day the thesis is submitted for examination or at the end of the Scholarship, whichever is earlier;
- (b) if the Recipient ceases to meet the eligibility requirements specified per clause 1 of these Conditions, other than during a period in which the Scholarship has been suspended or during a period of approved leave;
- (c) if in the opinion of the University, or the External Funding Party, whichever of the two entities is responsible for funding the Scholarship, the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the Scholarship Offer;

- (d) if the University has suspended the Scholarship and the Recipient fails to demonstrate progress within a reasonable time frame;
  - (e) on completion of the course of study, or the death, incapacity, resignation or withdrawal of the Recipient;
  - (f) if the University determines the Recipient has committed serious misconduct, including but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information;
  - (g) if the Recipient does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of suspension or does not make arrangements to extend the period of suspension;
  - (h) if the Recipient accepts another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake their HDR providing a benefit greater than 75% of the base stipend rate; and/or
  - (i) if the Recipient ceases to be a full-time student and when approval has not been obtained from the institution to hold the Scholarship on a part-time basis.
- 14.2.1 If the Scholarship is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error.

## 15. Eligibility for Concurrent Scholarships

- (a) A Recipient may receive a concurrent scholarship to undertake their HDR if the concurrent award or scholarship provides a benefit less than 75% Rule of the base stipend rate Scholarship.
- (b) Income earned from sources unrelated to the course of study is not subject to the 75% Rule.

## 16. Leave Entitlements

16.1 Recipients are entitled to the following leave entitlements:

- (a) receive up to 20 (15) working days paid recreation leave and 10 (8) working days paid sick leave for each year (8 months pro-rata) of the Scholarship. These leave entitlements may be accrued over the life of the Scholarship but will be forfeited when the Scholarship is terminated.
- (b) up to a total of 2 weeks additional paid sick leave during the life of the Scholarship for periods of illness lasting longer than 10 days, for which a medical certificate has been provided. Sick leave entitlements (including additional sick leave) may also be used to cover leave for Recipients with family responsibilities. Recipients must take a Leave of Absence for periods of extended sick leave.

## 17. Erroneous Overpayment of Scholarship

- (a) A Recipient who is taking leave from their HDR course is expected to submit the prescribed approval form in a timely manner and, where possible in advance in order to avail receiving an overpayment of their Scholarship. In circumstances where an overpayment does occur, reimbursement of the overpaid amount is required in accordance with the instructions of the University.
- (b) In the situation where a Recipient is overpaid an amount in excess of a full fortnightly Scholarship disbursement, the University may recover the overpayment by withholding future stipend payments at the same rate which the stipend was overpaid.

## 18. Confidentiality

- (a) The deliberations and decisions of the University and/or delegate officers and/or External Funding Party relating to allocation, selection and award of Scholarships are confidential.

## **19. Legal Advice**

- (a) All Recipients are strongly recommended to seek their own independent legal advice regarding intellectual property and other contractual arrangements, both with the University and any other external parties.

## **20. Variation of Conditions**

- (a) These conditions may be varied from time to time at the discretion of the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Excellence.

## **21. Provision of False or Misleading Information**

21.1.1 If the University knows or has reason to believe that a Recipient has provided false or misleading information to the University in relation to the Scholarship, the University will immediately:

- (a) re-assess the Recipient's Scholarship entitlements; and
- (b) notify the Department of Education and Training of the suspected offence and provide a copy of the Recipient's application and any other relevant information requested by Department of Education and Training.

## **22. Specific University Obligations**

- (a) The University has a code of supervision of Higher Degrees by Research.
- (b) The University will be fair and equitable in the use of its discretionary powers.
- (c) The right of the Recipient to appeal decisions is recognised. The University will advise Recipients of appropriate appeal mechanisms for resolution of any disputes which might arise during their candidature.

## **23. Specific Recipient Obligations**

23.1 A Recipient acknowledges and agrees that he or she :

- (a) shall diligently and to the best of their ability apply themselves to the successful completion of the degree;
- (b) shall conform to the rules (including disciplinary provisions) of the University;
- (c) must provide all reports required by the University including an annual progress report submitted through the Graduate Research School. If the University does not consider that progress to be satisfactory the Recipient will be placed on Conditional status and/or the Scholarship may be terminated; and
- (d) shall abide where relevant by the National Health and Medical Research (NHMRC) and Australian Research Council (ARC) Codes on Human and Animal Research Conditions and decisions of the Safety and Ethics committees of the University.

23.2 A Recipient must advise the University within 14 days in writing if he or she:

- (a) leaves Australia for reasons other than approved overseas study, approved suspension or approved annual leave;
- (b) discontinues full time study;
- (c) is absent from full time study for a period of 14 days or longer without prior approval; and/or
- (d) is granted another scholarship from the Australian Government or its statutory authorities, or other industry support in the form of a scholarship of equal value.

## 24. Related Links

Curtin Scholarships webpage

[\(http://Scholarships.curtin.edu.au/\)](http://Scholarships.curtin.edu.au/)

Rule No. 10 Made Pursuant to Statute No. 12 – Enrolment: Degree of Doctor by Research

[http://policies.curtin.edu.au/legislation/statutes\\_rules.cfm](http://policies.curtin.edu.au/legislation/statutes_rules.cfm)

Rule No. 11 Made Pursuant to Statute No. 12 – Enrolment: Degree of Master by Research

[http://policies.curtin.edu.au/legislation/statutes\\_rules.cfm](http://policies.curtin.edu.au/legislation/statutes_rules.cfm)

DO NOT DETACH SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTANCE FROM CONDITIONS OF AWARD

**SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTANCE**

- I have read, understood and accept the attached Conditions of Award governing the Scholarship and I accept the nominated Stipend Scholarship Value and Period of Support as detailed in the Scholarship Offer as scheduled to the Conditions of Award. I agree to abide by these conditions and obligations outlined therein.
- Where applicable, I understand and accept the External Funding Party necessitates the Scholarship Recipient to execute specific requirements as detailed in the Scholarship Offer as scheduled to the Conditions of Award. I agree to abide by these obligations outlined therein.
- I accept Curtin University's offer of a Scholarship under the conditions specified.
- Where applicable, I provide consent for details relating to my enrolment and research progression to be made available to the External Funding Party upon request, for the purposes of on-going scholarship administration and assessment.
- I understand if I fail to meet my obligations as outlined in the Conditions of Award, I risk my Scholarship being terminated. Should this occur, I understand I will not be eligible to receive the Scholarship for the remainder of my studies with the University.
- I consent to the collection, use, storage and disclosure of my personal information by Curtin University in connection with the Scholarship, including (without limitation) for the administration of the Scholarship, Curtin University's general administrative purposes which includes communications involving surveys, the availability of courses, alumni activity, newsletters and promoting the Scholarships program through any medium whatsoever (including, without limitation, through advertisements, posters, books, articles, social media websites and on the world wide web generally) for public relations, promotional, commercial and advertising purposes.

**DECLARATION**

- I declare I have not consumed any entitlement of a Commonwealth scholarship with Curtin or any other Higher Education Provider I have not previously disclosed during the application process.

Curtin Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Thesis Enrolment Start Date (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Scholarship Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_