



# RTP scholarship ranking principles

## Purpose

To provide an overview of the principles that inform the Australian National University competitive ranking process.

This document is to be read in conjunction with the Australian National University [Research Awards Rule 2016](#), and the Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship [policy](#) and [procedure](#).

## Definitions

**Eligible Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Program:** an accredited HDR program leading to a Doctor of Philosophy, a Master of Philosophy, or a Professional Doctorate by Research defined in Commonwealth Legislation as an accredited 'course of study'.

**RTP Scholarship types:** Students can be offered RTP scholarships for one or more of the following:

- fee offset which will pay for the tuition fees (the **RTP Fee Offset Scholarship**)
- stipend for general living costs (the **RTP Stipend Scholarship**).

## Principles

Domestic RTP Stipend scholarships and International RTP Stipend scholarships and RTP Fee Offset scholarships are awarded to top-ranked applicants through a competitive assessment process.

## Assessment

1. Eligible applicants for RTP Stipend and Fee Offset scholarships:
  - 1.1. apply by the published [deadline](#);
  - 1.2. are assessed by College-level Scholarships committees, who consider evidence that:
    - 1.2.1. they meet merit-based selection criteria;
    - 1.2.2. appropriate supervision is available;
    - 1.2.3. space and resources are available; and
    - 1.2.4. the proposed project is compatible with college research strategic priorities.

2. College-level Scholarships committees:
  - 2.1. assess applicants based on:
    - 2.1.1. academic performance; and
    - 2.1.2. research potential.
  - 2.2. In making this assessment the committees have regard to the following:
    - 2.2.1. whether the applicant has H1 (or an H1 equivalent) degree;
    - 2.2.2. prospective supervisor and location support;
    - 2.2.3. referee reports/questionnaires;
    - 2.2.4. English Language competency;
    - 2.2.5. ranking relative to other applicants.
  - 2.3. In assessing applicants committees may consider:
    - 2.3.1. referees reports;
    - 2.3.2. quality of research proposals;
    - 2.3.3. quality of previous academic and research environment (e.g. quality of University or particular School);
    - 2.3.4. evidence of exceptional performance relative to opportunity;
    - 2.3.5. relevant professional or other experience;
    - 2.3.6. evidence of adverse events which significantly affected academic record or research performance; and
    - 2.3.7. in some circumstances, interview(s) with the applicant.
3. The competitive assessment must accord with the [Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#), and the fairness requirements in Subdivision 19-D of Part 2-1 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003 ([HESA](#)).
4. Domestic students will receive a RTP Fee Offset scholarship automatically when admitted to an eligible HDR program at the University.
5. International students may be awarded a RTP Fee Offset scholarship following a competitive assessment process.

## **Offers**

6. RTP scholarship offers must be made in writing and include advice of the types of assistance and support being offered, the conditions and period of support of the RTP scholarship, and the estimated annual value of Australian Government support provided for each type of RTP scholarship support.