

Industry Scholarships
for PhD & MPhil
Candidates
Information for Advisors and Candidates



JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA



At James Cook University (JCU) we are committed to building on our very strong record of working with industry and in commercialisation. There are many ways that universities and industry can work better together, to utilise the research power of a university to solve real-world business problems. This document provides information for Advisors and Candidates on what you need to know when securing HDR Scholarships from Industry partners.

How are scholarships funded?

Many of our HDR candidates will require a scholarship in order to be able to undertake a PhD or MPhil. At JCU we classify a scholarship as a living allowance or stipend. JCU receives a RTP block grant from the Australian Government annually which contributes to the cost of research training for the University. This block grant is used to fund [RTP stipends](#) and tuition fee offset scholarships with a cap of no more than 10% spent on international candidates. However, it is important that we seek external sources of funding to expand the scholarship pool so we can grow our scholarship offerings for future candidates.

How are scholarships sought?

In a range of different ways! We ask that researchers seek opportunities for HDR scholarships when they have the opportunity to do so. These could be as part of competitive grants, contract research, as part of philanthropic gifts and through industry funding scholarships outside of contract research. There are also external scholarship opportunities that candidates can look to and apply for directly to the funder. Please see the [external scholarship page](#) for more information.

JCU Connect subscribes to a funding opportunities database, "[Research Professional](#)" where Advisors and candidates can identify funding support for scholarships and research projects. JCU Connect manages the submission of proposals for research funding including competitive research grants, contract research, and research tenders, consultancies and commercialisation. Contract research happens when an organisation seeks research expertise from JCU to either lead or assist on their research project. As part of this contract research there may be an opportunity to provide a scholarship for a student on the project.

JCU encourages researchers to request scholarships from funding bodies when applying for grants via the grant application process. The GRS will guarantee scholarships for successful DECRA/Laureate/Future ARC Fellows. For more information please go to the [GRS Website](#).

[Advancement](#) at JCU looks after all our philanthropic gifts from individuals and industry in the form of donations and bequests. We have a scholarships fund that can be donated to. More information on the fund can be found [here](#).

What is the value of a HDR Scholarship?

The standard scholarship value to be used is **\$33,500 (2023)** over 3.5 years PhD/2 years MPhil. There are no on costs as for a scholarship holder as there would be for a staff member. Overheads might include project costs and general operating costs. Your College will have costings for you to refer to when thinking through these extra costs.

What types are there?

There are many different types of scholarships (living allowances) available. They could be a full scholarship, or a 50/50 scholarship, where industry provides half the scholarship and the other half is matched by JCU. If you are considering a 50/50 scholarship arrangement, please check with the GRS first so it is able to be budgeted. In the first instance, a full scholarship should always be asked for.

Top up scholarships are added to a base living stipend to support an additional amount for the candidates day to day costs of living. Top-up scholarships must be a minimum of \$5,000 per annum. These scholarships are capped at 75% of the base living stipend. Whilst attractive to the candidate, these top ups, do not help JCU to increase our scholarship pool where as full and half scholarships do.

Do I need an agreement?

Yes.

If the primary purpose of the project is to fund a MPhil or PhD scholarship, particular care must be taken with negotiating terms and conditions, which may inhibit the use of the student of the research outcomes for their assessable work (including theses) or may result in difficulties in having such assessable work examined. Where possible, the HDR Scholarship agreement template should be used.

In the first instance Please email Fiona Whittenbury, Manager HDR Partnership Development at grs.staff@jcu.edu.au to receive a copy. Then the [JCU Connect Contracts](#) team will work with the GRS, Advisor and Industry partner to assist with the negotiation of terms.

What about IP?

Intellectual property (IP) is the product of creative and/or intellectual efforts. Legal categories of IP protection include patents (for inventions), copyright (in a written work such as a thesis or journal article), trademarks (for words or phrases), design law (for new designs of products), integrated circuit layout design law (for software and circuit layouts), and plant breeder's rights (for new plant varieties). IP can be owned, assigned and licensed, however it must first be defined and protected by law and legal agreements. It is important to notify the College Dean of any IP generated within the course of your research as a candidate. The Dean may then advise the Intellectual Property Officer (defined in the **JCU Intellectual Property Policy and Procedure**) accordingly and seek protection. IP rights then determine who may or may not own, use, protect, transfer, commercialise and develop these products.

As a Higher Degree by Research candidate at JCU you are recognised as a researcher participating in our academic community. The student holds copyright of the thesis, and publications relating to the work.

When an industry partner gets involved to fund a student scholarship there may be further Intellectual property considerations. It is important that you consider the requirements of the **JCU Intellectual Property Policy and Procedure**, in particular Section 4.3.

Remember:

- JCU does not assert ownership of intellectual property created by candidates who are not engaged as employees of JCU for the performance of a project.
- Candidates who are not engaged as employees of JCU for the performance of a project are not bound by the terms of any agreement between JCU and a client.

A separate agreement between JCU and the student is required to ensure that intellectual property rights are appropriately assigned or licensed to the university and to ensure compliance with (and recognition of) JCU's contractual obligations.

How do I establish a HDR scholarship opportunity and advertise?

To activate a scholarship please complete the [scholarship establishment form](#). This gives the GRS all the information they need to be able to assist to advertise and set up the financial payments for the candidate. The GRS have produced an [info sheet](#) on how to advertise scholarship opportunities.

Who do I go to for more information?

Our guide for advisors and candidates is meant to assist you in your conversations with an industry partner to establish what is involved when supporting HDR scholarships. The Graduate Research School works with the Colleges, Advancement and JCU Connect to facilitate these scholarships where they arise and ensure they meet JCU HDR requirements.

For [fact sheets and process maps](#) on Grants

For further [HDR Industry engagement](#) opportunities for Candidates

For more information please contact:
Fiona Whittenbury
Manager, HDR Partnership Development
Fiona.whittenbury@jcu.edu.au