INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (IPRS)
CONDITIONS OF AWARD 2016

The International Postgraduate Research Scholarships are funded by the Australian Commonwealth Government through the Department of Industry (DI). The IPRS covers the international student tuition fees for Overseas Student Health Cover for candidates enrolled full-time in a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) at the University of Tasmania and may also cover dependants.

These conditions are subject to change in line with the Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines.

1. Definitions

“IPRS” International Postgraduate Research Scholarship
“Award holder” A candidate in receipt of an IPRS
“the University” The University of Tasmania, unless otherwise specified.

2. Eligibility

2.1 To be eligible for an IPRS, an applicant must:
(a) be a citizen of a country other than Australia / New Zealand;
(b) have completed at least four years of tertiary education studies and have been obtained at least an Australian first class Honours degree or an equivalent qualification which includes a substantial research component, generally a thesis;
(c) be commencing a full-time research masters or PhD degree at the University in 2016.
(d) have a proposed project in an area identified by the University as one of research strength;
(e) satisfy all entry requirements for a higher degree by research;
(f) provide proof of English language proficiency if their first language is not English. The following evidence of English language proficiency is required:
   i. A valid IELTS test with an overall score of at least 7.0 with a score of 7.0 in the written component and no individual band less than 6.0, or
   ii. A valid TOEFL test with a score of at least 600 and a minimum Test of Written English (TWE) score of 5.0 (or a CBT score of 250 with an essay rating of at least 5.0. or an iBT score of 100 with a written score of 24 and no band less than 21), or
   iii. Successful completion, within the 2 years prior to submission of the application, of a tertiary degree program completed in a country where English is the official language and the degree program was instructed and examined in English.
(g) meet international student visa requirements as specified by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.
2.2 An IPRS is not available to applicants who:
(a) have been granted Permanent Residency status in Australia by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship;
(b) have already completed a degree at the same level as the proposed candidature, or at a higher level
(c) have previously held an IPRS,
(d) have previously held an Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) scholarship within the two years prior to the commencement of the IPRS; or
(e) are in receipt of another tuition scholarship funded wholly or in part by the Commonwealth Government

3. Application and Selection

3.1 Applications must be submitted on the approved form.

3.2 Completed applications, including all required supporting documentation, must be received by the University by the dates advertised on the webpage.

3.3 Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the closing date will not be accepted.

3.4 Selection of IPRS recipients will be undertaken by a Review Committee convened by the Dean of Graduate Research.

3.5 Applications will be ranked on the basis of academic merit, research experience and/or research potential

4. Commencement

4.1 Award holders are required to commence their higher degree by research at the University by 30 June 2016.

4.2 If the award holder does not commence by 30 June 2016 the offer of the IPRS lapses.

5. Tenure

5.1 The IPRS is tenable, subject to satisfactory progression, for
(a) two years full-time for award holders undertaking a research Masters degree; or
(b) three years full-time for award holders undertaking a PhD degree.

5.2 An extension of up to six months may be granted for PhD candidates where the research has been delayed due to circumstances which are beyond the candidate's control and are related to the conduct of the research rather than of a personal nature. Applications for extensions to scholarship must demonstrate the likelihood of completion within the maximum permitted candidature time. Research Masters candidates are not eligible for an extension.

5.3 The Dean of Graduate Research may approve the transfer of an award from a Masters degree to a PhD. Similarly, an award for PhD studies may be converted to a Masters award. The maximum duration of a transferred award becomes that for the new degree.

5.4 The duration of the IPRS will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken:
(a) towards the degree prior to the commencement of the IPRS; or
(b) towards the degree during suspension of the IPRS

5.5 The IPRS terminates on submission of the thesis for examination, or on the expiry of the award or whichever is the sooner.

6. **Specific Obligations of Award Holders**

6.1 Award holders shall diligently and to the best of their ability apply themselves to the successful completion of the degree.

6.2 The award holder shall abide by the international and Australian codes on human and animal experimentation, the guidelines by the Australian Government’s Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and the rulings of the Safety, Ethics and Institutional Biosafety Committees of the University.

6.3 An award holder is required to conform to the regulations and statutes (including disciplinary provisions) of the University and to the rules and procedures of research higher degrees.

6.4 Award holders must provide all reports required by the University including an annual review of progress submitted through the supervisor and Head of School. If the University does not consider that progress is satisfactory, the award may be terminated or the holder placed on probation.

7. **Fees**

7.1 The IPRS pays the international student tuition fees for award holders enrolled full-time in a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) at the University.

7.2 The IPRS covers Overseas Student Health Cover for award holders.

7.3 An award holder who relocates to the University from overseas is eligible for an allowance of up to AUD$1,500 to assist with relocation costs and airfares. This allowance can only be claimed after arrival at the University.

7.4 Award holders, with dependent children who are enrolling in Tasmanian government schools may receive assistance with English as a Second Language tuition for their children.

8. **Employment**

8.1 Award holders who hold a student visa with permission to work attached as a condition of that visa may undertake a strictly limited amount of paid part-time employment provided it does not interfere with the progress of their higher degree by research.

8.2 Approval from the Dean of Graduate Research is required for periods of employment amounting to more than eight hours per week when this work is undertaken during normal business hours (generally 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday). The Head of School or Graduate Research Coordinator must certify that the work does not interfere with the progress of the research.
9. Transfer

9.1 If a student in receipt of an IPRS transfers to another institution, the IPRS may be transferred with the student in exceptional circumstances only.

9.2 Award holders may continue to receive an IPRS only if the University supports the transfer and the new institution agrees to fund the IPRS.

9.3 A transfer to another institution does not constitute sufficient grounds for a subsequent extension of the IPRS.

10. Suspension

10.1 The total period of suspension from the IPRS during its tenure may not exceed 12 months.

10.2 In exceptional circumstances where the award holder can demonstrate reasons outside their control, additional periods of suspension may be granted. No suspension is possible beyond two years in total.

10.3 Periods of study undertaken towards the degree during suspension of the award, will be deducted from the maximum period of tenure.

10.4 Applications for suspensions, endorsed by the supervisor and Head of School, must be submitted to the Graduate Research Office.

11. Termination

11.1 The IPRS will be terminated upon the expiry of the award or once the thesis is submitted for examination, whichever is earlier.

11.2 An IPRS will be terminated before this time:

(a) if, after due inquiry, the University concludes that the award holder has not made satisfactory progress;

(b) if, the University determines that, the award holder does not met the eligibility criteria, has not fulfilled the obligations of award holders or has committed serious misconduct, including but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information.

(c) if, in the opinion of the University, the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of award, and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the higher degree by research;

(d) when the award holder ceases to be a full-time candidate;

(e) if the award holder does not resume study following a period of suspension or make arrangements to extend that suspension; or

(f) on the death or incapacity of the award holder, or withdrawal from the program.

12. Research Overseas

12.1 Award holders may be permitted to undertake fieldwork or research overseas when this is considered necessary by the supervisor and Head of School. In such cases the award may be tenable overseas for up to 12 months, or in special cases for up to 18 months. Approval of paid overseas study will only be granted if adequate supervision can be maintained and the award holder remains enrolled.
12.2 The award holder will not generally be allowed to undertake overseas study in the first six months of scholarship tenure. Candidature undertaken prior to the taking up of the scholarship will be taken into account in determining the earliest date on which the award holder may pursue paid overseas study.

12.3 Applications for overseas study should be submitted to the Graduate Research Office prior to commencement of the overseas work.

13. **Research at Other Organisations**

13.1 The University may permit an award holder to conduct part of the research at other organisations provided that there is adequate support and supervision available.

14. **Other Courses**

14.1 Apart from the Graduate Certificate in Research, an award holder must not enrol in any academic course of study leading to a qualification which is not an essential part of the award holder's higher degree by research, unless approval has been granted by the Dean of Graduate Research.

15. **Appeals**

15.1 The appeal mechanisms for resolution of disputes which may arise during candidature are described in the Rule of Graduate Research.