



**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

2026 GUIDE TO APPLICANTS

GRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP) STIPEND SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Research School

Enrolled candidates in the Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor
of Philosophy (Integrated) **ONLY**

06/08/2025
Version 1.0

Acknowledgement of Country



Victoria University acknowledges, recognises and respects the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Bunurong/Boonwurrung, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung of the Kulin who are the traditional owners of University land in Victoria, the Gadigal and Guring-gai of the Eora Nation who are the traditional owners of University land in Sydney, and the Yulara/Yugarapul people and Turrbal people living in Meanjin (Brisbane).

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Key Details

This guide is for **enrolled Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated) candidates**, domestic and international, who wish to apply for a postgraduate research stipend scholarship commencing in Research Period 1, 2026 at Victoria University as part of the schemes listed in [Table 1](#).

The number of RTP Stipend Scholarships awarded is determined by the availability of University funds and the number and quality of applications in any given year.

Table 1 Annual RTP stipend scholarship and value

| Stipend Scholarship Award | Annual amount (2025) |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Research Training Program Stipend Scholarship | \$35,006 (2025 rate) |
| VU Doctoral Research Access Stipend Scholarship | \$42,900 |
| VU Doctoral Research Diversity Stipend Scholarship | \$42,900 |

Eligibility

This section outlines the requirements for all applicants (domestic and international) **to be eligible for consideration**. It provides the eligibility criteria for applications for all scholarships listed in [Table 1](#).

Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship

- i. Enrolled as a Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated) candidate
- ii. At the time of application, Confirmation of Candidature has been:
 - a. Approved by your Institute (Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated))
 - b. Planned and scheduled for prior to 12 November 2025 (Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated))
- iii. Have an average grade of 75% in the:
 - a. Year 1 Coursework (Doctor of Philosophy)
 - b. Year 1 Coursework and Year 1 Thesis (Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated))
- iv. Consumed load as at 1 January 2026 is less than or equal to 2.0 (≤ 2.0)
- v. Enrol as a full-time candidate on acceptance of an offer
- vi. Completed the application form and provided all required documentation

Access and Diversity

VU is committed to encouraging people whose educational opportunities have been disrupted or adversely affected by their life circumstances to participate in graduate research.

VU normally offers two (2) stipend scholarships each year to support this commitment for applicants for Research Masters, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated).

VU Doctoral Research Access Scholarship

This scholarship supports students who identify as having a disability, are neuro-divergent or who are Deaf. This includes:

- ◆ being blind or having low vision
- ◆ having an acquired brain injury
- ◆ being hard-of-hearing or Deaf
- ◆ having a physical disability (mobility needs for example)
- ◆ having a diagnosed mental health condition, illness or other invisible or visible disability

Applicants must submit the following documentation as part of their application:

- ◆ [Doctoral Research Access and Diversity Scholarship Form \(PDF\)](#)
- ◆ Supporting evidence such as a letter of support from a community case-worker, medical practitioner or other support practitioner

There is normally only 1 scholarship awarded in Research Period 1 each year.

VU Doctoral Research Diversity Scholarship

This scholarship supports students who have living experience of one or more of the following identities and barriers:

- ◆ being part of the LGBTQIA+ community
- ◆ being a solo parent or carer
- ◆ having lived in out-of-home care (such as being a ward of the state, living in foster or kinship care)
- ◆ having experienced recent homelessness
- ◆ having experienced family violence or other significant adverse life events
- ◆ being a refugee or asylum seeker

Applicants must submit the following documentation as part of their application:

- ◆ [Doctoral Research Access and Diversity Scholarship Form \(PDF\)](#)
- ◆ Supporting evidence such as a letter of support from a community case-worker, medical practitioner or other support practitioner

There is normally only 1 scholarship awarded in Research Period 1 each year.

Ineligible

Applicants are ineligible to apply for an RTP Stipend Scholarship if they:

- Are enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated) Year 1 coursework phase
- Are receiving another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake the proposed program (“equivalent” stipend is regarded as more than 75% of the Stipend value)
- Have already completed a degree at the same or higher level as the proposed candidature
- Have held any Victoria University Research Scholarship previously unless it was terminated within six months of the commencement of benefits

Selection

Selection Criteria

Applications are assessed against the selection criteria listed below. Each criterion is given a score and the scores are added together to form a Final Selection Score.

Academic Merit

The academic achievement score (AAS) of the applicant is based on their results in their relevant qualification which demonstrates the applicant's ability or potential ability to undertake a Research Degree project to a high standard.

The criterion score is based on a calculated AAS using a combination of the entry degree, Year 1 coursework and Year 1 thesis.

Research Experience

Experience in relevant research activities outside of a research training degree.

These include but are not limited to; technical assistant with supervision; ongoing research assistant with limited supervision or management of a small research team; non-refereed papers such as conference abstracts, papers under review (must provide evidence of submission).

This information must be included in your curriculum vitae (CV).

The criterion score is based on duration of experience and relevance to your research project.

Research Publications and Creative Works

Peer reviewed research publications, published creative works and grey literature.

To include publications and creative works:

- your curriculum vitae must include a bibliographic reference of (up to) your **top five** publications only with your **ORCID number**; and
- you must provide a screenshot of the first page of these top five (5) publications or creative works/products; and
- for each publication, please provide a brief statement (up to 50 words) that outlines why your contribution to the paper was significant.

Grey literature, such as reports, policy papers or white papers, may be included but must be directly relevant to your research proposal, and show evidence of academic level research. Evidence must be provided in the form of a link or copy of the paper.

If a publication has been accepted by a publisher but not yet published, an acceptance letter from the publisher must be included.

If you do not provide supporting documentation, your publications will not be considered, and you will not receive a score for this criterion.

The criterion score is based on relevance to your project, quality of journal, authorship contribution, critical reviews and outlet recognition of creative works.

Work, Leadership & Community Experience

Professional/work experience within the past 10 years, leadership and community involvement, and/or excellence / impact such as industry / community awards or national/international recognition. These experiences must be relevant to research in the field of the proposed research degree.

- If you are using work experience as an entry qualification you must provide supporting documentation as detailed on your curriculum vitae. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide proof of their work experience.
- If you have excellence / impact experience, you must provide evidence such as links to news items, copies of awards or certificates.

You may choose to information (up to 200 words) on your skills and experience, including any community and leadership experiences, that will complement and clarify information provided in your curriculum vitae (CV).

The criterion score is based on relevance to your project, duration of experience and level of excellence/impact.

Relative to Opportunity

Achievement Relative to Opportunity is an evaluation of what you can or have achieved given the opportunities available to you.

Relative to opportunity refers to the consideration of personal circumstances (e.g. being a primary carer, living with disability), work arrangements (e.g. part-time work, adjustments, working in a different industry) and career histories (e.g. periods of leave, time since Honours/Masters) in the assessment of your research achievements.

This criterion provides us with the opportunity to make an informed and fair judgement based on your situation.

- If you have experienced an impact on your opportunity for research achievement, please provide a written statement (up to 200 words) to contextualize your research outputs and achievements relative to the opportunities that you have had to participate in research-related activities.

The criterion score is based on your unique situation.

Note that there are separate scholarships for [Access and Diversity](#) listed above. If you fall into one of those categories, please apply accordingly.

Additional Consideration

Principal Supervisors

Please discuss your application with your Principal Supervisor. Once you submit your application the Research Scholarship team will contact your Principal Supervisor for further confidential information regarding your progress and the expected quality of your thesis.

Selection Process – RTP Scholarships

All RTP Stipend Scholarships are awarded via a competitive process as outlined in Victoria University's [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Procedure](#).

Only those applications that are deemed eligible and have provided all supporting documentation will be considered.

The Scholarship Ranking Panel in each Institute ranks eligible RTP Stipend Scholarship applications based on the Selection Criteria.

Applications are assessed by cohort, International or Domestic. Within either cohort, all applications for RTP Stipend Scholarships are ranked, regardless of whether currently enrolled or newly commencing.

Based on the Final Selection Scores, the Panel agrees on a ranking of eligible applications and provides a recommendation to the Executive Scholarship Panel for all available scholarships.

The Executive Scholarship Panel reviews the ranking and recommendation to determine those applicants who will receive an offer of a stipend scholarship, and any conditions attached to an offer.

The final ranking and scholarship/award allocation is normally completed within two months of the closing date of applications.

Selection Process – Research Access and Research Diversity

All RTP Stipend Scholarships are awarded via a competitive process as outlined in Victoria University's [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Procedure](#).

In addition to the above [Selection Process](#), these applications are assessed by a separate panel comprising senior staff with experience in equality, wellbeing and inclusion.

The Executive Scholarship Panel reviews the ranking and recommendation to determine those applicants who will receive an offer for these two stipend scholarships.

Notification of Outcomes

Scholarship rounds are competitive, and we estimate that applicants will require the equivalent of 80 to 85 on the VU grading scale to be considered for a PhD stipend scholarship.

The number of stipend scholarships awarded is determined by the University funds available and the number and quality of applications in any given year.

We receive many high-quality applications and cannot provide all eligible applicants with a scholarship.

Due to the volume of applications received, we are unable to provide individual feedback on applications or advise on what scores applicants received against each of the criteria.

Successful applicants will normally receive written notification of the result of their scholarship application within two months of the closing date.

Appeals

Appeals can only be lodged if an unsuccessful applicant believes there is a breach of process in the handling of their application. Appeals against the outcome of scholarship applications must be lodged in writing to dean.gradresearch@vu.edu.au within 10 University business days of the applicant being informed of the decision. Applicants must explain the basis of their appeal and provide relevant documentation and evidence to support the appeal. The Dean, Graduate Research will undertake or arrange a review, if there is a conflict of interest, of the decision and a written outcome will be provided within 10 University business days of the date that the request was received by Victoria University. If there are any delays to the timeline for the outcome, the Dean Graduate Research will advise the applicant the reason for the delay and the date that they may receive an outcome of the review. The review is final and cannot be appealed within Victoria University

Conditions and Benefits of a Stipend Scholarship

The following is a summary of the main benefits and conditions. Successful applicants will receive a guide to the conditions and benefits of these scholarships at the time of offer. Applicants can refer to the [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Procedure](#) for full details of the benefits and conditions.

Stipend

Scholarship recipients will receive a full-time stipend at the rate listed in [Table 1](#) above.

Full-time stipend payments are currently exempt from taxation and indexed annually. Payments are made fortnightly into an Australian bank account.

Domestic holders of all scholarships may:

- Be in receipt of minor award, allowances or other earnings, which are supplementary to a scholarship, or derived from part-time work within the [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Procedure](#).
- Receive stipend top up funding from industry, or obtain from a non-Commonwealth source, provision for fieldwork, equipment and other such expenses not covered by the scholarship. Funds towards overseas travel costs may be obtained from Commonwealth awards or other sources.

RTP Fee Offset

In addition to the Stipend provided for any of the above scholarships, each scholarship holder will receive a RTP Fee Offset scholarship, if not already in receipt of one.

This will exempt the scholarship holder from paying annual course tuition fees for the **timely duration** of the enrolled degree.

Table 2. RTP Fee Offset Value in 2025

| | Minimum Annual | Maximum Annual | Minimum / Research Period | Maximum / Research Period |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Domestic | 27,300 | 33,500 | 13,650 | 16,750 |
| International | 34,200 | 40,400 | 17,100 | 20,200 |

Successful Domestic recipients must pay the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) every research period.

For successful International recipients, the Student Services and Amenities Fee is included in the course tuition fee.

Duration

All students are expected to complete their study in the timely duration for their degree per [Table 3](#).

Note that **the duration of enrolment already consumed will be deducted from the stipend duration.**

Table 3. Stipend and course durations for Higher Degrees by Research at Victoria University

| Course | Stipend Duration | Timely Duration |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Doctor of Philosophy | 3.5 years | 4 years |
| Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated) | 3.5 years | 4 years |

Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award will be deducted from the normal period of award tenure. Similarly, periods of study undertaken during suspension of the award, or undertaken during the tenure of a previous Research Training Program Stipend or Australian Postgraduate Award, will be deducted from the maximum period of tenure.

A Scholarship holder may be required to pay tuition fees for any period of enrolment in excess of the timely duration- refer to [HDR Procedure 3 Pre-Candidature and Candidature](#).

Employment

Stipend candidates are expected to normally study and research full-time (minimum of 36.75 hours per week) between the hours of 8.00am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday with Stipend candidates limited to a maximum of eight (8) hours paid employment per week during these hours. Please refer to the [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Procedure](#). Employment must not interfere with the candidate's progress.

Application Submission

Applications **NOW OPEN!**

Click [here](#) to apply.

During the application process you will need to include:

- up-to-date CV including bibliographic reference of your top five publications and [ORCID ID](#)
- supporting evidence of your publications and creative works
- mandatory documentation if applying for the Access or Diversity scholarship

Applications close **Sunday 21 September 2025** (11.59pm AEST)

Late applications will not be accepted.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Victoria University (VU) values your privacy and is committed to handling your personal information in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and other applicable privacy legislation. The personal information collected on this form will be used primarily for the purposes of assessing and processing this application. VU may also use and disclose your personal information to verify the information provided by you, to comply with government and other reporting requirements and/or to carry out associated activities connected with this application. Your personal information may also be disclosed to Commonwealth and State agencies such as the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Home Affairs in accordance with VU's obligations under the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (Cth) (**ESOS Act**), the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (**National Code**) and other applicable legislation. Your personal information will not otherwise be used or disclosed without your consent, unless permitted by law. By completing and submitting this application, you agree to VU collecting, using and disclosing your personal information as described above and in accordance with VU's Privacy Policy and Student Information Privacy Collection Statement (which provides further detail about the types of personal information VU may collect from you and how it is managed) available on the Privacy page on our website vu.edu.au/privacy

You have a right to access your personal information held by VU. If you have any questions regarding privacy, please refer to the Privacy page on our website, our frequently asked questions at ASKVU or phone us on 9919 6100 or 1300 VIC UNI (or 1300 842 864).

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