

IMPORTANT: Please ensure you retain this copy of the conditions of award and continue to refer to them throughout your candidature.

Conditions of Award 2024

UTS International Research Scholarship (IRS)

The UTS International Research Scholarship (IRS) is provided by the University as part of its commitment to internationalisation with a particular view to enhancing its international links and profile in research. It is aimed at attracting high quality international students to work in areas of research strength identified by the University.

The IRS only covers tuition fees under a doctoral or master by research degree. It does not provide for the cost of standard Overseas Health Cover (OSHC), Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), living allowance, travel, conference attendance, medical and other costs associated with the issue or renewal of a student visa, thesis expenses, the cost of English language testing, tuition fees for bridging English language courses, or costs associated with study-related field trips. The IRS scholarship is not transferable to another institution.

1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1. To be eligible for an IRS, a student must:

- (a) be an overseas student as defined in *the Higher Education Support Act 2003* (Cth); and
- (b) be a holder of a current valid international student visa, meeting requirements as specified by the Department of Home Affairs, including the requirement to purchase and maintain a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health; and
- (c) meet the admissions criteria for research doctorate degrees or Master by Research studies as outlined in [UTS Admissions and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#); and
- (d) be awarded a living stipend scholarship or demonstrated confirmed funding for living expenses for the duration of the IRS unless otherwise indicated in the letter of award; and
- (e) be nominated by the Faculty for the IRS; and
- (f) not be receiving a scholarship for which course tuition is a component under any other scholarship scheme.

2. UTS IRS DURATION

2.1. The following conditions apply to the duration of the UTS IRS:

- (a) The UTS IRS must be taken up by the census date of the relevant session for which the offer is made. The University may approve deferment of an IRS for up to one session within the same calendar year.

- (b) The duration of a full time UTS IRS is three (3) years and six (6) months for research doctorate degrees and two (2) years for Master by Research studies.
- (c) The duration of a UTS IRS will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken:
 - i. towards the course of study prior to the commencement of the UTS IRS; and
 - ii. during suspension of the UTS IRS.
- (d) The maximum duration of a UTS IRS may be reduced where the IRS is awarded for strategic reasons.
- (e) No extensions are possible.

3. VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

- 3.1. The maximum value of an IRS in a year is equal to the estimated annual **tuition fee**, as specified in your Letter of Offer for the course. Where your enrolment goes beyond your IRS funded period, you will incur tuition fees until you submit your thesis. The University fee information is available on the UTS website (<https://www.uts.edu.au/study/international/essential-information/fees-information>).

4. OTHER CONDITIONS

4.1. Ongoing Eligibility

The University monitors IRS holders' ongoing eligibility and progress to ensure that each student continues to meet the eligibility requirements set out in section 1 and maintain satisfactory progress. Except in special circumstances as determined by Higher Degree Research Board, throughout the term of the IRS a student shall:

- (a) diligently pursue a course of study in the University as a candidate for the degree enrolled in; and
- (b) maintain satisfactory progress of candidature as evidenced in the annual Review of Progress and Candidature Assessment in with the guidelines approved by the Higher Degree Research Board from time to time as per [UTS Student Rules 11.13](#); and
- (c) comply with the [UTS Student Rules Section 11](#) and regulations of the University concerning graduate research students.

4.2. Leave of Absence

- 4.2.1. During [Leave of Absence](#), the scholarship will be suspended for the equivalent number of calendar days matching the period of leave, and scholarship end date will be extended by the same number of days. Scholarship recipients will be advised via email of the date when the scholarship will be suspended and when it will be restarted.

4.3. Conversion of Degrees

- 4.3.1. Students may convert from a Master by Research degree to a doctoral degree or from a doctoral degree to a Master by Research degree and continue to receive their IRS.

- 4.3.2. The maximum duration of a converted IRS becomes that for the new research degree minus periods of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the conversion.

4.4. Paid Employment

- 4.4.1. Full-time IRS recipients are required to work on their research project and complete their thesis within the allocated period and are only permitted to undertake a limited amount of paid employment which must not interfere with their study and progress.
- 4.4.2. HDR students are expected to devote a minimum of 35 hours per week for full-time study and 17.5 hours per week for part time study. Students engaging in other activities such as paid employment must not compromise the average weekly amount of time they devote to their research project. IRS recipients must seek approval of the RAO in their Faculty or Institute prior to engaging in part-time work in excess of 8 hours per week.
- 4.4.3. The RAO's decision will take the principal supervisor/s' recommendation into consideration. Details of paid employment or other activities, which temporarily interfere with the capacity to devote the required minimum hours per week to the research project, must be recorded in the student's review of progress.

4.5. Termination of Award

- 4.5.1. IRS Scholarships will be immediately terminated in the event of an unsatisfactory progress (as outlined in [UTS Student Rules 11.14](#)) and/or discontinuation of candidature following candidature assessment (as outlined in [UTS Student Rules 11.23 to 11.25](#)) or suspension due to student misconduct ([UTS Student Rules Section 16](#)).
- 4.5.2. The IRS will terminate:
- (a) if the student ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in section 1 other than during a period in which the IRS has been suspended with approval or during a period of leave in accordance with section 4.2; or
 - (b) upon submission of the thesis for examination or when the IRS expires, whichever is the earlier; or
 - (c) if the student submits a request to relinquish their IRS; or
 - (d) if, after due enquiry, the University determines that:
 - i. University the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance to the offer of the IRS; or
 - ii. the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic progress; or
 - iii. the student has been discontinued; or
 - iv. the student has committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to, the provision of false or misleading information as outlined in section 5.1.
- 4.5.3. If the IRS is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error.

5. OTHER INFORMATION

5.1. Provision of False or Misleading Information

If the University knows or has reason to believe that a student in receipt of an IRS has provided false or misleading information to the University, the University will immediately:

- (a) re-assess the student's entitlement to the IRS; and
- (b) take action in accordance with the Student Misconduct and Appeals rules ([UTS Student Rules Section 16](#)).

5.2. Insurance

- 5.2.1. Research students should be aware that the University only provides a minimal level of automatic insurance cover for personal accidents for enrolled students, only whilst the student is on campus, and subject to the limitations and exclusions of the applicable policy. Where a student's research involves high-risk activities or the student research is located off-campus, he/she should contact the Faculty Research Office to request approval so that the activity is covered by insurance.
- 5.2.2. Research students conducting fieldwork or conference presentations interstate or overseas will have insurance cover only if the activity is approved UTS business. Please contact the Faculty Research Office for further information and approval.
- 5.2.3. Overseas students must meet the Overseas Student Health Cover insurance requirements as specified in the eligibility section at section 1.1.

6. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCESSES

- 6.1. For information on the UTS complaints and appeals processes, refer to the UTS Handling of [Student Complaints Policy](#), as well as the [Student Complaints Management Procedure](#).