UTas HDR Extreme Hardship Fund

This fund enables a limited number of HDR living allowance extensions/payments for exceptional cases where delays in candidature or other financial hardships are experienced by the candidate due to reasons outside of their control.

Funding
Up to 3 months of a base stipend, at the current RTP rate. The fund will not cover top-up scholarships.

Eligibility
- Are/were in receipt of a scholarship
- Currently within the maximum candidature period of degree
- Demonstrated:
  - >6 month delay in candidature progression due to reasons outside the candidate’s and supervisor’s control. In the case of medical related reasons, the candidate must have fully exhausted all available paid medical leave entitlements, or
  - other reasons for financial hardship (e.g. termination of external funding due to reasons outside the candidate’s control)

Apply via Extension of Scholarship eForm
For consideration for an extreme hardship stipend extension, the candidate (via the Primary Supervisor) will need to provide:
- a concise description of the impact of the delay on your thesis
- length of additional stipend requested (up to 3 months)
- how the additional time requested will be used to complete your thesis
- any supporting evidence, see below

Higher weighting will be given where candidates can provide:
- clear evidence of the impact of the delay on their candidature/thesis
- a plan for how the additional support will enable successful completion of their thesis (e.g. detailed candidature management plan or similar)
- documented support from their GRC, and/or other sources, particularly where this outlines how all other options have been explored
- scholarship extension co-funding from supervisors, academic unit, etc (or confirmation that other options for funding have been explored)

Process

Using the Extension of Scholarship (Supervisor) form, the Primary Supervisor needs to complete the form including details under Student Reward (Current Scholarship), using the Project Number OP.057420 indicating request for central funding.

Check the ‘Exceptional Circumstances’ box and provide the detailed case outlining the requested Extreme Hardship Fund support (attachments can be uploaded at the base of the form)
Assessment, and final decisions, of applications will be made by the Dean of Graduate Research, in conjunction with the Associate Deans of Research and Performance, and SAFCU and/or TUSA representative. Decisions made by this group for Extreme Hardship funding are final.

For further information, please contact GraduateResearch.Scholarships@utas.edu.au