

Scholarship Condition of Award

**Master of Research Indigenous Scholarship
(MResIS) – for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Peoples undertaking a Master of Research (MRes)
commencing from January 2026**

Revised April 2025

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Scholarship Conditions of Award

Master of Research Indigenous Scholarship (MResIS) - for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples undertaking a Master of Research (MRes) commencing from January 2026

Master of Research Indigenous Scholarship (MResIS)

- Master of Research Indigenous Scholarships provide a living stipend and allowances.

These conditions apply to recipients of the above-named scholarship only. However, all graduate research students must refer to their Letter of Offer for any specific benefits, entitlements, allowances or obligations which may apply.

Please note: For the purposes of this document, periods of support and leave benefits are indicated as full-time equivalent. Entitlements for half-time enrolled graduate research students are on a pro-rata basis.

1. Eligibility

To be eligible for scholarship consideration

- 1.1 Applicants must be eligible to enrol in a Master of Research (MRes) program at Adelaide University.
- 1.2 Applicants must provide a formal Affirmation of Aboriginality.

2. Benefits

The following benefits for Master of Research Indigenous Scholarship are provided as applicable:

2.1. Living Stipend

- a) Full-time graduate research students receive a tax-exempt stipend of \$52,352 per annum in 2025 (indexed annually).
- b) Half-time graduate research students receive a taxable stipend of \$26,176 per annum in 2025 (indexed annually).
- c) Half-time awards are not considered to be exempt from taxation. Note: award amounts may fall below the tax-free threshold; however, depending on the individual situation of the recipient may be subject to taxation.
- d) Graduate research students are advised to seek independent financial advice to ensure any taxation liability can be met should total income go beyond the tax-free threshold.

2.2. Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset

All **Australian graduate research students** receive the benefit of a RTP Fee Offset which covers the cost of tuition fees as a graduate research student at the University for the standard duration of the program. The RTP Fee Offset is provided through the support of the Australian Government and is valued at between \$40,600 and \$52,200 per annum (indexed annually). Note that these funds are not paid to the graduate research student but are paid to the University by the Australian Government to offset tuition fees.

2.3. Relocation Allowance

A graduate research student who relocates to Adelaide to commence their program of study at Adelaide University is entitled to receive a relocation allowance to contribute towards incoming travel and removal expenses (for one-way travel via the most direct route). The maximum value of the allowance is \$1,000.

2.4. Study Load

Scholarship holders are permitted to enrol full-time or half-time. The scholarship period of support will be adjusted in accordance with their study load; i.e. change from full-time to half-time or vice versa.

2.5. Payment

Living Stipend payments for scholarship holders begin from the date on which candidature commences after submission of the completed Online Enrolment Form and Banking Authority to the Adelaide University Graduate Research School.

Graduate research students will be paid fortnightly in arrears, directly into the Australian bank account nominated by the graduate research student.

3. Period of Support

Program	Master of Research Indigenous Scholarship
MRes	Living Stipend and Tuition Fee Offset: up to 1.5 years

There are no extension provisions.

The duration of the scholarship will be reduced by any credit received for previous study towards the current degree.

3.1. Continuation

Scholarships are subject to satisfactory progress determined by the outcome of academic milestone reviews and/or other formal progress reviews undertaken throughout the year.

3.2. Conversion of Award

It is not possible to convert the Master of Research Scholarship.

4. Withdrawal

The University may withdraw the offer of a scholarship and allocate it to another applicant if an applicant:

- Does not meet the admission criteria.
- Does not commence by the agreed date.
- Fails to provide documentation required after a provisional offer.
- Does not meet legislative requirements or conditions as outlined by the Australian Government and/or University.
- Provides false or misleading information or documentation.

5. Leave Entitlements

Leave of absence will not be permitted during the final 14 days of the scholarship.

5.1. Recreation Leave

Graduate research students are entitled to 20 working days of paid recreation leave per year. Periods of recreation leave do not extend the normal duration of the award. Recreation Leave not taken during the tenure of the award is forfeited.

5.2. Sick Leave

Graduate research students are entitled to 10 working days paid sick leave per year (accruable). This period does not extend the normal duration of the award.

Carer's leave related to the primary care of a family member may be applied for under the allocation of sick leave and requires equivalent supporting documentation.

For medically substantiated periods of illness lasting longer than 10 working days per year, graduate research students may receive up to a total of 60 working days paid sick leave that is additional to the normal duration of the award. This leave will only be utilised once all accruable sick leave within tenure has been exhausted.

Periods of unpaid sick leave longer than 60 working days may be accessed through leave of absence provisions.

5.3. Parental Leave

Graduate research students who are the birth parent or primary adoptive parent and have been enrolled for a period of over 12 months full-time are able to apply for up to 60 working days of paid parental leave. This period will extend the normal duration of the award.

Graduate research students who are partners of the birth parent or primary adoptive parent and who have been enrolled for a period of over 12 months full-time are able to apply for up to 10 working days of paid parental leave. This period will extend the normal duration of the award.

Those enrolled for less than 12 months full-time are required to utilise recreation leave or unpaid leave of absence provisions.

5.4. Leave Without Pay

The scholarship will be suspended during periods of leave without pay.

Graduate research students may apply for leave without pay for periods not exceeding 12 months in total during tenure of the award. Graduate research students will be required to repay any monies received to which they ceased to be entitled for any periods of unpaid leave. Any overpayment will either be automatically recovered in full upon return from leave or be invoiced for payment.

5.5. Jury Service Leave

Adelaide University recognises that graduate research students may occasionally be required to attend jury service. Jury service is usually for a period of 20 days and prospective jurors are required to attend court on each day to see if their services will be required.

5.6. Cultural Leave

Graduate research students who have formally identified with the University as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Peoples may apply for up to 10 paid days of cultural leave per year, in addition to recreation leave entitlements, for the purpose of fulfilling cultural requirements and obligations that are recognised as part of their culture. This type of leave does not extend candidature and is not accruable.

5.7. Return from Leave of Absence

Graduate research students granted leave of absence are required, on the prescribed form, to inform the Adelaide University Graduate Research School of resumption of candidature. Failure to do so may result in termination of scholarship and/or candidature.

6. Employment (Paid or voluntary work)

- 6.1 Graduate research students are required to maintain an appropriate level of contact hours in accordance with their enrolment. The expectation is the full-time enrolled graduate research students commit 40 hours per week to their research program (half-time students 20 hours). If graduate research students undertake employment, they must ensure that it does not impede academic progress. Graduate research students who do

not meet required progress milestones will have their Living Stipend payments suspended.

- 6.2 Work commitments will not be considered applicable grounds for extension to the scholarship (or candidature).
- 6.3 Half-time scholarship holders are subject to the same conditions and obligations as a full-time scholarship holder as indicated above.

7. Top-up Scholarships

- 7.1 Scholarships or top-up funding from other sources may be accepted by scholarship holders to top up their main award.
- 7.2 Applicants cannot hold a MResIS when they are in receipt of another scholarship that exceeds the value of the MResIS.
- 7.3 Graduate research students must forward a copy of any external scholarship agreements to the Adelaide University Graduate Research School (for review and legal clearance) prior to acceptance of any other scholarship.
- 7.4 Graduate research students may also obtain operating funds for fieldwork, equipment, travel or other expenses not covered by the major award. There is no limit on the value of these funds.
- 7.5 Graduate research students must inform the Adelaide Graduate Research School of any proposed supplementation of a major award from Adelaide University sources via the Scholarship Establishment Form for approval.

8. Suspension of Award

- 8.1 A graduate research student who wishes to take a leave of absence should refer to Section 5 Leave Entitlements.
- 8.2 Graduate research students who receive payments during a period of leave without pay (due to late lodgement of leave form) will be required to repay monies received to which they are not entitled. Any overpayment will either be automatically recovered in full upon return from leave or be invoiced for payment.
- 8.3 Non-Lodgement of Milestones: Graduate research students who do not meet required progress milestones will have their Living Stipend payments suspended. No reimbursement for periods of suspension under these circumstances will be granted.
- 8.4 Graduate research students placed on administrative leave will have their Living Stipend payments suspended.

9. Research off Campus

Study Away

- 9.1 Payments will continue during periods of study away.
- 9.2 Any period of study away will not extend the period of award.

- 9.3 Unless remote candidature has been approved by the Pro Vice Chancellor Graduate Research Training, graduate research students may undertake research outside Australia (study away) for periods not exceeding 6 months in total during the tenure of an award.
- 9.4 Graduate research students should consult with the Adelaide University Graduate Research School and should not leave Australia before approval for study away is given. See also Section 5 Leave Entitlements.
- 9.5 The award may be terminated if the graduate research student does not resume studies at Adelaide University at the end of any period of approved absence.

10. Transfer of Award

Master of Research Indigenous Scholarships are not transferable to another university.

11. Termination

Termination of the scholarship will take place in the following circumstances:

- a) Submission of the thesis.
- b) Scholarship expires or is no longer available.
- c) Graduate research student no longer meets the eligibility criteria to hold the award.
- d) The graduate research student has not fulfilled the obligations of the award.
- e) Where a graduate research student has not completed compulsory milestones by the due date or has not made satisfactory progress.
- f) A graduate research student withdraws from study, ceases to be enrolled or does not apply for approved leave or suspension of award.
- g) A graduate research student has provided false or misleading information.
- h) A graduate research student is guilty of serious misconduct in terms of the *University Student Code of Conduct*.

A graduate research student receiving benefits to which they are not entitled will be required to repay the University on receipt of an invoice.

12. Graduate Research Student Obligations

Graduate research students are subject to the University's policies, procedures and program requirements.

13. Grievance Procedures

The appropriate appeal procedures for graduate research students are those defined by the [Student Complaints Resolution Procedure](#).

14. Enquiries and Information

Enquiries about these conditions may be addressed to the Graduate Research School team at:

Email: research.scholarships@adelaideuni.edu.au

These Scholarship Conditions of Award may be changed without notice to comply with any legal or University requirements.