

# Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset Conditions

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## 1. BACKGROUND

The Australian Government contributes to the cost of tuition fees for all higher degree research domestic students via the Research Training Program Fees Offset and for international students who receive a Research Training Program Stipend Scholarship.

QUT awards an RTP Fees Offset to all eligible domestic research candidates.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- Candidates must enrol in a QUT research degree
- International students must be in receipt of a Research Training Program Stipend Scholarship awarded by QUT
- Candidates will NOT be eligible if they receive another tuition fee sponsorship or fees offset from any source, including QUT.

## 3. BENEFITS

### 3.1 Research Training Program Fees Offset

The value of the Research Training Program Fees Offset is the estimated annual course cost, as determined by QUT in accordance with the [Higher Education Support Act 2003](#), for the standard duration of the research degree. Any additional tuition costs beyond the contribution provided by the Australian Government are provided by QUT.

The Research Training Program Fees Offset will only be used to extinguish the liability to pay tuition fees and cannot be converted into another type of benefit or payment.

The maximum duration of the RTP Fees Offset is up to four years full-time equivalent for candidates of a Research Doctorate degree, or up to two years for candidates of a Research Masters degree.

The duration of the Fees Offset will be reduced by any prior periods of prior enrolment in a previous research degree from which you transfer into your current degree.

## 4. LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS AND CONDITIONS

Any period of approved leave which extends milestones will not count towards consumption of the recipient's RTP Fees Offset duration.

Any period of approved leave which does not extend milestones will count towards consumption of the recipient's RTP Fees Offset duration.

## 5. FURTHER CONDITIONS

### 5.1 Subject to change

These conditions may be updated from time to time. Recipients will be notified in writing if the conditions are significantly changed. Recipients are responsible to abide by the current published conditions.

## 5.2 Acknowledgement of the fees offset

Recipients must acknowledge the Australian Commonwealth Government's contribution in relation to the RTP Fees Offset. Acknowledgment must include the mention of the recipient's support through an "Australian Government Research Training Program Fees Offset".

## 5.3 Arrangements for development activities as part of an HDR program

If opportunities for optional industry placements, research internships, professional practice activities or other similar development activities undertaken as part of an HDR program are available, the Graduate Research Centre should be consulted regarding any impact on the fees offset.

## 6. TRANSFERS AND RETURNING TO PREVIOUS STUDIES

Unless otherwise specified in the offer, the below conditions apply to transferring degrees.

### 6.1 Transfer within QUT

Candidates may apply to convert from a Research Masters degree to a Research Doctorate degree or from a Research Doctorate degree to a Research Masters or other Doctorate degree, and, if approved, will continue to receive the fees offset.

Candidates approved to convert degrees may continue to receive the fees offset provided there is no pause between the two degrees, or that such a pause is covered by an approved period of leave or suspension.

The maximum duration of a converted fees offset becomes that for the new research degree minus periods of study undertaken towards the initial degree prior to the conversion.

### 6.2 Returning to prior QUT studies

If a candidate withdraws from an HDR degree at QUT and then wishes to return (after any period of time) to the project they were originally doing, they may apply for a new fees offset and if successful, the duration of the fees offset will be reduced by any:

- a. previous enrolment in the course of study prior to taking up the award
- b. credit received for previous study towards the current degree

### 6.3 Transfer to another institution

Recipients who transfer to another Higher Education Provider (HEP) may continue to receive their fees offset only if their new HEP agrees to its continuation. QUT will (upon request) provide information to the new HEP on the duration of the fees offset already consumed.

### 6.4 Transferring from another Higher Education Provider

Candidates may transfer from another participating HEP and be eligible for a fees offset, provided QUT has sufficient RTP funds available and the other eligibility criteria set out in this procedure are satisfied. For the purposes of the RTP, a transfer occurs where:

- a. a candidate who is enrolled in an HDR program and, without completing the requirements of that program, commences a different HDR program at the same level; and
- b. there is no interval between the two enrolments unless the interval is covered by an approved period of leave; and
- c. the research undertaken by the candidate is continued or modified to meet the requirements of the new program.
- d. Where a transfer occurs, QUT will obtain details regarding the candidate's enrolment and consumption of RTP entitlement while enrolled with the previous HEP so that the candidate's remaining entitlement can be determined.

## 7. TERMINATION OF ENTITLEMENTS

A candidate's entitlements are terminated if a candidate:

- a. has their candidature suspended, discontinued or terminated;
- b. withdraws from the degree;
- c. ceases to be enrolled and has not requested a period of leave;
- d. completes the course of study (lodges their thesis for examination);
- e. exhausts the maximum period of entitlement;
- f. does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of leave or does not make arrangements to extend that period of leave;
- g. deliberately provides incorrect, inaccurate, fraudulent or misleading information in order to gain or retain a fees offset; or
- h. if QUT determines that the candidate has not complied with these conditions, or that the candidate has committed serious misconduct.

## 8. GRIEVANCE AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

Candidates have the right to request a review of the decisions made by QUT in relation to their scholarship application outcome. This will be managed as per [QUT – MOPP – E/9.2 Grievance resolution procedures for student related grievances](#).

## 9. CONTACT

This scholarship is administered by QUT's Graduate Research Centre who can be contacted by telephone on +61 7 3138 7200; by email: [hdr@qut.edu.au](mailto:hdr@qut.edu.au), and via our website: [www.qut.edu.au](http://www.qut.edu.au)