

International Tuition Fees Offset Scholarship Conditions



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

Graduate Research School

International Tuition Fees Offset Scholarship Conditions

Introduction

International tuition fees offset scholarships are provided to support all or part of tuition fees, for a defined period of time, for students enrolled in higher degrees by research (HDR) at the University of Western Australia. You may receive a fee invoice for your remaining tuition fees when the scholarship period ends, or if you only receive a partial scholarship.

The University of Western Australia offers the following international tuition fees offset scholarships:

- Australian Government International Research Training Program Fees Offset Scholarship (RTP Fees Offset)
- University of Western Australia International Fee Scholarships (UIFS)
- Scholarship for International Research Fees (SIRF)
- Scholarship for International Research Fees – China (China SIRF)
- UWA-SUDA Scholarship for International Research Fees (UWA-SUDA SIRF)

These scholarships are governed by the conditions set out below and are to be read in conjunction with the [Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships Policy](#) and rules for courses administered by the Graduate Research School in the [UWA Handbook](#).

The roles and responsibilities of the Graduate Research School, Heads of School, Advisory Panels, Supervisors, and Students are outlined in the [Graduate Research Training Policy](#).

Students are required to read and act in accordance with all relevant University rules, regulations, policies, and procedures; and the rules governing the degree course in which they are enrolled.

Conditions

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 The University awards international tuition fees offset scholarships following a selection process (see section 2).
- 1.2 To apply for and receive an international tuition fees offset scholarship an applicant must—
 - i) meet the requirements for entry to the nominated course;
 - ii) be a citizen of an overseas country, excluding New Zealand;
 - iii) meet the University's English language competency requirements;
 - iv) not already be in receipt of an equivalent award or scholarship from the Australian Government designed to offset HDR fees;
 - v) be enrolled as a full-time and internal student, unless the University approves otherwise;
 - vi) meet any eligibility criteria as listed in these Conditions; and
 - vii) Meet any applicable additional criteria as detailed on the UWA Scholarship webpage/s.

- 1.3 An international tuition fees offset scholarship may be held concurrently with another external or University award including a stipend scholarship provided that the conditions of the concurrent award so permit.
- 1.4 **Additional eligibility for China SIRFs:**
 - i) Have completed a degree, normally at least equivalent to an Australian first-class honours degree; and
 - ii) be recommended by the China Scholarship Council (CSC) and in receipt of a stipend scholarship from the CSC which provides a living allowance of approximately AUD\$22,800 per annum for a period of up to four years, or up to the date of submission of the thesis, whichever occurs first.

2. Purpose, selection criteria and process

- 2.1 The purpose of international tuition fees offset scholarships is to enable eligible international students to undertake a HDR at the University.
- 2.2 The number of international tuition fees offset scholarships to be provided annually is determined by the Vice-Chancellor or delegate, in consultation with the Graduate Research School.
- 2.3 International tuition fees offset scholarships are awarded by the HDR Scholarships Committee to eligible applicants on the basis of—
 - i) academic achievement as evidenced by their academic record; and
 - ii) research potential based on academic referee reports, relevant research experience and publications, if applicable.
- 2.4 In the competitive selection process, priority may be given to students who are enrolling in a HDR for the first time, and students who have not—
 - i) previously completed a Research Doctorate or equivalent;
 - ii) previously completed a Research Masters degree or equivalent, unless intending to undertake a Research Doctorate;
 - iii) previously held an Australian Postgraduate Award, Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) or an Australian Government-funded Postgraduate Research Award (excluding an IPRS) previously unless it was terminated within six months of the commencement of benefits; and
 - iv) previously been awarded, or currently be in receipt of, a current scholarship stipend; an Australian Government International RTP Fees Offset Scholarship; Scholarship for International Research Fees (SIRF), or other scholarship designed to offset HDR fees.
- 2.5 International tuition fees offset scholarships are administered by the Graduate Research School.
- 2.6 The University's deliberations and decisions relating to the allocation, selection and award of Scholarships are confidential.

3. Benefits

- 3.1 International tuition fees offset scholarships are used by the University to offset tuition fees for the research component of the HDR. No payment is made directly to students.
- 3.2 **International RTP Fees Offset Scholarships only:** The value of the International RTP Fees Offset Scholarship is determined annually and published on the University website and will be included in the offer letter.

- 3.3 Students enrolled in combined postgraduate courses that include a masters by coursework will be required to pay postgraduate tuition fees for the masters by coursework component of the course.
- 3.4 International students who meet the international Student Visa requirements as specified by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) are required to join the Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) scheme.
- 3.5 All international tuition fees offset scholarship awardees are required to maintain health insurance for the duration of their student visa.
- 3.6 International students who meet international student visa requirements and who are awarded an international tuition fee offset scholarship will be provided with the following OSHC policies/cover:
 - i) **RTP Fees Offset:** an RTP Allowance for a standard OSHC policy which covers the award holder, their spouse, and dependants (if applicable).
 - ii) **UIFS:** a standard OSHC policy which covers the award holder, their spouse, and dependants (if applicable).
 - iii) **SIRF/China SIRF:** a standard OSHC policy for the award holder only. It is the responsibility of the award holder to pay for the cost of health cover for their spouse and dependants (if applicable).
 - iv) **UWA SUDA SIRF:** The award holder is responsible for the cost of OSHC.
- 3.7 International tuition fees offset scholarships do not cover the cost of health insurance premiums for international students who do not hold an international student visa.
- 3.8 International tuition fees offset scholarships do not cover the cost of student union or amenities fees, costs associated with overseas fieldwork, living expenses, bridging English language courses, or travel expenses associated with the relocation of the student to take up the award.

4. Visa entitlements and requirements

- 4.1 International tuition fees offset scholarship awardees are required to meet the international student visa requirements as specified by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and are normally required to obtain a student visa to enrol in the HDR and take up the scholarship.
- 4.2 In exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the Graduate Research School, a student who has entered Australia on a temporary resident visa or another category of visa that allows full-time study may be permitted to enrol in the HDR and take up an international tuition fees offset scholarship.
- 4.3 If the student's temporary resident visa or other category of visa expires during the tenure of the scholarship and the HDR candidature, the student will normally be required to apply for a student visa to cover the remaining duration of the HDR. Students who wish to apply for any other type of visa must apply for approval to the Graduate Research School.
- 4.4 It is the responsibility of the student to be in receipt of a valid visa which allows the student to study full-time while in Australia, and if a visa expires, the student may be removed from Australia.
- 4.5 International tuition fees offset scholarships do not cover visa application fees or any medical costs associated with the issue or renewal of a student visa. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they hold a valid visa while in Australia.
- 4.6 The student must notify the Graduate Research School of any change to their visa status or upon being granted permanent residency.

5. Tenure

- 5.1 The tenure of an international tuition fees offset scholarship is—
 - i) up to two years for a Research Masters; or
 - ii) up to four years for a Research Doctorate.
- 5.2 No extensions of international tuition fees offset scholarships are possible.
- 5.3 The tenure of the scholarship will be reduced by any period of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the start of the scholarship.

6. Acceptance, deferral and commencement of scholarship

- 6.1 Students must notify the Graduate Research School whether they are accepting the offer of scholarship by the date specified in the offer letter. Acceptance includes a declaration that the student consents to the Conditions set out in this document.
- 6.2 Students must start by the date specified in the offer letter unless there are exceptional circumstances, and approval to defer the start date is received from the Graduate Research School.
- 6.3 If a student does not start by the date specified in the offer letter or apply and receive approval to defer the start date, the scholarship/s may be withdrawn and reallocated to another applicant.
- 6.4 Applications to transfer the scholarship and enrolment to another school within the University must be approved by the Graduate Research School. CHINA SIRF awardees will also need approval from the China Scholarship Council.

7. Residency

- 7.1 Students are expected to enrol as internal students and live close enough to the University to enable frequent and systematic use of University facilities, including use of physical resources, formal research training and frequent contact with supervisors.
- 7.2 An applicant who wishes to be enrolled remotely and based outside Australia is not eligible to be considered for an international tuition fees offset scholarship.

8. Criteria for continuation

- 8.1 Continuation of an international tuition fees offset scholarship is subject to the recipient—
 - i) Continuing to meet the eligibility criteria;
 - ii) maintaining continuous enrolment at the University, except when suspensions have been approved;
 - iii) submitting all milestone reports by the due date; and
 - iv) making satisfactory progress according to the rules of the HDR in which they are enrolled.

9. Conversion between Research Masters and Research Doctorate awards

- 9.1 If a student is approved to upgrade from a Research Masters to a Research Doctorate, the maximum duration of the scholarship becomes that for the new HDR minus any periods of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the change. The maximum period of support is up to four years.
- 9.2 If a student is approved to downgrade from a Research Doctorate to a Research Masters, the maximum duration of the scholarship becomes that for the new HDR minus any periods

of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the change. The maximum period of support is up to two years, however, if the student has already received or exceeded this support, the international tuition fees offset scholarship is discontinued, but there is no requirement for the student to repay any excess.

10. Changes to Field of Research/Research Topic

- 10.1 A student in receipt of an International Tuition Fees Offset Scholarship who wishes to change their Field of Research must formally seek approval to do so from the Graduate Research School and any external funding organisation (if applicable). Approval depends on the availability of adequate supervision and resourcing. Approval to change a Field of Research does not alter or extend the student's entitlements to international tuition fees offset scholarship support.
- 10.2 China SIRF awardees will also need approval from the China Scholarship Council.

11. Suspension of Scholarship

- 11.1 Students may apply for a suspension for up to 12 months and you will not normally be approved to suspend a scholarship prior to the submission of the Research Proposal.
- 11.2 Periods of suspension will normally be approved only for full teaching periods. That is, a student may not commence or end a period of suspension part-way through a teaching period other than in exceptional circumstances outside the student's control. Exceptional circumstances do not include employment commitments.
- 11.3 In addition to the provisions for suspension above, a student may apply and be approved for unpaid maternity or parenting leave as described in the rules of the course in which they are enrolled. These periods of leave are managed administratively as suspensions of candidature and scholarship/s.
- 11.4 Suspension must be applied for in advance, except in unavoidable circumstances. Any retrospective suspension application must be submitted within 2 weeks of the date of return to study and appropriate documentation (for example, a medical certificate) must be provided.
- 11.5 During a period of suspension, a scholarship holder is not enrolled in load-bearing units, does not consume their international tuition fees offset and is not covered by University insurance for activities undertaken as a student.
- 11.6 Failure of the scholarship holder to resume study or to make arrangements to extend a period of suspension within the approved time will result in the scholarship being terminated.
- 11.7 Suspensions of an international tuition fees offset scholarship must not exceed two years in total under any circumstances.
- 11.8 China SIRF awardees will also need approval from the CSC.

12. Arrangements for when a scholarship ends

- 12.1 When a student reaches the end of their international tuition fees offset scholarship entitlement prior to submission of their thesis—
 - i) they must apply for and may be approved by the Graduate Research School for an extension of candidature; or
 - ii) their candidature is terminated.

- 12.2 If the student remains enrolled they become liable for international tuition fees and Student Services and Amenities Fees.

13. Annual recreation leave

- 13.1 Students in receipt of an international tuition fees offset scholarship are entitled to up to 20 working days (four weeks) of paid annual recreation leave in each year of the scholarship which is calculated on a pro-rata basis.
- 13.2 Annual recreation leave may be accumulated and must be taken during the tenure of the scholarship.
- 13.3 Applications for annual recreation leave will not normally be approved within the first six months of the commencement of the award or prior to the submission of the Research Proposal.
- 13.4 Applications for annual recreation leave in Australia must be approved by your supervisor and are conditional on students submitting any milestones which are due at the time of the proposed leave.
- 13.5 Applications for annual recreation leave outside of Australia must be approved by your supervisor, Graduate Research Coordinator and the Graduate Research School and are conditional on students submitting any milestones which are due at the time of the proposed leave.
- 13.6 Annual recreation leave will not extend the scholarship tenure.

14. Employment

- 14.1 Students are not required to undertake employment during the tenure of their scholarship.
- 14.2 A scholarship holder may undertake no more than eight hours' additional paid work between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday in any week.
- 14.3 Permission to undertake paid work between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday is contingent on the student continuing to make satisfactory progress toward submission of their thesis within the agreed period.
- 14.4 The Head of School or Graduate Research Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that part-time employment is not undertaken to the detriment of the student's studies.

15. Termination

- 15.1 The University may terminate an international tuition fees offset scholarship—
- i) if the student fails to meet the criteria for continuation as set out in clause 8 of these conditions;
 - ii) on submission of the thesis or the death, incapacity or cessation of enrolment of the student or at the designated end of the scholarship, whichever is earlier;
 - iii) if in the view of the relevant board the student has committed serious misconduct including, but not limited to, the provision of incomplete, false or misleading information;
 - iv) if in the judgement of the relevant board the student is not carrying out the course of study with competence or in accordance with the offer of the scholarship; and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for continuation;
 - v) if the student has committed a serious breach of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research or relevant University policies governing academic or research conduct;

- vi) when the student ceases to be enrolled as a full-time and internal student; or
 - vii) if the scholarship holder does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of suspension or make arrangements for an extension to the period of suspension.
- 15.2 If an award is terminated, it cannot be reactivated unless the termination occurred in error.

16. Acknowledgement

Every student who has received an international tuition fees offset scholarship is obliged to acknowledge this support in their thesis. When at any time during or after completion of the HDR, the scholarship holder, their supervisor or any other party, publishes or produces materials such as books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works which relate to the research project carried out by the scholarship holder, the publication must acknowledge that the research was carried out while the author was in receipt of an “[insert international tuition fees offset scholarship name] at The University of Western Australia”.

17. Provision of false or misleading information

If the University is made aware that a student has provided false or misleading information in relation to the scholarship, the University may immediately reassess the student's scholarship entitlements and/or terminate the scholarship.

18. Complaints and appeals

The University provides a complaint resolution process outlined in the [University Policy on Public Complaints](#). Where possible, you should attempt to resolve any concerns regarding your application outcome directly with the Graduate Research School (email: scholarship-grs@uwa.edu.au). If you are dissatisfied with the decision, you can make a complaint to the University's [Integrity and Standards Unit](#). If you are still not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you may refer your complaint to the [Ombudsman Western Australia](#).

19. Changes to conditions

Conditions are determined by the Australian Government and the University and are subject to change from time to time. Changes will be made available on the relevant scholarship website/s and will be communicated to awardees.

20. Advice

The University recommends that you seek your own independent taxation and legal advice regarding the scholarship, intellectual property, and other contractual arrangements with the University or external parties.

Appendix 1: Additional information for UWA-SUDA SIRC

- 1.1 To apply for and receive a UWA_SUDA international tuition fees offset scholarship an applicant must also—
 - i) Be a Chinese citizen and normally reside in China at the time of application;
 - ii) Hold a recent degree from Soochow University (SUDA) or a recognised Chinese University, normally at least equivalent to an Australian first-class honours degree at UWA or a Master degree with a substantial thesis element completed at Distinction level; and
 - iii) Be awarded a UWA–SUDA Collaborative PhD Scholarship by Soochow University to support the student's first year tuition fees and at least two years of residence in Australia. A Certificate of Confirmation of Scholarship Offer will be provided by SUDA to UWA.
- 1.2 A UWA–SUDA SIRC scholarship makes a contribution to the cost of international tuition fees for up to three years for the research component of the PhD subject to full payment of the first year of tuition fees. No payment is made directly to students.
- 1.3 The tenure of a UWA–SUDA SIRC is up to three years. UWA–SUDA SIRC awardees are required to cover the cost of full tuition fees for the first year of their candidature. These fees are non-refundable.
- 1.4 To be eligible to accept a UWA–SUDA SIRC a student must—
 - i) be in receipt of UWA-SUDA Collaborative PhD Scholarship from Soochow University and have adequate funds to cover their living expenses for the duration of their stay of at least two years in Australia (recommended at least equivalent to the Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) stipend);
 - ii) normally be commencing full-time, on-campus study for the degree of PhD within 12 months of the date of offer of the scholarship; and
 - iii) be enrolled as an internal student based on a campus of the University for a minimum of two years of their period of candidature.
- 1.5 UWA–SUDA SIRC awardees are required to enrol at The University of Western Australia and must spend at least 2 years at UWA and up to 2 years as a UWA-SUDA Collaborative PhD Student at Soochow University under the guidance of a collaborative supervisory panel. Generally UWA–SUDA SIRC awardees will be on a 1:2:1 pattern, spending the first and last full years at UWA. In exceptional circumstances this pattern may vary and be reduced to at least the first 6 months following enrolment and the last 6 months at UWA. The total residency at UWA must always be at least 2 years. Students will be granted status as a UWA-SUDA Collaborative PhD Student at Soochow University with access to buildings, libraries, internet and research resources or facilities required for successful completion of the project.
- 1.6 Applications to transfer the International Tuition Fees Offset Scholarship and enrolment to another school within the University must be approved by the Graduate Research School. Awardees will also need to seek approval from the Soochow University. Any proposal by the student to alter the research areas indicated in the original application and letter of offer must be approved by the Graduate Research School and Soochow University. Approval is subject to the new research areas being an area of research concentration where adequate University supervision and facilities are available.
- 1.7 UWA-SUDA SIRC awardees will also need to seek approval from Soochow University prior to applying for suspension.

Graduate Research School
E scholarship-grs@uwa.edu.au
M358, Perth WA 6009 Australia
postgraduate.uwa.edu.au

