

POLICY			
Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship			
Date of approval	June 2017	Approved by	Academic Board
Date of effect	June 2017	Current to	June 2020
Registered no	HER007	Version	2017 v1
Policy Owner	Executive Director, Higher Education & Research		
Contact Officer	Executive Director, Higher Education & Research		

1. Background

- 1.1 From 1 January 2017, the Australian Government has replaced the following funding and scholarship schemes with a single program, the [Research Training Program \(RTP\)](#):
- [Research Training Scheme \(RTS\)](#)
 - [Australian Postgraduate Awards \(APA\)](#)
 - [International Postgraduate Research Scholarships \(IPRS\)](#)
- 1.2 As these three schemes are not continuing beyond 1 January 2017, the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (the Institute) has transferred all RTS, APA and IPRS recipients to the new RTP.
- 1.3 From 1 January 2017 Australian Government scholarship funding offered to Institute Higher Degree by Research (HDRs) students is through the RTP.
- 1.4 The RTP provides block grants, on a calendar year basis, to Higher Education Providers (HEPs) to support the research training of domestic students and overseas students undertaking HDRs.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This policy applies to RTP funded scholarships at the Institute. It applies to all prospective applicants for, and recipients of, a RTP Scholarship. The policy also applies to all staff working with RTP Scholarships including in relation to selection, ongoing eligibility and administration.
- 2.2 This policy does not apply to scholarships other than RTP Scholarships.

3. Policy

- 3.1 The Institute will select candidates to be offered a RTP Scholarship through a competitive process, and in accordance with the Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017 (Commonwealth Guidelines), made under section 46-20 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003, within the limits of its RTP grant each year.
- 3.2 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students will be given preference for RTP scholarships.
- 3.3 Information on application, selection and offer and other relevant information is provided on the research section of the Institute website.
- 3.4 The Institute will transfer Continuing Students to a RTP Scholarship in a form that does not disadvantage the continuing student and provides at least equivalent support to that provided, or that would have been provided, through predecessor Australian Government programs.
- 3.5 The Institute will pay RTP scholarship recipients in accordance with the basic grant amount as determined by the Commonwealth Guidelines. Any variation in excess of this will be as determined by the Research Committee.
- 3.6 Where changes to the Australian Government's Research Block Grant schemes impact on any HDR candidates, the Institute will communicate any changes to students and will ensure that students are not disadvantaged by the changes.
- 3.7 The Institute will not take over the payment of a RTP Stipend awarded to a candidate by another HEP, where the candidate transfers to the Institute. The transferring candidate may apply for a RTP Stipend at the Institute at the next available opportunity and will be considered on the basis of the Institute selection criteria and in relation to other applicants.
- 3.8 Candidates who are awarded a RTP Scholarship are required to comply with all Institute rules, codes and policies, including those relating to satisfactory academic progress in the program of enrolment. The Institute will monitor academic performance and may terminate a RTP Scholarship, or take other appropriate action, if a candidate is in breach of any of its policies.
- 3.9 When, at any time during or after completion of a HDR, the recipient of a RTP Scholarship, his/her supervisor or any other party, publishes or produces material which relate to the research project carried out by the recipient of a RTP Scholarship an acknowledge of the

Commonwealth's contribution must be made. The acknowledgement must include the mention of the student's support through an "Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship".

- 3.9 Changes in the nature of a RTP Scholarship student's enrolment, such as changes in the field of education, changes between full-time and part-time or transitioning between the masters and PhD research programs will be as determined by the provisions of the Rules for the PhD and Master's degrees and/or the decisions of the Research Committee.
- 3.10 Depending on the nature of the grievance or review; for example, whether it relates to an academic or administrative issue; a student may seek a review of, or appeal, decisions of the Institute relating to a Research Training Program Scholarship in accordance with the following relevant documents:
- 3.10.1 Student Conduct Rules
 - 3.10.2 Student Complaints, Grievances and Appeals Policy
 - 3.10.3 Student Complaints, Grievances and Appeals Procedure
 - 3.10.4 PhD Degree in Indigenous Perspectives by Research Rules
 - 3.10.5 Master's Degree in Indigenous Perspectives by Research Rules
- 3.11 Any arrangements for optional community or other placements, research internships, professional practice or other enrichment activities undertaken as part of a HDR will be as agreed through the provisions in the PhD Degree of Indigenous Knowledges by Research Rules or Master's Degree in Indigenous Perspectives by Research Rules.
- 3.12 Issues relating to the following are also outlined in the Commonwealth Guidelines:
- Determination of Grants and Indexation
 - Basic Grant Amount
 - Weightings applying to HDR student completions,
 - Grant Amounts for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Grant Years
 - Grant Amounts for 2021 and future Grant Years
 - Student Eligibility Requirements
 - Conditions that Apply to RTP Grant Amounts
 - Expenditure of RTP Grant Amounts
 - Period of Support
 - RTP Stipend Base and Maximum Value
 - Leave Entitlements for RTP Stipend recipients
 - Additional Conditions for RTP Stipends
 - Additional Conditions for RTP Fees Offset
 - Additional Conditions for Overseas Students
 - Offers for RTP Scholarships
 - Termination of RTP Scholarship

- Arrangements for Continuing Students
- Acknowledgement of RTP Scholarship's Contribution
- High-Cost and Low-Cost Fields of Education

4. Responsibilities

Responsibilities are as outlined in sections 2 and 3.

5. Acronyms & Terms

Acronym/Term	Definition/Description
<i>continuing student</i>	means either: a student whose period of support under the Research Training Scheme, International Postgraduate Research Scholarships or Australian Postgraduate Awards would terminate on or after 1 January 2017. or a student who has received an offer of support by a HEP under the Research Training Scheme, International Postgraduate Research Scholarships or Australian Postgraduate Awards, and accepted this offer of support, and whose offer of support was scheduled to commence on or after 1 January 2017.
<i>Full-time student load</i>	In respect of a course of study, is at least 75 per cent of an equivalent full-time student load in the period for which RTP Scholarship support is received.
<i>Guidelines</i>	means the Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017
<i>HDR</i>	means a higher degree by research which is a Research Doctorate or Research Masters course for which at least two-thirds of the student load for the course is required as research work.
<i>HEP</i>	means a higher education provider as specified in section 16-15 of <i>the Higher Education Support Act 2003</i> (Table A Providers) or section 16-20 (Table B Providers).

Acronym/Term	Definition/Description
<i>HESDC</i>	means the Higher Education Student Data Collection maintained by the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training.
<i>Institute</i>	means the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.
<i>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student</i>	means a HDR student who identifies herself or himself as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent and is reported as such in the HESDC.
<i>non-Aboriginal student</i>	means a HDR student who is not an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student.
<i>part-time student load</i>	in respect of a course of study, is less than 75 per cent of an equivalent full-time student load in the period for which RTP Scholarship support is received.
<i>RTP</i>	means the Research Training Program.
<i>RTP Allowance</i>	is a type of RTP Scholarship to assist with ancillary costs incurred by a HDR student in undertaking a HDR.
<i>RTP Fees Offset</i>	is a type of RTP Scholarship to assist with course fees that would otherwise be payable by a HDR student.
<i>RTP Scholarship</i>	is a form of support awarded to a student for one or more of a RTP Allowance, Fees Offset and Stipend.
<i>RTP Stipend</i>	is a type of RTP Scholarship to assist students with general living costs.
<i>suspension</i>	means a period of time during which a scholarship holder is not receiving RTP Scholarship support, which has been approved in accordance with this Policy.

6. Supporting Documents

- Student Conduct Rules
- Student Code of Conduct
- PhD Degree in Indigenous Perspectives by Research Rules

- Master’s Degree in Indigenous Perspectives by Research Rules
- Student Complaints Grievances and Appeals Policy
- Student Complaints Grievances and Appeals Procedure
- Research Policy
- Research Plan 2016 -2020
- Fair Treatment, Equal Benefits and Opportunity Policy
- Student Encumbrance Policy
- Free Intellectual Inquiry Policy

7. Related documents

- Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01602/>
- Explanatory Statement to the Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017
- Higher Education Support Act 2003
- Research Training Program – Frequently Asked Questions for Students
<https://www.education.gov.au/research-training-program-frequently-asked-questions-students>
- Guidelines for RTP Scholarship Policy (*in development stage*)

8. Modification history

<i>Date</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Sections modified</i>	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Details</i>
June 2017	2017 v1		Academic Board	New policy

9. Feedback

If you have any comments or feedback about this Policy, please contact the Executive Director, Higher Education & Research.