

INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS GUIDELINE



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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The CQUniversity Fees Offset Scholarships, also known as the International Excellence Research Scholarships are a series of full or part tuition fee scholarships funded for international students studying a research higher degree at CQUniversity.
- 1.2 This guideline outlines the nomination and application requirements for the Scholarship.
- 1.3 This document should be read in conjunction with the [Research Training Program and Research Higher Degree Scholarships Policy and Procedure](#).

2 SCOPE

- 2.1 This guideline applies to international candidates commencing a research higher degree (RHD) (masters or doctorate) at CQUniversity, and CQUniversity employees who administer the Scholarship.
- 2.2 The Scholarships are not available to applicants or candidates in the Doctor of Philosophy (Portfolio) degree.

3 SCHOLARSHIP CONDITONS

- 3.1 Scholarships are offered to build international partnerships in the University's areas of strategic research priority, to establish and/or deepen linkages between CQUniversity and strategic research partners outside of Australia, and enable applicants of outstanding research track record and potential to undertake studies at CQUniversity.

Applying

- 3.2 Applications for the Scholarships must be made by principal supervisors, who will nominate an eligible candidate to receive the Scholarship. Current or prospective candidates are not permitted to apply for a Scholarship directly.
- 3.3 Expressions of interest for allocation of scholarships will be considered by the Dean School of Graduate Research, who will make recommendations to the Vice-President (Research).
- 3.4 The Vice-President (Research) will approve allocation of all Scholarships.

Eligibility

- 3.5 Principal supervisors of Scholarship candidates must be currently listed on the University's RHD Supervisor Register as a principal supervisor, and be actively engaged in an identified research strength area.
- 3.6 The remainder of the supervision team must either be:
 - CQUniversity employees that hold registration on the RHD Supervision Register, and/or
 - approved professionals that are external to CQUniversity and who are, or can be, admitted onto the RHD Supervision Register.
- 3.7 The Scholarship will be awarded on the basis that the candidate is and remains an international student for the duration of the scholarship, and maintains enrolment and progress that is satisfactory in relation to the University's academic requirements, as well as any applicable visa or other regulations.
- 3.8 To be eligible to hold a Scholarship, a candidate must be of outstanding quality, and:
 - have completed a Bachelor Degree with first class honours conferred by a university or any other approved institution in a relevant discipline, or
 - have been awarded a Masters degree either by research or with a substantial research element (typically one-third of research work within it) in a relevant discipline, from a university or any other approved institution, or
 - hold alternative qualifications and/or experience deemed by the University to be of equivalent scope and standard to those listed above
 - be an international student and satisfy international student visa requirements
 - be approved for admission, and enrolling in, a RHD at CQUniversity (excepting the Doctor of Philosophy by Portfolio degree)
 - be enrolled full-time and be an on-campus candidate at a CQUniversity campus, except in extraordinary circumstances
 - not previously have held a Commonwealth Government-funded or CQUniversity-funded postgraduate research tuition fee scholarship, unless it was terminated within six months of the scholarship's payments commencing, and
 - must not be receiving an equivalent award or scholarship for tuition fees to undertake a RHD.
- 3.9 Where qualifications are held from non-Australian institutions, the University reserves the right to conduct an appraisal for equivalency under the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#).

Selection criteria

- 3.10 In considering expressions of interest submitted by principal supervisors, the quality of applications shall be considered in regards to:
 - project quality, including alignment within the University's stated research priority areas, and the potential to produce strong research outcomes and outputs (as demonstrated by publications, commercialisation or other impact)

- evidence of a research environment that will offer an outstanding student experience and the ability to develop a well-rounded set of research skills
 - demonstrated success in timely and successful RHD outcomes by the proposed supervisory panel, and
 - ability to attract industry partnerships, including research income or other partnerships, within a global context.
- 3.11 Where a candidate has been identified, the candidate should be of outstanding quality with regard to academic and research qualifications, track record and/or experience.
- 3.12 In allocating the Scholarships during any given year, consideration will be given to achieving a balance of Scholarships across the research priority areas and/or supervisory teams within the University. A principal supervisor will not be allocated more than one Scholarship within 12 calendar months, except in circumstances where a significant international partnership or growth in research candidate enrolments is being developed.

Benefits

- 3.13 The Scholarship will pay the candidate's tuition fees for up to three full-time equivalent years (EFTSL) for a doctoral candidate or up to two full-time equivalent years (EFTSL) for a masters candidate.
- 3.14 The Scholarship will not cover:
- overseas student health cover (OSHC)
 - living allowances
 - travel expenses
 - thesis expenses
 - the cost of English language testing
 - tuition fees for bridging programs or English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) programs, or
 - project expenses, including purchase of equipment or other direct research costs.

Tenure

- 3.15 The Scholarship must be taken up by a candidate who is commencing their RHD no later than six months from the date of offer. The Scholarship may not be deferred.
- 3.16 The Scholarship will be available for commencing candidates only.

Extension

- 3.17 The Scholarship will be renewed on an annual basis subject to the candidate maintaining satisfactory progress, as evidenced in candidature progress reports.
- 3.18 The University may approve an extension to the duration of a Scholarship for up to six months provided that:
- the candidate is making satisfactory progress, and
 - the grounds for the extension relate to the study and are beyond the control of the candidate.
- 3.19 Such requests for an extension must be supported by the principal supervisor, and approved by the Dean School of Graduate Research.

Termination of scholarship

- 3.20 The University will terminate a Scholarship:
- at the end of the period of tenure of the Scholarship

- on submission of the thesis
- if the candidate has failed to maintain satisfactory academic progress
- if the candidate ceases to be a full-time student (except under section 3.18-3.19 above)
- if the award holder does not resume study at the end of a period of suspension or approved leave of absence
- if the candidate ceases to be an international student, or
- if the University determines that the candidate has committed a breach of the [Student Charter](#) or [Research Higher Degree Integrity Policy and Procedure](#), including, but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information in relation to the Scholarship.

3.21 If a Scholarship is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error.

Transfer

3.22 The Scholarship is not transferable to another university.

Other courses

3.23 As Scholarships are provided for full-time study, the holder of such an award may not engage in any academic course of study leading to a qualification which is not an essential part of the candidate's current program.

Student charges

3.24 The candidate is responsible for any fees or charges levied by the Australian Government or the University outside of the University tuition fees payable under the Scholarship.

Responsibilities of the candidate

3.25 The candidate's enrolment will be governed by the [Research Higher Degree Course Rules Policy and Procedure](#) or [Research Higher Degree \(Offshore\) Course Rules Policy and Procedure](#), and other policy documents relating to RHD published by the University. Failure to adhere to the policy documents of the University may result in suspension or termination of the Scholarship, or cancellation of enrolment. It is the candidate's responsibility to regularly monitor official University correspondence and communications to ensure familiarity with their responsibilities.

Appeals

3.26 The University will ensure that all candidates are advised of their options for internal appeal, in accordance with the [Research Higher Degree Integrity Policy and Procedure](#), at the time they are notified in writing of the decision and reasons for the decision.

4 DEFINITIONS

4.1 Terms not defined in this document may be in the University [glossary](#).

5 RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

[Research Higher Degree Course Rules Policy and Procedure](#)

[Research Higher Degree Integrity Policy and Procedure](#)

[Research Higher Degree \(Offshore\) Course Rules Policy and Procedure](#)

[Research Training Program and Research Higher Degree Scholarship Policy and Procedure](#)

[Student Charter](#)

5 RESPONSIBILITIES

Compliance, monitoring, and review

- 5.1 The Dean School of Graduate Research is responsible for implementing, monitoring, reviewing, and ensuring compliance with this guideline.

Records management

- 5.2 Employees must manage records in accordance with the [Records Management Policy and Procedure](#). This includes retaining these records in a recognised University recordkeeping information system.
- 5.3 University records must be retained for the minimum periods specified in the relevant [Retention and Disposal Schedule](#). Before disposing of any records, approval must be sought from the Records and Privacy Team (email records@cqu.edu.au).

6 FEEDBACK

- 6.1 Feedback about this document can be emailed to policy@cqu.edu.au.

7 APPROVAL AND REVIEW DETAILS

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