

# Higher Degrees by Research Support Grant - Guidelines



/about/policies-and-procedures/higher-degrees-by-research-support-grant-guidelines

## 1. Purpose

This guideline describes the funding provided by the Graduate Research School to support HDR candidates. The Higher Degrees by Research Support Grant (HDRSG) funding is to support HDR students in their program of study by off-setting some of the direct costs of their research.

## 2. Funding Amount

2.1 As described in the Research Training Program (RTP) Legislation (Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research), 2017) grant amounts to universities to support HDR training are differentiated by Fields of Education (FoE) recognising the relative cost of research training in high-cost fields compared with low-cost fields as well as by level of award. It follows that the university's contribution to supporting the cost of research for HDR student projects should also recognise this.

2.2 Doctoral candidates conducting research in high-cost fields may access up to \$6000 in HDRSG while those conducting research in low-cost fields may access up to \$3000 over the duration of their candidature.

2.3 Master by Research candidates may access up to \$2000 in HDRSG funding for high-cost fields and \$1000 for low-cost fields.

2.4 Probationary HDR candidates may access up to one third of the total HDRSG prior to confirmation of their candidature.

## 3. High-Cost and Low-Cost Fields of Education

3.1 The high-cost and low-cost Fields of Education for the purposes of RTP grant amounts are defined by the FOE. High-cost FOEs are those set out in the table below and low-cost FOEs are those not listed in the table.

ASCED CODE	ASCED TITLE
010300-010303	Physics and Astronomy
010500-010599	Chemical Sciences
010700-010799	Earth Sciences
010900-010999	Biological Sciences
019900-019999	Other Natural and Physical Sciences
030101	Manufacturing Engineering
030300-030399	Process and Resources Engineering
030501	Automotive Engineering
030701	Mechanical Engineering
030703	Industrial Engineering
030900-030999	Civil Engineering
031100-031199	Geomatic Engineering
031300	Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Technology
031301	Electrical Engineering
031303	Electronic Engineering
031305	Computer Engineering
031307	Communications Technologies
031501	Aerospace Engineering
031503	Aircraft Maintenance Engineering
031701	Maritime Engineering

### APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

### RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Dean, Graduate Research

### DESIGNATED OFFICER

Manager, Graduate Research School

### FIRST APPROVED

23 October 2020

### STATUS

Active

[usc.edu.au/policy](https://usc.edu.au/policy)

039901	Environmental Engineering
039903	Biomedical Engineering
050000-059999	Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies
060100-060199	Medical Studies
060501	Pharmacy
060701	Dentistry
061101	Veterinary Studies
069903	Human Movement
090701	Psychology

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#### 4. Approvals, Funds Administration and Oversight

- 4.1 Candidates request access to the HDRSG by submitting a project budget with their Plan and Progress Reviews. To determine the maximum amount of HDRSG they are eligible to receive, candidates can access their Field of Education via USC Central and refer to sections 2 and 3 of this Guideline.
- 4.2 If supported by the Principal Supervisor and the enrolling unit's HDR Coordinator, the Dean, Graduate Research may approve the candidate's HDRSG budget proposal.
- 4.3 The Graduate Research School forwards to Financial Services each approved HDRSG application including the relevant student ID and Field of Education and the candidate's and the approved budget and enrolling unit name.
- 4.4 Financial Services creates the project account within the relevant enrolling unit's cost centre. Funds will be administered via accounts managed by the enrolling unit in accordance with the candidate's HDRSG budget as approved by the Dean, Graduate Research.
- 4.5 Expenditure of funds will be reported on as part of the standard financial expenditure reporting systems for the enrolling unit.
- 4.6 The Principal Supervisor and the relevant Head of School/Institute (or their financial delegate) are responsible for ensuring that all HDRSG expenditure follows the relevant USC financial policies, procedures and guidelines.
- 4.7 Any unspent or surplus HDRSG funds at the end of the project must be returned to the Graduate Research School.
- 4.8 Any expenditure that is non-compliant with these Guidelines will be considered an overspend which will be recovered from the enrolling unit.
- 4.9 Any overspend against these HDRSG accounts are the responsibility of the enrolling unit.

#### 5. Acceptable Expenditure of HDR Support Grant

The HDR Research Support Grant expenditure must directly support the costs of conducting the HDR candidate's research. This may include but is not limited to the following:

- 5.1 Equipment (including computing equipment – note: such equipment and software if purchased using HDRSG funds must be purchased via USC IT Services and will remain the property of USC).
- 5.2 Fees for access to internal and external research facilities (e.g., UQ CMM, QUT CARF, QFAB, USC CAVE, etc.).
- 5.3 Materials and consumables.
- 5.4 Software (including licences to use software relevant to the research project).
- 5.5 Participant recruitment
- 5.6 Data and/or access to databases, archives, footage and recorded materials.
- 5.7 Travel - when it is directly related to the research project (including the presentation of results of the research).
- 5.8 Costs associated with the production and/or performance of creative works which are part of the HDR research project (e.g. art, books, music).
- 5.9 Transcribing audio/video records.
- 5.10 Storage or archiving of materials and records.
- 5.11 External research training courses (subject to approval).

## 6. Unacceptable Expenditure of HDR Support Grant

Specific items not supported by the HDRSG include (but are not limited to):

- 6.1 Article Processing Charges (APCs) for open access journals.
- 6.2 Printing, binding and production costs of a hard copy of the thesis as these are now submitted and distributed to examiners electronically.
- 6.3 Proof reading or editing of thesis or manuscripts
- 6.4 Consultancy costs on fee for service work.
- 6.5 Training costs when expertise is already available at USC
- 6.6 Business cards

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