

# Research Training Program Scholarships - Operational Policy



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## 1. Purpose of policy

USC is allocated funding to support Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships and is required to maintain a policy which is publicly available as part of the conditions attached to that allocation.

## 2. Policy scope and application

2.1 This policy and associated procedures and guidelines apply to Research Training Program funded scholarships at USC. It applies to all prospective applicants for, and recipients of, a Research Training Program Scholarship. The policy and procedures apply to all staff working with Research Training Program Scholarships including selection, ongoing eligibility and administration.

2.2 This policy does not apply to scholarships other than Research Training Program Scholarships.

## 3. Definitions

Please refer to the University's Glossary of Terms for policies and procedures. Terms and definitions identified below are specific to these procedures and are critical to its effectiveness:

Continuing Students means either:

A student whose period of support under the previous Research Training Scheme (RTS), International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) or Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) would expire on 1 January 2017; or

A student who has received an offer of support from USC under the Research Training Scheme (RTS), International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) or Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) and accepted this offer of support and whose offer of support was scheduled to commence after 1 January 2017

the Commonwealth Guidelines means Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017 made under section 46-20 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003. The full Guidelines can be accessed at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01602>

HDR Scholarship means any financial support awarded by a competitive process to a student undertaking a higher degree by research.

Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships are scholarships funded by the Commonwealth Government through Research Block Grant. RTP Scholarship types include RTP Stipends, RTP Fees Offsets and RTP Allowances.

USCRS means a USC-funded Research Scholarship equivalent in value and conditions to a Research Training Program scholarship.

USCIRS means USC-funded International Research Scholarship (for international students) equivalent in value, eligibility criteria and conditions to a Research Training Program scholarship.

## 4. Policy Statement

4.1 USC will select candidates to be offered a RTP Scholarships through a competitive process, and in accordance with the Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017, hereafter referred to as "the Commonwealth Guidelines", made under section 46-20 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003, within the limits of its Research Training Program grant each year.

4.1.1 Information on application, selection and offer procedures and associated information is provided in the Higher Degrees by Research Scholarships - Procedures.

4.2 The University will transfer Continuing Students to an RTP Scholarship in a form that does not disadvantage the continuing student and provides at least equivalent support to that provided, or that would have been provided, through predecessor Australian Government programs.

4.2.1 Research Training Scheme (RTS) and International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) supported students will be transferred to an RTP Fees Offset Scholarship.

4.2.2 Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) recipients will also be transferred to an RTP Stipend Scholarship.

### APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Vice-Chancellor and President

### RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

### DESIGNATED OFFICER

Dean, Graduate Research

### FIRST APPROVED

29 November 2016

### LAST AMENDED

5 April 2019

### REVIEW DATE

29 November 2021

### STATUS

Active

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

4.3 Where changes to the Australian Government's Research Block Grant schemes impact continuing HDR candidates, the University communicates these changes to continuing students prior to the effective date of changes, and ensures that continuing students are not disadvantaged by the changes.

4.4 In addition to the standard provisions and rules available and applicable to all HDR students described in the Higher Degrees by Research – Academic Policy and associated procedures, the University provides each Research Training Program Scholarship recipient with the RTP Scholarship Schedule of Conditions via the USC website.

4.5 USC will not take over the payment of an RTP scholarship awarded to a candidate by another University, where the candidate transfers to USC. The transferring candidate may apply for an RTP Scholarship at USC at the next available opportunity and will be considered on the basis of the USC selection criteria and in relation to other applicants.

4.6 Candidates who are awarded an RTP Scholarship are required to comply with all University policies, including those relating to satisfactory academic progress in the program of enrolment. The University will monitor academic performance and may terminate a Research Training Program Scholarship if a candidate is in breach of any of its policies.

4.7 Candidates who wish to appeal decisions relating to a Research Training Program Scholarship may do so in accordance with the Student Grievance Resolution – Governing Policy and associated Procedures.

## 5. Authorities/Responsibilities

The following authorities are delegated under this policy:

ACTIVITY	UNIVERSITY OFFICER
Appointment of the Higher Degrees by Research (HDR) Scholarships Selection Panel	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)
Assess applications for HDR scholarships and rank by order of merit for each round	HDR Scholarships Selection Panel
Approve the Panel's recommendation for the Order of Merit list for each round	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)
Termination of HDR scholarships	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)
Review of Decision	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)
Appeal	Student Appeals Committee

END

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

Admissions, Enrolments and Graduation - Academic Policy  
Enrolments and Graduation - Procedures  
Higher Degrees by Research Scholarships - Procedures  
Scholarships, Bursaries and Prizes - Governing Policy  
Student Grievance Resolution - Governing Policy

### LINKED DOCUMENTS

Higher Degrees by Research Scholarships - Procedures

### SUPERSEDED DOCUMENTS

Selection of Candidates for Postgraduate Research Scholarships - Managerial Policy

### RELATED LEGISLATION / STANDARDS

Higher Education Support Act 2003  
Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017