

APPROVED RULE CHANGE

On 16 January 2026 the Director, Governance Support Unit approved under Delegation 3.14.1 administrative changes to Student Rules Rule 11.7.1 and Rule 11.9.8 to ensure compliance with the Higher Education Support (Commonwealth Scholarship) Guidelines 2025.

THE APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO THE UTS RULES ARE PROVIDED BELOW

[new text bold underlined, text to be deleted in bold and strikethrough]

UTS STUDENT RULES

Section 11 — Graduate Research

11.7 Period of candidature

11.7.1 Students must complete a research degree and submit a thesis for examination in accordance with the following timeframes:

(1) Doctoral degree: not less than ~~two~~ three years (or ~~23.0~~ EFTSL) and not more than four years of full time (or 4.0 EFTSL) (or equivalent part time enrolment) as outlined in the Procedures.

(2) Masters degree (Research): not less than one year (or 1.0 EFTSL) and not more than two years of full time (or 2.0 EFTSL) (or equivalent part time enrolment) as outlined in the Procedures.

11.9 Student Leave

11.9.1 Students who wish to suspend studies temporarily from a course must lodge an application for leave of absence in accordance with the Procedures.

11.9.2 Leave of absence will only be granted after the first six months (0.5 EFTSL) of candidature.

11.9.3 Leave of absence shall not be granted for a total period exceeding one year (1.0 EFTSL). For transfer students, this one-year period includes any leave of absence period undertaken in previous research degrees which students transferred from.

11.9.4 In exceptional circumstances, students may request variations to the application of Rules 11.9.2 and 11.9.3. Any variation will require documentary evidence and recommendations from the principal supervisor and the Responsible Academic Officer prior to seeking approval from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research).

11.9.5 Students resuming a course after leave of absence shall be subject to course requirements in operation at the time of their return and are required to be enrolled as directed by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research).

11.9.6 In addition to public holidays identified in the University calendar, students are entitled to:

- (1) a maximum of 20 working days of paid annual leave per calendar year for students in receipt of an RTP Stipend and undertaking a full-time student load and 10 working days of paid annual leave for students in receipt of an RTP Stipend and undertaking part-time student load**
- (2) 10 working days of paid personal leave per calendar year for students in receipt of an RTP Stipend and undertaking a full-time student load and 5 working days of paid personal leave for students in receipt of an RTP Stipend and undertaking a part-time student load**
- (3) a maximum of 60 additional working days paid personal leave over the life of an RTP Stipend for periods of illness or caring responsibilities where a medical certificate has been provided**
- (4) 20 weeks of paid parental leave or paid partner leave upon the birth or adoption of the child for students in receipt of an RTP Stipend and where the student has completed 12 months of study while in receipt of the RTP Stipend**
- (5) 10 working days of paid family and domestic violence leave for each year the student is in receipt of an RTP Stipend and undertaking full-time student load, and 5 working days of paid family and domestic violence leave for each year the student is in receipt of an RTP Stipend and undertaking a part-time student load (which is not accruable).**

11.9.7 The Aannual leave and personal leave entitlements outlined in Rule 11.9.6 (1) and (2) are is not accruable over the life of the RTP Stipend and may roll over to subsequent years must be taken within a year.

11.9.8 Leave requests for annual leave are must be negotiated discussed with the principal supervisor and the Responsible Academic Officer.