QUT HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorships

2017 Rules

1. Background
A limited number of QUT HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorships are awarded to international higher degree by research (HDR) students to cover their research tuition fees.

2. Basic eligibility requirements
2.1 Students must demonstrate:
   (i) a full time, internal enrolment in, or an offer of admission for full time, internal enrolment to, a QUT higher degree research course; and
   (ii) that they are not currently in receipt of a full tuition fee sponsorship from any other source; and
   (iii) that they are in receipt of a living stipend from a suitable source (refer Appendix A) to the value of minimum AU$19,830* per annum for the standard duration of their course, unless the funding agency provides tuition fees to QUT and a living stipend directly to the student.

2.2 QUT and the relevant Faculty will monitor the ongoing eligibility of a student to ensure that the student continues to meet the eligibility requirements of the award as set out in section 2 of these guidelines.

*(this is the minimum expected living cost per annum required to meet the financial requirements at the Department of Immigration and Border Protection).

3. Value and duration
3.1 A QUT HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship covers 100% of tuition fees for a period of:
   • 3 years full-time study, or the equivalent in part-time (external) study in a doctoral program or
   • 2 years full-time or the equivalent in part-time (external) study in a Masters program.

3.2 An extension may be granted for a doctoral candidate where the University is satisfied that the reason for the requested extension is beyond the candidate’s control and related to the research as set out in Section 5 of these guidelines.

3.3 The HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship does not provide for travel, initial or ongoing visa and medical examination costs, thesis expenses, the cost of English language testing or tuition fees for English Language courses.

4. Application
4.1 International HDR students at QUT will be considered against specific criteria for a full HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship as part of admission or on application during candidature.

4.2 Requests for HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorships are to be submitted to the Research Students Centre (RSC) via the Coordinator (Research Scholarships, Admissions and Enrolments) either:
   (i) directly by the student, with the support of their supervisor and faculty; or
   (ii) by the Supervisor and Faculty on behalf of the student.

4.3 In all cases, approval of the Faculty (e.g. the designated nominee who may be Head of the relevant School/ Director of Higher Degree Research or equivalent of the relevant Faculty or School) is required prior to an HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship being granted.

4.4 Final approval lies with the Dean (Research and Research Training).
4.5 Relevant documentation to validate claims will be required as part of the application process. QUT may require students to sign a statutory declaration substantiating the source of their living stipend for the term of candidature.

5. Extension of a HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship

5.1 QUT may approve an extension to the duration of a HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship provided the student is making satisfactory progress and the grounds for the extension relate to the study and are beyond the control of the student.

5.2 Requests for a HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship are to be submitted to the Research Students Centre (RSC) via:
   (i) a candidature extension application form; or
   (ii) a Faculty recommendation via a final seminar form

5.3 In all cases, approval of the Faculty (e.g. the designated nominee who may be Head of the relevant School/ Director of Higher Degree Research or equivalent of the relevant Faculty or School) is required prior to an HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship extension being granted.

6. Suspension of a QUT HDR Fee Sponsorship

6.1 A student may apply to QUT for suspension of their award. The approval of suspensions will be at the discretion of the University in consultation with DIAC as required to ensure that the student continues to meet visa regulations.

7. Conversion of Degrees

7.1 A QUT HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship is not transferable to any other institution.

7.2 Students may convert from a Research Masters degree to a Research Doctorate degree or from a Research Doctorate degree to a Research Masters degree and continue to receive their award upon application and approval.

7.3 The maximum duration of a converted QUT HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship becomes that for the new research degree (minus periods of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the conversion).

8. Change of Research Area

8.1 QUT may approve a student's request to change from the research area indicated in the original placement, providing:
   (i) The new research area is one of QUT’s areas of research concentration; and
   (ii) There will be no extension of the duration of the QUT HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship arising from the change of research area beyond the period of the original placement, including any previously approved extensions. The only exception is where the change of research area results from circumstances relating to the research which are outside the control of the student and QUT.
   (iii) Where this involves the student changing to a new Faculty there will be a need for the student to negotiate with the new faculty living stipend or salaried position to support them. There is no guarantee that these arrangements will always be approved.

9. Termination of a Sponsorship

9.1 QUT will terminate a QUT HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship:
   (i) If the student ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in section 2 of these Guidelines other than during a period in which the award has been suspended; or
   (ii) Once the maximum duration of the award has been reached; or
(iii) On completion of the course of study; or
(iv) If QUT determines that:
   a. the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence; or
   b. the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic progress; or
   c. the student has committed serious academic misconduct.

10. Provision of false information

Providing misleading advice as to the source of funds may lead to rejection of the student's application and/or termination of their student visa.

11. Appeals

Students have the right to appeal against decisions made by QUT in relation to their HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship. In the event of a dispute arising, the student should first approach his or her supervisor who will then direct the student through the appropriate channels within QUT. The Research Degrees Committee has the authority to hear appeals from applicants who consider that their application has been incorrectly assessed. Appeals can only be heard against process issues and not against committee decisions or assessor ratings and comments.

12. Contact

HDR Tuition fee sponsorships are administered by QUT's Research Students Centre:

Research Students Centre
Level 4, 88 Musk Avenue
Kelvin Grove QLD 4059

Queensland University of Technology
GPO Box 2434
Brisbane QLD 4001
Australia

Tel: +61 7 3138 4923 or +61 7 3138 2932
Fax: +61 7 3138 1304
Email: research.scholarships@qut.edu.au

www.qut.edu.au/research/scholarships-and-funding

Appendix A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitable sources</th>
<th>Unsuitable sources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QUT-funded scholarships (Supervisor, School, Faculty or University)</td>
<td>Personal Funds/Family Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Overseas Universities</td>
<td>Family companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign governments</td>
<td>Registered companies <em>(Effective from 1 Sept 2014)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers continuing to pay a current employee’s salary where the University has a formal agreement in place which normally covers two or more students <em>(Change from 1 Sept 2014)</em></td>
<td>Professional associations <em>(Effective from 1 Sept 2014)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philanthropic organisations <em>(Effective from 1 Sept 2014)</em></td>
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