

Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship - FAQs

Q - Where can I get more information on this program?

A - Research Training Program main site - <https://www.education.gov.au/research-training-program>;
Research Training Program – Frequently Asked Questions for students -
<https://www.education.gov.au/research-training-program-frequently-asked-questions-students>

Q - What is the Scholarship Stipend worth?

A - These scholarships are highly competitive and are awarded through a merit based process. Each year, the Australian Government release the RTP stipend rates for the following year by 1st October. Stipend rates are subject to yearly indexation, as a guide the current rates are detailed below:

| Year | Full-time base RTP stipend rate (\$) | Full-time max RTP stipend rate (\$) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018 | 27,082 | 42,307 |
| 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019 | 27,596 | 43,110 |

Historical Australian Postgraduate Award stipend rates are available [here](#).

If you are a successful applicant your letter of offer will detail your scholarship amount.

Q - What is my scholarship application status?

A - You will receive an email receipt when your application is successfully submitted in full. It is your responsibility to liaise directly with your referee to ensure the reports are submitted prior to the close date. Outcome of the applications will be released once the assessment of all applications is complete.

Q - I am a future student how do I get a current supervisor for my referee report?

A – You should visit Curtin’s Register of Supervisors and emailed a current supervisor within your nominated discipline area. If you do not received a timely response you should contact the enrolling school’s Director of Graduate Research for assistance, by phoning your prospective enrolling school.

Q – Why was my application rejected?

A – Applications received that are not complete, including all required supporting documentation, following the required name conventions listed in the application information will be declined. You are invited to resubmit your application in full prior to the closing date once you have completed all necessary requirements.

Q - I was unsuccessful last year, can I apply for RTP and re-use my referee reports submitted last year?

A - You will need to submit new scholarship application, update CV, publications or journal articles published. We do not retain referee reports received in the last round, you will require to ask your referees to provide new referee reports with up to date information.

Q - What document are required for application from me?

A – Application Form, Curriculum Vitae, Copies of Awards, Research Proposal, Evidence of English Language competency. Please note, incomplete application will not be assessed.

Q - Can I make amendments to my application once it is submitted?

A - You must make sure that your application is complete. No changes will be accepted after the application has been submitted. If you have forgotten to include a vital component of your application you will need to resubmit it in full prior to the closing date.

Q - I am an international student but I am waiting for Australian permanent residency to be granted. Can I apply for RTP scholarships?

A - You may apply for RTP scholarship as an international student. If you received Australian permanent residency you will become a domestic student and continue to be supported by government funding.

Q - My IELTS/TOEFL score is waived by the School, am I eligible to apply?

A - English language competency conceded by the School will not be considered for RTP scholarships. You will need to provide evidence of your English language competency to apply.

Q- Can I submit my application for scholarship while I am waiting for English test result?

A – No, any applications submitted without evidence of English language competency will not be progressed.

Q - On what criteria is the scholarship assessed?

A – Each application will be assessed on the basis of eligibility for admission; Academic qualifications; Work-related research experience; Academic accomplishments; Research and creative outputs of demonstrable quality; and Referee reports.

Q – What is the assessment process?

A – Each eligible application will be assessed against the selection criteria by an independent selection panel comprising of academics, professionals and senior executive level representatives. Their recommendations are provided to the University Graduate Studies Committee for final selection. Applications which are not ranked highly by the expert selection panel will not be recommended. Selection occurs at the discretion of the university and no correspondence will be entered into regarding unsuccessful applications.

Q - Who can write my primary referee report?

A – Your primary referee report should be written by your primary supervisor or a member of your nominated Thesis Committee. Where co-supervisor is the research lead that you are working directly with, your co-supervisor could complete this for you.

Q - Who can write my supplementary referee report?

A - The supplementary referee report is optional. If you submit this report you may be ranked higher than applicants who do not. Your supplementary referee can be academic supervisors, lecturers, course convenors or workplace managers etc. who should be familiar with your recent academic and/or work performance and abilities.

Q - Has my referee report been submitted?

A - It is your responsibility to liaise directly with your referee to confirm if your reference report has been submitted. The Graduate Research School will not chase referees to submit reports. Any reports received after the close date will not be considered.

Q - Will I get feedback on why I was unsuccessful?

A - Due to the large volume of applications received, the Graduate Research School is not able to provide individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants. Below are the most common reasons for not receiving an offer:

a) Failure to meet eligibility requirements

Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will be assessed as ineligible. The most common reasons applications are assessed as ineligible was a failure to provide one, or more of the following documents:

- English language requirement documentation such as TOEFL/IELTS.
 - Weighted academic transcripts with a score card explaining the grading system.
- Applicants who have not provided an explanation of the grading system used at their current university may also be disadvantaged when compared to other applicants who have provided this information.

b) Academic performance

The 2020 Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship is competitive and merit-based, and in general, applicants with lower academic performance may be less highly ranked than higher performing applicants.

c) Other criteria

Information such as employment experience, community service and publications/awards may be used by selection panel members when deciding between similarly ranked applications. Applicants who did not provide this information or who provided only limited information may have been disadvantaged in the selection process.