



This document is to be read in conjunction with your offer and the candidature information for research degree students.

Definitions

DET	Department of Education and Training
RTP	Research Training Program is a scholarship scheme administered by individual universities on behalf of the Australian Commonwealth Department of Education and Training
RTPd	RTP scholarship for domestic research degree students
RTPd Fees Offset	A type of RTPd scholarship to assist with course fees that would otherwise be payable by the research degree student
RTPd Stipend	A type of RTPd scholarship to assist with general living costs
UniSA	University of South Australia
USAPA	University of South Australia Postgraduate Research Award stipend to assist with general living costs

When information below refers to a policy, it is the **Policy AB-59 Research Degrees and Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships** unless otherwise stated: <https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/academic/ab-59/>

Benefits and Conditions

*** Other UniSA and Externally-funded scholarships*** may have different conditions (included with your offer), which may override the standard conditions set out below.

Name of Scholarship	RTPd	USAPA	Other UniSA or externally funded scholarships
Tuition fees	Research Training Program domestic (RTPd) fees offset Up to 4 years (full-time equivalent) for a Doctoral Degree Maximum of 2 years (full-time equivalent) for a Masters by Research degree		
Standard living allowance (stipend)	\$27,082 per annum (2018 rate) RTP funded	\$27,082 per annum (2018 rate) University of South Australia funded	Refer to letter of offer – University of South Australia or external stipend
Recreation Leave	Research degree students are entitled to receive up to 20 working days paid recreation leave for each year of the stipend. This paid recreation leave may be accrued over the life of the stipend but will be forfeited when the stipend is terminated. A student's maximum period of support is not increased as a result of this leave.		
Sick Leave	Research degree students are entitled to receive up to 10 days paid sick leave for each year of the stipend. This paid sick leave may be accrued over the life of the stipend but will be forfeited when the stipend is terminated. Research degree students may also receive additional paid sick leave up to a total of 60 working days over the life of their stipend where the student has insufficient sick leave entitlements available, provided that a medical certificate has been provided by the student. The maximum period of support for a student receiving a stipend is increased where this leave is utilised.		
Carer's leave	Sick leave entitlements (including additional paid sick leave) may be used to cover leave for research degree students with family caring responsibilities.		



Parental leave	Research degree students who have completed 12 months of their stipend will be entitled to 10 working days paid parental leave at the time of the birth or adoption. The maximum period of support for a student receiving a stipend is increased where this leave is utilised.
Maternity leave	Research degree students who have completed 12 months of their stipend will be entitled to 60 working days paid maternity leave during the stipend period. Paid leave may also be approved if the student has adopted a child. The maximum period of support for a student receiving a stipend is increased where this leave is utilised.
Jury Duty	Research degree students receiving a stipend will continue to receive their regular stipend throughout the period of jury service. The maximum period of support for a research degree student receiving a stipend is increased where this leave is utilised.

Length of scholarship – The length of stipend differs from the length of candidature (funded by RTPd fee offset). The maximum period for a research degree stipend will be up to three years for a Doctoral program or a maximum of two years for a Masters by Research. Periods of study towards the research degree, within three years prior to commencement, will be deducted from the period of the scholarship (Procedure: section C.10).

The letter of offer will detail the duration of the scholarship. The scholarship (tuition fees – where applicable – and stipend) will cease:

- if the student ceases to meet the conditions of the scholarship in the Policy AB-59 Research Degrees and Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships or any additional conditions included in the offer of scholarship
- when the thesis is approved for examination by the Associate Dean: Research Education (or equivalent) or when the maximum period of the scholarship expires, whichever is earlier. The stipend ceases from the date that the thesis is approved for examination
- if the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of candidature, and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the postgraduate degree
- if the research degree student does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of leave of absence or does not make arrangements to extend that period of leave of absence
- on the death, incapacity, resignation or withdrawal of the research degree student
- if the research degree student takes up full-time employment OR
- if the research degree student is receiving an equivalent award, scholarship or salary providing a benefit greater than 75% of the RTPd stipend rate to undertake a higher degree by research

Extension to scholarship – research degree students receiving an RTPd or USAPA stipend and undertaking Doctoral degrees may apply to the University to extend their stipend for up to six months. The University must be satisfied that the grounds for extension are beyond the control of the research degree student and are related to their studies rather than of a personal nature such as illness. Extensions are not automatically granted. There are no extensions for Masters by Research scholarships.

The Associate Dean: Research Education (or equivalent), on application from the research degree student and supported by the Principal Supervisor and Research Degree Coordinator (or equivalent), may grant a research degree student an extension to the stipend for a period normally not exceeding six months (Procedure: section C.11). Work commitments cannot be accepted as grounds for an extension.

Residency of scholarship holders – Research degree students normally reside in South Australia from the date of their commencement and for the duration of the scholarship, except for periods where permission has been given to travel overseas or interstate for research purposes. Scholarship holders will normally be enrolled as an internal student.



Ongoing eligibility – Each research degree student must continue to meet the eligibility requirements set out in this document, the Policy AB-59 Research Degrees and Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships and Conditions of Candidature set out in the offer.

Suspension of scholarship – Research degree students can apply to suspend their scholarship if necessary to take leave of absence.

Relocation allowance (RTPd /USAPA stipend only) – In the case of scholarship holders relocating their place of residence to take up their RTPd stipend or USAPA, economy or student concession airfares or kilometre allowance for car travel, and removal expenses – up to a maximum of \$1,485 – may be paid.

Research degree students must lodge receipts with Student and Academic Services within six months of commencement. For information about accommodation please visit: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/Student-Life/Student-accommodation/>

Thesis allowance (RTPd/USAPA stipend only) – The thesis allowance is payable to assist with costs associated with the production and preparation of the thesis. Receipts are required for the reimbursement of costs involved in the thesis preparation and production.

The maximum allowance is AUD\$420 for a Master's thesis and AUD\$840 for a Doctoral thesis. After submission of your thesis for examination, you will need to lodge a claim with Student and Academic Services within six months of the final thesis submission and within 24 months of termination or expiry of your stipend.

Part-time scholarships (Procedure: section C.8) – Part-time scholarships offered by the University may be approved only if the research degree student has exceptional circumstances.

The University must be satisfied that the exceptional circumstances relate to significant caring commitments or a medical condition which limits the research degree student's capacity to undertake full-time study.

Some externally funded scholarships allow part-time study, please refer to individual conditions.

Additional conditions – Scholarship recipients may apply to vary their candidacy in accordance with the Policy AB-59 Research Degrees and Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships and the University's established scholarship conditions or, where applicable, those applying to the named scholarship (Policy: section E.28).

If the research degree student is in receipt of a named scholarship, they may have additional or different conditions. Where different, the conditions set out by the named scholarship normally override the general conditions stated above.

Acknowledgement – The Commonwealth contribution is to be acknowledged when, at any time during or after completion of their research degree, the recipient of the RTP scholarship publishes or produces materials such as their thesis, books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works which relate to the research project carried out by the recipient of the RTP scholarship.

Legal advice – All research degree students are strongly urged to seek their own independent legal advice regarding Intellectual Property and other contractual arrangements, both with the University and any external parties.



Scholarship Benefits and Conditions

Australian Research Degree Students

Taxation – The stipend is paid for educational purposes. Under section 51-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 scholarships paid to full-time students for educational purposes are treated as exempt income. Advice on the taxation status on any type of income derived from a full-time or part-time RTPd stipend scholarship must be sought from the ATO.

Relinquished scholarships – A research degree student who relinquishes either a RTPd or USAPA stipend scholarship may have it reinstated, subject to approvals and funding being available (Procedure: section E.31).

Transfers of scholarship – Scholarships are not transferable to another Higher Education Provider, unless specified in specific agreement governing the scholarship.

Further information

Policy AB-59 Research Degrees and Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships:

<https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/academic/ab-59/>

Procedure AB-59 P1 Research Degrees and Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships:

<https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/academic/ab-59/ab-59-p1>