



Postgraduate student Top-Up Scholarships Scheme 2010 research students

Purpose of the scheme

Annually, each AHURI Research Centre has access to a two year Masters or three year PhD top-up scholarship funded at \$7,000 each per annum. The aims of the scheme are to attract new post-graduate students to housing and urban studies, to develop the quantity and quality of the research talent in the AHURI network and to continue to improve the standard of the AHURI research program.

Eligibility for a top-up scholarship

Students eligible to hold an AHURI postgraduate top-up scholarship are **full-time** students winning an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), an Australian Postgraduate Award Industry (APAI), or a university awarded scholarship, at a university participating in an AHURI Research Centre for studies commencing in 2009-10. Holders of an APA, APAI or university scholarship awarded prior to 1 July 2009 are ineligible for an AHURI postgraduate top-up scholarship.

The top-up scholarship is paid annually in advance, subject to satisfactory performance. At the end of each year of study, formal written notice of satisfactory performance and continuing full-time enrolment must be sent to the AHURI National Office by the relevant university.

The research topics of the scholarship holder must be directly relevant to the Policy Research Aims detailed in the 2010 AHURI Research Agenda, which can be found at: http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research_agenda_funding/research_agenda/

If a Research Centre is unable or unwilling to award the top-up scholarship to an APA or university scholarship student, it can include the top-up scholarship in an ARC Linkage grant application

Obligations of top-up scholarship holders and universities

Research Centres that comprise multiple university partners will be expected to determine at which university within the Research Centre the student will enrol.

Top-up scholarship holders are required to attend an annual Postgraduate Symposium. The Postgraduate Symposium is an event that assists in creating and fostering a housing research community for emerging researchers. Prior to their attendance at the symposium, researchers must prepare a paper for presentation to the Symposium.

The funds involved in the top-up scholarship are to be administered by the university at which the student is enrolled, with the assistance of the relevant Research Centre. This means that the funds can be dispersed in line with those made available through the student's main scholarship. The funds are fixed amounts and further funding beyond the maximum 3 year PhD (\$21,000) or 2 year Masters (\$14,000) allocation will not be available to the same student.

Retrospective awarding of top ups

Research Centre Directors may recommend students for top-ups that have already commenced their postgraduate study up to 12 months after the commencement of their scholarship. This is to allow for students that may have become eligible due to a shift towards a housing related topic, in line with the research agenda, in their consultation period. Funding will be granted to these students on a pro rata basis for the remaining period of study.

Responsibilities of Research Centres

In order to secure funding, Research Centres are asked to:

1. identify research agenda themes to be the focus of postgraduate study;
2. advertise AHURI top-up scholarships to eligible students;
3. select candidate on merit and topic;
4. upon selection of student, forward application, including details of topic, to the AHURI National Office (within the timelines outlined below);
5. develop a work plan with the student and notify timelines and plan to the AHURI National Office;
6. provide the AHURI National Office with formal notification that the student is enrolled full time and progressing as planned;
7. provide the AHURI National Office with regular and written progress reports (e.g. copies of base scholarship progress reports); and
8. upon the withdrawal of the student, provide written notice to AHURI and return the balance of the top-up scholarship within thirty (30) days of the date of the notification letter.

Taking leave, illness and extensions

The AHURI National Office must be notified as soon as practicable if a student has deferred or discontinued their studies. Students transferring to part-time candidature or to a university that is not part of an AHURI Research Centre will cease to be eligible for the top-up scholarship.

The AHURI National Office must be notified, in writing, by the Research Centre when the student is intending to take extended leave of absence (longer than 3 months), so arrangements can be made to suspend funding for the period. However, payments may continue in the case of illness. In the event that a student terminates their studies, the remaining funds not utilised will be returned to the AHURI National Office.

Disbursement of funds

The funding round is based on the financial year.

The following table provides timelines for the application and funding disbursement process:

Action	Date
AHURI 2010 Top-up scholarship funding round opens. Applications will be accepted by AHURI between 25 September 2009 and 30 April 2010, with a view to notifying the successful candidate within 21 days of the receipt of their application by AHURI.	25 September 2009
AHURI Top-up scholarship funding round closes*	30 April 2010
In the case that a Research Centre is unable to secure a suitable student by 30 April, then AHURI will negotiate with another Research Centre to fund an alternative student.	May 2010
All AHURI top-up funding contracts issued	By 30 June 2010
Notification of acceptance, or otherwise, of application.	Within 21 days of receipt by AHURI
Dissemination of year one funds to Research Centre	Within 30 days of agreement

* Where a post-graduate application is submitted for mid 2010 entry, applications may be submitted up to 8 June 2010.

Application

An application for an AHURI post-graduate top-up scholarship should contain:

- A letter to the AHURI National Office detailing the student's attendance mode, the type of full scholarship held, the date studies will commence and a statement describing the link between the student's topic and the AHURI Research Agenda and Research Centre's development plan.
- A copy of the student's proposal containing an explicit statement connecting the research to a Policy Research Aim specified in the 2010 AHURI Research Agenda, which can be found at http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research_agenda_funding/research_agenda/
- Official notification that the student is commencing studies in financial year 2009-10 (mid-year start at very latest) and that they will be enrolled full time.

Enquiries

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