

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

## Conditions of Award 2021

### 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 masters 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 an 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) have completed a Bachelor Degree with First Class Honours, or be regarded by the University as having an equivalent level of attainment in accordance with clause (d); and
- (d) where applicants do not hold a Bachelor degree with First Class Honours in clause (c) above, the University may determine that the applicant has demonstrated an equivalent level of academic attainment. In determining an equivalent level of academic attainment, the University may consider previous study, relevant work experience, research publications, referees' reports and other research experience; and
- (e) be commencing full time enrolment for the first time in a higher degree by research (**HDR**) at the University. The University may also consider students who:
  - i. commenced their HDR in the previous year but who, due to the timing of their application and subsequent enrolment, were unable to apply for the scholarship in that year; or
  - ii. commenced a HDR and terminated that enrolment within six months of commencement; or

- iii. are nominated by their Faculty/Institute for strategic reasons related to their research project; or
- (f) be enrolled as a full-time student; and
- (g) be undertaking study in a subject area identified by the University as one of its areas of research strength; and
- (h) not have completed a degree at the same or higher level as the proposed candidature; and
- (i) not be receiving a scholarship for which course tuition is a component under any other scholarship scheme.

## 2. UTS IRS DURATION

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 for research doctorate degrees and two (2) years for research masters degrees.
- (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) The University may, in its discretion, approve an extension to the duration of a UTS IRS for a Doctoral degree by research student of up to one session. If the extension is not approved, students will be responsible for paying the required tuition fee for the remainder of the candidature. Scholarship extension applications will be considered where the grounds for the extension relate to circumstances which have interrupted the student's research, are beyond their control and are not of a personal nature. The circumstances interrupting the research should be evident in the student's progress reports.

## 3. VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

The maximum value of an IRS in a year is equal to the estimated annual **tuition fee**, as specified in the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS), for the HDR being undertaken by the student.

## 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 the Graduate Research School Board of the Academic 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) submit to the relevant Faculty reports to enable a yearly review of progress in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Graduate Research School Board from time to time as per Section 11.13 of the UTS Student Rules found at <http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/rules/11-13.html>
- (c) successfully complete the required candidature assessments as per Section 11.15 of the UTS Student Rules found at <http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/rules/11-15.html> and
- (d) comply with the rules and regulations of the University concerning postgraduate students which can be found at: <http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/rules/11-index.html>.

#### 4.2. Suspension of Award

- 4.2.1. After completion of the first six months of the IRS the student may be granted up to twelve months (two sessions) suspension of his/her IRS with the permission of the University.
- 4.2.2. Periods of approved suspension will be added to the normal time for which the IRS may be held. Any periods of study undertaken towards the degree during suspension of the IRS will be deducted from the maximum period of the IRS.
- 4.2.3. If the IRS holder remains enrolled whilst his/her IRS is suspended, this period of enrolment will be deducted from the IRS duration; that is, the duration of the IRS will be reduced. It is therefore recommended that the IRS holder applies for a leave of absence with respect to his/her candidature. Information regarding leave of absence is available in the [Graduate Research Candidature Management, Thesis Preparation and Submission Procedures](#) which is available on the UTS website.
- 4.2.4. Note that if the IRS holder does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of suspension, or does not make arrangements to extend the period of suspension, the IRS will be terminated.
- 4.2.5. If prior approval of a suspension of the IRS is not obtained, the IRS holder will be deemed to be absent without permission and the IRS will terminate.

#### 4.3. Conversion of Degrees

- 4.3.1. Students may convert from a masters by research degree to a doctoral degree or from a doctoral degree to a masters by research degree and continue to receive their IRS, subject to the section 11.5 of the UTS Student Rules which can be found at: <http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/rules/student/section-11.html#r11.5> and the section

headed “Course Conversion” in the [Graduate Research Candidature Management, Thesis Preparation and Submission Procedures](#) which is available on the UTS website.

- 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. An IRS holder with a student visa may, subject to the terms of their visa, undertake work unrelated to their course requirements consistent with the conditions of the student visa provided the IRS holder obtains the approval of the Responsible Academic Officer (RAO) and the Dean of the Graduate Research School prior to undertaking such work.
- 4.4.2. The University may not approve an IRS holder undertaking work unless it is satisfied that the work will not interfere with the IRS holder’s study programme.
- 4.4.3. Work commitments cannot be accepted as grounds for an extension of the duration of the IRS.

#### 4.5. Termination of Award

- 4.5.1. The IRS will terminate:
- (a) if the student ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in paragraph 1 other than during a period in which the IRS has been suspended with approval or during a period of leave in accordance with paragraph 4.2; or
  - (b) if the IRS holder is granted Permanent Residency status in Australia; or
  - (c) upon submission of the thesis for examination or when the IRS expires, whichever is the earlier; or
  - (d) if, after due enquiry, the University determines that:
    - i. 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 committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to, the provision of false or misleading information as outlined in paragraph 5.1.
- 4.5.2. If the IRS is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error, or on re-submission of the thesis. For thesis re-writes, the IRS may be re-activated until the thesis is finally submitted, to the maximum duration of the IRS.

## 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 in relation to that IRS, the University will immediately re-assess the student's entitlement to the IRS.

## 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, and subject to the limitations and exclusions of the applicable policy. Please contact the Faculty Research Office for further information and approval.

## 6. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCESSES

For information on the UTS complaints and appeals processes, refer to the UTS Handling of Student Complaints policy at: <http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/policies/complaintspolicy.html>, as well as the UTSI Complaints and Appeals Procedure for International Students at:

<https://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/international/essential-information/being-international-student-australia/your-1>.