

Postgraduate Research Scholarships for Higher Degree by Research Courses 2026

Advice for Applicants

Introduction

The University of Western Australia (UWA) provides postgraduate research scholarships that support the training of domestic and international students to undertake a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) and to deliver graduates with the skills required to build careers in both academic and non-academic employment.

The allocation of scholarships is the outcome of a competitive selection process in which eligible applicants are ranked according to academic achievement and research potential, based on the evidence provided.

UWA usually holds two postgraduate research scholarship rounds per year:

- a) The International Round is typically open from July to August.
- b) The Domestic Round is typically open from September to October.
During the Domestic Round, international students who have studied and graduated/will graduate from UWA during 2024-2025 are also entitled to apply.

Scholarship Rounds

International scholarship round for commencement in 2026

Open: 1 July 2025 (9:00am AWST)
Close: 31 August 2025 (11:59pm AWST)
Ranking: 1 September – 12 October 2025
Offers from: 20 October 2025
Commencement: 2 February – 31 March 2026

Domestic scholarship round (incl UWA international students) for commencement in 2026

Open: 1 September 2025 (9:00am AWST)
Close: 31 October 2025 (11:59pm AWST)
Ranking: 1 November – 5 December 2025
Offers from: 8 December 2025
Commencement: 2 February – 31 March 2026

Eligibility

To be considered for scholarship an applicant must:

- meet the HDR course admission requirements;
- meet the UWA HDR English language competence requirements by the application deadline; and
- be available to take up an offered scholarship by the commencement date advertised for that round.

Selection criteria

Scholarships are awarded by the UWA HDR Scholarships Committee to eligible applicants after a competitive selection process on the basis of:

- academic achievement;
- research potential as evidenced by relevant research experience, research output, other research-related achievements and publications; and
- Availability of appropriate supervisors, research facilities, equipment, funding and resources.

Priority may be given to applicants who intend to enrol in a HDR for the first time, and who have not:

- previously completed a Research Doctorate or equivalent;
- previously completed a Research Masters degree or equivalent, unless intending to undertake a Research Doctorate;
- previously held an Australian Postgraduate Award, Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) or an Australian Government funded Postgraduate Research Award (excluding an IPRS and International RTP) previously, unless it was terminated within six months of commencement;
- previously been awarded, or in receipt of a stipend scholarship; a UWA International Fee Scholarship (UIFS); a Scholarship for International Research Fees (SIRF) or other scholarship designed to offset HDR fees.

Scholarships are awarded to applicants who intend to enrol as full-time students based on a campus of UWA. Approval may be given for a part-time award, where an applicant (domestic only) is able to demonstrate compelling reasons, such as a medical condition or primary care commitments, which would prevent full-time study (work is not a compelling reason for part-time award).

How to apply

Step 1: Determine whether you meet the eligibility and selection criteria.

- Check the admission requirement and course rules of your chosen course [via the Handbook](#).
- Check that you meet the English language requirement for your chosen course and/or host school via the [English language requirement](#) guidelines. Note, evidence of medium of instruction in English from your home institution is not accepted for meeting the English language requirement.

Step 2: Identify and secure academic supervisors.

The role of supervisors is to provide expert guidance to support and develop your research and monitor your progress at each stage. You will need to identify potential academic supervisors by reviewing their research profile. There needs to be a good alignment between their area of expertise and your research project.

- Search the [UWA Research Repository](#) to identify potential supervisors in your field of interest. The Repository will provide the contact details of staff.
- Use the [UWA People Finder](#) to locate the contact details of your identified potential academic supervisor/s if these are not included in the Repository.
- To seek supervision, contact potential supervisors directly with your CV, a brief outline of research and academic transcripts. Your nominated supervisor may request an interview.

For a variety of reasons, supervision may be unavailable and not all applicants will be successful in finding a supervisor.

In your application, you must provide evidence (e.g., email) that your nominated academic supervisor has agreed to supervise you. Applications without evidence of secured supervision will not be considered.

Step 3: Gather the necessary documentation.

All supporting documents must be provided at the time of application and uploaded in PDF format.

- A current resume (CV) including names and contact details of two academic referees. Referee letters are not mandatory for your application, and it is sufficient to provide referee details in your CV.
- Passport bio page, Birth certificate, Citizenship certificate, or Australian visa grant notification (if applicable)
- Evidence of name change if degree transcripts or documents are under a different name
- Evidence of meeting English language requirement
- Final official academic transcripts (including grading scale) and degree certificates for all tertiary education (including incomplete degrees). If your final academic transcripts are not yet available at the time of your application, please upload your current academic transcript that includes all units completed so far.
- Thesis or dissertation - an English transcribed version should be included but this does not need to be an official translated version
- Documents in a language other than English apart from the thesis/dissertation, must include an official translated version

Step 4: Apply

2026 Domestic RTP Scholarship Round

New applicants: Apply for your **selected course** and the **2026 Domestic RTP Stipend and Tuition Fee Scholarships** via the online [HDR application portal](#).

Note, this application is for both admission and RTP scholarships - no separate application is required for RTP scholarships consideration.

Current HDR students and applicants already holding a UWA HDR Offer Letter: You only need to apply for the scholarship via the online [Scholarship application form](#).

2026 International RTP Scholarship Round (closing 31 August 2025):

New applicants: Apply for your selected course and the 2026 International RTP Stipend and Tuition Fee Scholarships via the online [HDR application portal](#).

Current HDR students and applicants already holding a UWA HDR Offer Letter: You only need to apply for the scholarship via the online [Scholarship application form](#).

Step 5: Results

Notification of the application outcome will be sent to the email address registered in the HDR application portal.

Successful scholarship applicants will receive offers for both scholarship and admission to the HDR course.

Conditions of scholarship application:

- The scholarship round will open and close at the time advertised in Australian Western Standard Time.
- Academic documents included in the submitted application must be scanned to [UWA's specific requirements](#).
- Original transcripts and degree certificates may be requested at any time during the process to verify authenticity of submitted documents.
- A submitted scholarship application is final and cannot be returned to the applicant for editing. Requests to the University to add or delete documents in a scholarship application will not be considered.
- Late applications will not be accepted or considered.
- Applications are applicable at UWA only and remain the property of UWA.

Contact and further information

Useful links:

- Research Scholarships - uwa.edu.au/study/research/research-scholarships
- HDR Application Portal - researchdegrees.uwa.edu.au
- Guide on how to submit an application - [UWA HDR Application Portal Guide.pdf](#)
- HDR Scholarship Opportunities - researchdegrees.uwa.edu.au/scholarships
- English language requirement - uwa.edu.au/study/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements
- UWA Handbook - handbooks.uwa.edu.au/hdr
- UWA Student Policies - handbooks.uwa.edu.au/university-policies
- UWA Student Procedures - handbooks.uwa.edu.au/student-procedures

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