

# 2021 Postgraduate Research Scholarship Application Guide 2021

## Domestic (Australian Citizens/Permanent residents of Australia including New Zealand citizens) and International Applicants

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## A. Introduction

This guide is for applicants for a postgraduate research scholarship commencing in 2021 at Victoria University as part of the schemes listed in *Table 1. Annual RTP Stipend Value*. This guide is for all applicants including Domestic (Australian citizens, or for those who have been granted permanent resident status, including New Zealand citizens who are granted permanent residency status on arrival) and international applicants.

Applications will be ranked on the basis of academic merit and likelihood to complete their course in a timely fashion.

This guide covers five of Victoria University's postgraduate scholarship schemes:

- Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarships - Domestic
- Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarships - International
- Victoria University Postgraduate Diversity Scholarships
- Nigel Stepto Doctoral Research Scholarship

In addition to the above postgraduate scholarship schemes, domestic PhD applicants who are successful in obtaining an RTP Stipend Scholarship are automatically assessed for the **Vice Chancellor's Graduate Research Award**. For consideration for the Vice Chancellor's Graduate Research Award, applicants must be undertaking a PhD research project. The Vice Chancellor's Graduate Research Award is a top-up award.

*Applicants need only submit one application to be considered for a postgraduate research scholarship commencing 2021.*

All scholarships include tuition fees and a stipend for the duration of the award.

Applications are only accepted for new domestic and international applicants in the Doctor of Philosophy and Master Degrees (Research). Already enrolled candidates in a research degree at Victoria University or another Institution are ineligible to apply for this round.

Note that the following postgraduate research schemes are covered in separate guides for applicants:

- [Industry Supported Scholarships](#)
- [Moondani Balluk Research Scholarships](#)
- [Individual project-based scholarships](#)

### **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Applicants**

VU recognises that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders are under-represented in graduate research studies and encourages qualified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicants to undertake their research studies at VU.

For information on scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, please go to the [Moondani Balluk Research Scholarships website](#).

**Table 1. Annual RTP Stipend value**

Scholarship/Award	2021 Stipend	Open for <sup>2,3</sup>
Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend -	\$29,000	Domestic applicants only
Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend VU International (RTP VUI)	\$29,000	International applicants who have completed a course at Victoria University in 2018 or later
Moondani Balluk Lisa Bellear	\$35,000	Domestic applicants only
Moondani Balluk Aboriginal	\$35,000	Domestic applicants only
Moondani Balluk Gary Foley Collection	\$35,000	Domestic applicants only
VU Diversity Postgraduate Research Scholarship	\$35,000	Domestic applicants only
Nigel Stepto Doctoral Research Scholarship	\$35,000	Domestic applicants only
Vice-Chancellor's <b>Graduate Research Award</b> <sup>4</sup>	\$8,000	All successful RTPSS Domestic

## B. Research Training Program Stipend Scholarship (RTPSS) - Domestic

RTP Stipend Scholarships (Domestic) are awarded to postgraduate researchers on the basis of academic merit and research potential.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for an RTPSS - Domestic, applicants must:

- ◆ Be Australian citizens, **OR** have been granted permanent resident status (This includes New Zealand citizens who are granted permanent residency status on arrival)
- ◆ Enrol as a full-time student (Part-time awards may be available for compelling social or medical reasons)
- ◆ Have their enrolment into the proposed degree approved by the institution during scholarship ranking.
- ◆ Have an average final year or Honours year grade of H1 (VU Standard 80% or above)
- ◆ Applicants may refer to [Step 2: Check your eligibility](#) to ascertain if you meet the minimum academic entry requirements for admission
- ◆ Meet the University's English language proficiency requirements for enrolment in a research degree – see website: <http://www.vu.edu.au/international-students/apply-and-accept/entry-requirements> for further details.
- ◆ You are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for an RTP Stipend Scholarship - Domestic if you are receiving another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake the proposed program ("equivalent" stipend is regarded as more than \$21,110 per annum)

### Priority for applications

- ◆ Priority will be given to applicants who have not already completed a degree at the same level

<sup>1</sup> RTP Stipend - Domestic, Diversity and Industry Supported Scholarships are indexed annually. Figure given is 2020 rate. The 2020 rate will not be less than the rate required by the Commonwealth Government as part of its Research Training Program

<sup>2</sup> See details of eligibility below

<sup>3</sup> The part-time rate (only applicable in approved exceptional circumstances) of \$14,100 per annum (2020 rate for RTPSS - Domestic, and VU) are also indexed annually but are NOT tax exempt.

<sup>4</sup> the Vice-Chancellor's Graduate Research Award is \$8,000 per annum on top of a RTPSS – Domestic for the duration of the scholarship

The part-time rate (only applicable in approved exceptional circumstances) of \$14,100 per annum (2020 rate for RTPSS - Domestic, and VU) are also indexed annually but are NOT tax exempt.

- as or higher than the proposed candidature
- ◆ Priority will be given to applicants who are pursuing research in one of Victoria University's Priority or Accreditation Fields of Research
  - Successful RTPSS- Domestic applicants are assessed for the **Vice Chancellor's Graduate Research Award**.

Victoria University expects to offer one Vice Chancellor's Graduate Research Award commencing in 2021.

## **C. Victoria University Diversity Scholarship (VU Diversity Scholarship)**

The VU Diversity Graduate Research Scholarship provides living allowance support for a promising researcher wishing to undertake a graduate research degree. It is designed to increase the diversity of graduate researchers at VU.

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

Applicants must meet the diversity eligibility criteria to be considered for this scholarship.

### **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Applicants**

VU recognises that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders are under-represented in graduate research studies and encourages qualified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicants to undertake their research studies at VU.

For information on scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, please go to the [Moondani Balluk Research Scholarships](#) website.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for a Diversity Scholarship, applicants must:

- ◆ Be Australian citizens, **OR** have been granted permanent resident status (This includes New Zealand citizens who are granted permanent residency status on arrival)
- ◆ Provide evidence that you have experienced one or more of the following that have disrupted or adversely affected your studies:
  - ◆ Traumatic events beyond your control
  - ◆ Significant illness and/or disability
  - ◆ Socioeconomic and/or family circumstances
- ◆ Enrol as a full-time student (Part time awards may be available for compelling social or medical reasons)
- ◆ Have their enrolment into the proposed degree approved by the institution during scholarship ranking.
- ◆ Applicants may refer to [Step 2: Check your eligibility](#) to ascertain if you meet the minimum academic entry requirements for admission
- ◆ Meet the University's English language proficiency requirements for enrolment in a research degree – see website: <http://www.vu.edu.au/international-students/apply-and-accept/entry-requirements> for further details.

### **For applicants for doctoral degrees**

- ◆ Have an average grade of Distinction (or equivalent) (at least 70% VU standard) in the final year of the Honours degree or four-year undergraduate degree

### **For applicants for Masters degrees**

- ◆ Have an average grade of Distinction (or equivalent) (at least 70% VU standard) in the final year of the Bachelor's degree

You are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for a Diversity Scholarship if you:

- ◆ Have already completed a degree at the same or higher level as the proposed candidature
- ◆ Have held any Victoria University Postgraduate Research Scholarship previously unless it was terminated within six months of the commencement of benefits
- ◆ Are receiving another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake the proposed program  
(“equivalent” stipend is regarded as more than \$21,110 per annum)

In addition to providing supporting evidence, you must submit a confidential statement of no more than one page, outlining how your circumstances have adversely affected your studies and academic career.

## D. Nigel Stepto Doctoral Research Scholarship

The Nigel Stepto Doctoral Research Scholarship has been established in memory and honour of Professor Nigel Stepto (*link to Nigel's page*; <https://www.vu.edu.au/contact-us/nigel-stepto>).

Nigel was a significant contributor and leader in research and research training at Victoria University (2007-2020) specialising in exercise physiology and Women's Health in the Institute of Health and Sport (IHES). Nigel was also the Co-Deputy Director – Research Training of the Institute of Health and Sport (IHES) from 2018 until his untimely death in early 2020.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for the Nigel Stepto Doctoral Research Scholarship, applicants must

- ◆ Be Australian citizens, **OR** have been granted permanent resident status  
(This includes New Zealand citizens who are granted permanent residency status on arrival)
- ◆ Demonstrate academic excellence and conduct research that is within an area of Health research in one of the four [iHeS research programs](#)
- ◆ Enrol as a full-time student (Part time awards may be available for compelling social or medical reasons)
- ◆ Have an average final year or Honours year grade of H1 (VU standard 80% or above)
- ◆ Have their enrolment into the proposed degree approved by the institution during scholarship ranking.
- ◆ Applicants may refer to [Step 2: Check your eligibility](#) to ascertain if you meet the minimum academic entry requirements for admission
- ◆ Meet the University's English language proficiency requirements for enrolment in a research degree – see website: <http://www.vu.edu.au/international-students/apply-and-accept/entry-requirements> for further details.
- ◆ Be commencing a Master Degree (Research) or Doctoral degree in 2021.

## E. Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend VU International (RTPVUI)

The Victoria University Research Training Program Stipend VU International provides the full tuition costs, overseas student health cover and a living allowance of \$29,000 per annum (2021 rate)- see Conditions and Benefits for further information...

### Eligibility

To be eligible for a RTPVUI:

- ◆ Be a citizen of any country other than Australia or New Zealand
- ◆ Have completed a course at Victoria University in or after 2018
- ◆ Enrol as a full-time student (Part time awards may be available for compelling social or medical reasons)
- ◆ Have their enrolment into the proposed degree approved by the institution during scholarship ranking.

- ◆ Applicants may refer to [Step 2: Check your eligibility](#) to ascertain if you meet the minimum academic entry requirements for admission
- ◆ Meet the University's English language proficiency requirements for enrolment in a research degree – see website: <http://www.vu.edu.au/international-students/apply-and-accept/entry-requirements> for further details.

#### For applicants for doctoral degrees

- ◆ Have an average final year or Honours year grade of H1 (VU standard 80% or above)

Priority will be given to:

- ◆ Applicants without an equivalent level degree.
- ◆ applicants who pursue a program of study in one of Victoria University's Priority or Accreditation Fields of Research

#### For applicants for Masters degrees

- ◆ Have an average final year or Honours year grade) of H1 (VU standard 80% or above)

## F. Conditions and Benefits (Domestic awardees)

Successful applicants will receive a full guide to the conditions and benefits of these scholarships at the time of offer. The following is a summary of the main benefits and conditions.

### Scholarship Allowance

See *Table 1. Annual RTP Stipend value* for an outline of the value of living stipends for the available scholarships.

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 guidelines set out by Victoria University
- 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.

### Research Training Program Fee Offset

In addition to the scholarship allowance provided for any of the domestic above scholarships, each scholarship holder will receive an RTP Fee Offset Place. This will exempt the scholarship holder from paying tuition fees for the duration of the scholarship. Successful recipients will still have to pay the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) every semester (domestic only).

### Intellectual Property

Applicants should note that they may be required to assign intellectual property they create while working on certain research projects to the University through a formal agreement.

### Duration of the Scholarship

All students are expected to complete their study in the timely duration for their degree:

Master of Research Practice	1 year
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Master of Research	1.5 years
Master of Applied Research	2 years
Doctor of Philosophy	4 years

## Doctoral Degrees

For applicants commencing their enrolment in a research degree, the scholarship is normally for three and a half years (3.5 years) for Doctoral studies.

## Master Degrees (Research)

For applicants commencing their enrolment in a Master Degree, the scholarship is for the duration of the course (1 year for the 1 year degree; 1.5 years for the 1.5 year degree; 2 years for the 2 year degree)

If a Masters of Research scholarship holder exceeds a maximum duration of their degree, they may thereafter be required to pay tuition fees.

## Employment

Students are paid to study on a full-time basis and are only permitted to undertake a strictly limited amount of employment. Students are not permitted to undertake additional paid work for than a maximum of 15 working hours on average in any one week. Employment must not interfere with the student's progress.

## Commencement

No deferrals of the scholarship will be considered. All successful applicants are expected to commence study by end of February 2021 for Masters students and Mid-March 2021 for PhD students. If an applicant cannot start by these dates, the offer of the scholarship may be withdrawn.

## Part-time Scholarships

Part-time scholarships may be available to those who are unable to study full-time for all or part of their candidature. Part-time scholarships can only be approved only in the following specific instances:

Where the scholarship holder has:

- A medical condition which limits the capacity to undertake full-time study (supported by medical certification), OR
- Care responsibilities for a pre-school child, OR
- Care responsibilities for a school aged child as a sole parent with limited access to support, OR
- Care responsibilities for an invalid or disabled spouse, child or parent

Part-time scholarships are **NOT** available to applicants who wish to study part-time in order to undertake full or part-time employment. Part-time scholarship holders are subject to the same restrictions on employment as full-time scholarship holders. Applicants wishing to be considered for a part-time scholarship must meet the criteria listed above. Applicants must provide evidence of the reason(s) they are unable to study full time. They also require the agreement of the supervisor and the University to the part-time arrangements.

## G. Conditions and Benefits (International awardees)

Successful applicants will receive a full guide to the conditions and benefits of the VUIPRS- RTP at the time of offer. The following is a summary of the main benefits and conditions. The annual stipend value of VUIPRS-RTP are listed in Table 1.

### Scholarship Benefits – RTP Stipend Scholarship - International

Recipients of a RTPVUI receive an award with two components. A government funded RTP Fee Offset scholarship award which provides payment of annual course tuition fees for the duration of the scholarship and a living allowance funded by VU. The Australian Commonwealth Government (DIISRTE) will pay the full fee of the course of study to the institution on behalf of the student. Recipients are required to join the Overseas Student Health Care Cover (OSHC) scheme. DIISRTE will pay the costs of this health cover for holders of IPRS and their dependents, for the duration of the scholarship.

The following are NOT included:

- travel costs
- the cost of English language testing
- the cost of bridging programs or English language programs

### Intellectual Property

Applicants should note that they may be required to assign intellectual property they create while working on certain research projects to the University through a formal agreement.

### Duration of the Scholarship

All students are expected to complete their study in the timely duration for their degree.

Masters by Research	2 years
Doctor of Philosophy	4 years

### Doctoral Degrees

For applicants commencing their enrolment in a research degree, the scholarship is normally for three and a half years (3.5 years) for Doctoral studies. If a Doctoral scholarship holder exceeds a maximum duration of 4 years, they may thereafter be required to pay tuition fees.

### Masters (Research)

For applicants commencing their enrolment in a Masters by Research, the scholarship is for the timely duration of the course (2 years for the 2 year degree)

If a Masters of Research scholarship holder exceeds a maximum duration of their degree, they may thereafter be required to pay tuition fees.

### Employment 70%

Students are paid to study on a full-time basis and are only permitted to undertake a strictly limited amount of employment, depending on their visa conditions. Students are not permitted to undertake additional paid work for more than a maximum of 15 working hours on average in any one week. Employment must not interfere with the student's progress.

### Commencement

No deferrals of the scholarship will be considered. All successful applicants are expected to commence study by end of February 2021 for Masters students and Mid-March 2021 for PhD students. If an applicant cannot start by these dates, the offer of the scholarship may be withdrawn.



## H. Scholarship Selection Procedures

### Eligibility

Applications are assessed against the eligibility criteria for each of the scholarship schemes or awards that are available. A recommendation of which applications are ineligible will be sent to the Discipline Ranking Panel. The Discipline Ranking Panel will make the final decision as to which applications are ineligible.

Due to increased competition in recent years applicants are requested to provide transcripts with actual marks whenever possible. These marks may be used to distinguish between applicants of high academic merit if necessary.

### Determining first class honours

Students with the following qualifications are automatically classed as First Class Honours applicants:

- *Australian and New Zealand Bachelor's Degree with First Class Honours*
- *Australian and New Zealand Research Masters Preliminary formally graded as First Class Honours*
- *Australian and New Zealand Research Masters Degree formally graded as First Class Honours*

Where an applicant does not hold one of the above qualifications, but the Research Institute believes that the applicant has qualifications and/or research experience equivalent to First Class Honours, an assessment of equivalence is determined. The following are examples of qualifications requiring assessment:

- *Bachelors Degree with 2<sup>nd</sup> class honours as the highest qualification*
- *Research Masters Preliminary without a formal First Class Honours grade*
- *Research Masters Degree without a formal First Class Honours grade*
- *Coursework Masters Degree*
- *Graduate Diploma*
- *All overseas qualifications (except New Zealand)*
- *Other non-standard H1 Bachelors qualifications*

### Academic merit and likelihood of completing in a timely fashion

Discipline Ranking Committees rank applications on the basis of academic merit, relevant research experience, relevant research publications or creative works, relevant work experience, strategic alignment and referee reports. This ranking results in a Discipline Order of Merit list. Only those applications that are deemed eligible and have provided all required supporting documentation will be for considered for inclusion in the Order of Merit list.

The University Ranking Committee reviews the Discipline Order of Merit lists to determine a University-wide Order of Merit list to identify those applicants that are successful. All available scholarships are allocated. An assessment is made of successful applicants for the Vice Chancellor's Graduate Research Awards.

The final ranking and scholarship/award allocation is completed in early December. All applicants will receive written notification of the result of their scholarship application by mid-December 2020.

### Appeals

Appeals can only be lodged against process issues and not against Committee decisions or ranking. Appeals against the outcome of scholarship applications must be made in writing to the Chair, University Scholarship Ranking Committee within 14 days of the applicant being notified of the

outcome. Applicants must explain the basis of their appeal and provide relevant documentation and evidence to support the appeal. The appeals process will be carried out by an independent Senior University Officer who is not a member of any Discipline Ranking Committee or University Scholarship Ranking Committee that has considered the scholarship applications in a particular year. The Senior University Officer appointed will consider the appeal and advise the applicant of their decision in writing.

## I. Application Submission

Applications for the 2021 Main Scholarship Round are now open from 10 August 2020 to 11 October 2020 midnight (AEST). For applicants waiting on results from Victoria University or other Australian Institute will have until midnight (AEST) 1 November 2020 to upload your results to your application. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Apply through the [online application system](#)

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### 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](http://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).

### PRIVACY INFORMATION:

We collect and protect your personal information in accordance with our Privacy Policy [vu.edu.au/privacy](http://vu.edu.au/privacy)

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