



INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE SCHOLARSHIP

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS) in collaboration with the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI) is offering an award known as the Indigenous Governance Scholarship ("the award").

The objective of the award is to support an Indigenous student undertake a PhD program in NCIS.

Funding for this award has been provided as part of a larger national research project that will be undertaken by NCIS and AIGI at ANU on the topic of: *Indigenous Governance for Self-Determined Development* (IGSD).

2. BENEFITS

Value: The value of the award will be stated in your letter of offer. The award will be paid in fortnightly instalments unless otherwise stated in the letter of offer.

The successful candidate will be eligible to apply to NCIS for funding that the Centre makes available, on application, to its Higher Degree by Research (HDR) scholars for the purposes of conducting their PhD/MPhil research.

Duration: The duration of a full-time award will be three years in the first instance or such period as is stated in the letter of offer.

Periods of study already undertaken for the PhD degree and periods of study undertaken for the PhD degree during suspension of the award will be deducted from the duration of the award.

Periods of paid sick leave taken in accordance with Section 38 of the *ANU Research Awards Rule 2017*, as well as paternity and maternity leave are additional to the normal duration of the award.

Extension: If eligible, a recipient may apply for an extension of the award by completing the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form. The maximum period of extension is six months and an extension may be sought where necessitated by fieldwork requirements of the research or where the project has been delayed by circumstances beyond the scholar's control and is related to the research and is not of a personal nature.

PROGRAM & SCHOLARSHIP LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

Recreation Leave: Students are entitled to a maximum of 20 working days paid recreation leave for each year of the Scholarship. Leave entitlements may be accrued over the life of the Scholarship but are forfeited when the award is terminated.

Students apply for paid recreational leave by notifying their Chair of Panel in writing.

Paid recreation leave does not extend the period of support for a scholarship.

Personal Leave: The University may approve unpaid program and scholarship leave of absence on personal grounds, which does not exceed a total period of twelve months during the tenure of the scholarship, after which the student may resume the scholarship. If the unpaid program leave of absence exceeds twelve months, the student may not be eligible for resumption of the scholarship.

An application for program and scholarship leave of absence for more than twelve months will only be considered if there are exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the recipient and must be approved by the Delegated Authority in the College.

Leave is aggregated and awarded only in one-week blocks for a full-time student and two-week blocks for a part-time student.

Students apply for unpaid leave by completing the relevant section of the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form in ISIS.

Medical Leave: Students are entitled to a maximum of 10 working days paid medical leave for each year of the scholarship. Leave entitlements may be accrued over the life of the scholarship but are forfeited when the scholarship is terminated.

Students apply for paid medical leave by notifying their Chair of Panel in writing. Paid medical leave does not extend the period of support for the leave.

In addition to the maximum of 10 working days paid medical leave for each year of the award, students are entitled to additional paid medical leave to a maximum of 60 working days for the duration of the award for periods of illness where the student has insufficient medical leave entitlements available, on provision of a medical certificate.

Medical certificates:

- (a) are signed by a registered medical practitioner;
- (b) provide the likely duration of the student's illness;
- (c) certify that the student is unable to pursue the program because of the illness.

Sick leave entitlements may be used to cover leave for students with family caring responsibilities.

Additional paid leave extends the period of support for the award. Leave is aggregated and awarded only in one-week blocks for a full-time student and two-week blocks for a part-time student.

Students apply for additional paid medical leave by completing the relevant section of the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form in ISIS.

Maternity Leave: Students who have completed 12 months of their University Research Scholarship are entitled to a maximum of 60 working days paid maternity leave for the duration of the RTP Stipend. This also applies if the student is the legal parent and primary care-giver of an adopted child:

- (a) less than five years of age;
- (b) not a step-child of the student; and
- (c) has not previously lived continuously with the student for 6 months or more.

Maternity leave extends the period of support for the award.

Students apply for maternity leave by completing the relevant section of the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form in ISIS.

Paternity Leave: A recipient who is the partner of a woman giving birth may be entitled to 5 days' paid parenting leave at the time of the birth provided the award has been held for at least twelve months at the time of application. The application for leave must be accompanied by a medical certificate confirming the date of birth.

Paternity leave extends the period of support for the award.

Students apply for paternity leave by completing the relevant section of the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form in ISIS.

Maximum Leave Entitlements

In no circumstances can the program and Scholarship leave of absence exceed two years in total (which includes personal, medical, maternity and paternity leave).

3. ELIGIBILITY

The award will be available each year to a prospective student who:

- (a) identifies as Australian Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander only; and
- (b) is able to satisfy ANU eligibility requirements for enrolment into an NCIS HDR program.

4. APPLICATION

Applications shall be called for with a closing date as set by *NCIS and AIGI* and advertised on the ANU scholarships website. The application shall be submitted on the prescribed electronic form and supporting documentation forwarded to *National Centre for Indigenous Studies* by email prior to the closing date.

5. SELECTION

Selection will be made on the basis of meeting the eligibility requirements and ability to demonstrate their experience and commitment to researching and supporting the practice of Indigenous First Nations governance in Australia at the regional, community or organisational level.

The award will be offered to a student by a selection Committee chaired by Senior Research Fellow in NCIS and will also include AIGI Chief Executive Officer and another relevant academic member of staff.

The NCIS/AIGI reserves the right to make no award if it considers there is no applicant of sufficient merit. The NCIS/AIGI may also vary the offer the award at other times in exceptional circumstances or based on the standard of applications or students (where funds allow).

6. CONCURRENT HOLDING OF AWARDS

A recipient of the award is not permitted to concurrently hold other scholarships, awards, grants and bursaries.

7. DEFERMENT

The award must be taken up no later than the date specified in the letter of offer, unless in special circumstances another date has been approved by the Delegated Authority.

8. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

The recipient is required to remain enrolled full-time in a program of study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Australian National University in the program for which the award is offered.

A part-time award may be offered or approved if the student has reasons acceptable to the University that preclude full-time study for part or all of the course of study. In such cases the University must be satisfied that the reasons relate to caring commitments, a medical condition, a disability or other circumstance which limits the student's capacity to undertake full-time study.

An award cannot be transferred to another institution or ANU College

9. SUSPENSION OF AWARD

A recipient may apply for suspension of their award. The approval of a suspension will be at the discretion of NCIS and AIGI. A suspension may be appropriate if a recipient is studying at another institution and receives an award for that study. In these circumstances the duration of the award will be reduced by the periods of study undertaken towards the degree during suspension of the award (unless the study was undertaken overseas as part of a Commonwealth Government financially supported international postgraduate research scholarship or award).

The University may suspend an award where a recipient has:

- a) outstanding fees;
- b) an outstanding debt with the University; or
- c) outstanding PhD milestone/s

An award will only be suspended once a reasonable amount of time (more than 20 working days) has passed since the fees and/or debt and/or milestones were due and once the University has advised the recipient in writing that the milestones, debt and/or fees are outstanding. Under these circumstances, the recipient will forfeit payment for the period of time that their award is suspended.

10. CESSATION OF AWARD

The award ceases:

- (a) at the conclusion of the period outlined in section 2; or
- (b) on submission of the thesis for examination; or
- (c) on the date on which the recipient withdraws or ceases to attend the University other than for approved absences; or
- (d) if a recipient is no longer meeting or has breached the conditions of award; or
- (e) if a recipient breaches academic or behavioural standards set by the University under the Academic Misconduct & Discipline Rules.

11. REPAYMENT OF FUNDS

A recipient who is taking leave from their program, or changing intensity from full-time to part-time, is expected to submit the prescribed form in a timely manner and, where possible, in advance in order to avoid receiving an overpayment of their award. In circumstances where an overpayment does occur, the overpayments will generally be recovered in line with the ANU Overpayments Procedure.

In the situation where a recipient is overpaid an amount in excess of a full fortnightly disbursement, the University may recover the overpayment by withholding future stipend payments at the same rate that the stipend was overpaid.

In cases of overpayment or outstanding financial debts to the University, service restrictions are applied to students. Service restrictions include temporarily withholding students' access to:

- (a) enrol or re-enrol in a program or course;
- (b) obtain a transcript of academic record;
- (c) acquire results of any assessment in a course or program;
- (d) receive a degree, diploma, certificate or other Award of the University.

12. PROVIDING FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

The offer of an award is based on the information provided to the University. An award may be withdrawn at any stage if incorrect, false or misleading information is provided or relevant information is withheld. This includes circumstances where the false information is unrelated to the assessment in offering the award.

13. VARIATION TO CONDITIONS OF AWARD

In exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis section 6 and/or 7 of these conditions of award may be varied by the NCIS Director on the recommendation of the Chair of the Selection Panel.

14. TAXATION & CENTRELINK

Recipients are responsible for seeking taxation and Centrelink advice regarding their own individual circumstances. Scholarships/grants/awards may be regarded as taxable income if a recipient is enrolled on a part-time basis.

For information on how your award may affect your Centrelink benefits, please refer to this website: <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/income/>

15. ACCOMMODATION

It is the recipient's responsibility to obtain residential accommodation. Information on student accommodation and application forms are available from the University Accommodation Services. Information may be found on the Web at: <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/services/accommodation>

16. PUBLICITY

The recipient may be requested to participate in publicity for the award from time to time. This may include publicity in the state or territory of residence or of schooling. Recipients may be contacted for an interview and photograph. The University may also publicise the award by publishing the names of the recipients. Arrangements for such publicity will be made through the ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies or Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Office of the University.

17. CONTACT WITH THE ANU CENTRE

All enquiries regarding the award and changes, issues, or further information after acceptance should be made to:

National Centre for Indigenous Studies
Email: diane.smith@anu.edu.au

18. DISCLAIMER

The recipient of this award is subject to *The Australian National University Act 1991* as amended, and to the Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Resolutions of the University.

The award of a scholarship/grant does not carry any commitment by the University for future employment.

These conditions of award should be read in conjunction with the University's Research Awards Rule and Candidature and Supervision Policies.

19. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, RULES & RESOURCES

ANU Research Awards Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017L01614>

ANU Overpayments Procedure – https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_000599

ANU Academic Misconduct Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2015L02025>

ANU Discipline Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2015L02046>

Thesis Allowance Requirements - <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/theses-reimbursement>

Research Scholarship Information (including reimbursement and claim forms) - <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/scholarships-support/research-scholarship-information>