

TEMPLATE – ADVICE TO A CONTINUING APA AND RTS STUDENT

(Notes: Template can be modified for RTS only, IPRS only or IPRS and APA students. Highlighted text should be replaced as appropriate.)

Dear <name>

Notification of transfer to new Research Training Program (RTP)

From 1 January 2017 the Australian Government is replacing Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA), International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) and the Research Training Scheme (RTS) with a single program, the Research Training Program (RTP). As current support programs are not continuing beyond 1 January 2017, the University is required by legislation to transfer all APA, IPRS and RTS recipients to the new Research Training Program.

This notice is to inform you that as a current **RTS and APA** scholarship recipient you will be transferred to an RTP Scholarship on 1 January 2017.

RTP scholarship arrangements

To ensure you are not disadvantaged in any way, you will be transferred onto an RTP scholarship which provides equivalent support to that provided under your current **RTS and APA** scholarship.

This change will not affect your status as a graduate researcher, your rights, **your stipend**, nor your obligations. The change is simply a consequence of new legislation and will ultimately make life easier for universities and candidates alike.

As part of the change to legislation, the University is now required to inform you that the RTP is being used to offset the costs of your fees as a student of the University. This replaces the funding that was previously used to pay for your fees through the **RTS**.

A summary of your scholarship arrangements are as follows:

Previous scholarship awarded	New scholarship awarded	Period of scholarship support	Estimated annual value – Australian Government contribution	Estimated annual value – University contribution
RTS	RTP fees offset	4 years – scheduled to expire on DD/MM/YYYY	\$XX,XXX for 2017*	\$XX,XXX for 2017*
APA	RTP stipend	3 years – scheduled to expire on DD/MM/YYYY	\$26,682 for 2017**	N/A
APA (thesis allowance)	RTP allowance (thesis publication)	N/A – provided on completion of HDR	\$750	N/A

* Paid to the University from the Australian Government on your behalf - subject to variation in later years based on actual HDR expenditure

** Increased annually by Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Conditions of RTP scholarship

The conditions that apply to RTP scholarship are much the same as your current **RTS and APA**. A summary of the conditions applicable to your RTP scholarship is specified in the University's RTP Scholarship Policy at www.xxx.edu.au.

Acknowledgement of Australian Government support

As part of the new arrangements there is a legislative requirement that you acknowledge the Australian Government's support in any published materials related to your HDR. This relates to any time, both during and after completion of your HDR. Materials include items such as books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works which relate to your HDR project.

The acknowledgement must include the mention of your support through an "Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship".

Notification of Commonwealth Higher Education Student Support Number (CHESSN)

To be eligible for an RTP scholarship the University is required to issue you a CHESSN and report this number to the Department of Education and Training. If you already have a CHESSN from previous study, the number will remain the same.

Your CHESSN is: **XXX**

What do you need to do?

There is no requirement for you to respond to this notice. The University will automatically transfer you onto your new RTP Scholarship on 1 January 2017 and there will be no noticeable changes to HDR support arrangements.

Further information

A Government fact sheet on the transition to the RTP is **attached to this notice**. Further information can also be found on the Department of Education and Training's website at <https://www.education.gov.au/research-training-program>.

If you require additional information in relation to this notice please contact the University's postgraduate research on **(XX) XXXX XXXX** or email x@xxx.edu.au.

Yours sincerely