



# **Top Up Scholarship Guidelines 2026**

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# 1. About AHURI

The Australian Housing and Research Institute (AHURI) is an independent not for profit national research organisation that conducts and disseminates high quality research on housing, homelessness and cities. Our activities inform the policies and practices of governments, industry and the community sector, and stimulate public debate.

Our strategic framework is:

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<b>Vision</b>	<b>Mission</b>
Better outcomes for housing and communities through credible and independent evidence	Working collaboratively to inform and impact better policy and practice in housing, homelessness and urban issues

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## **Strategic goals**

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1. Build public and professional understanding and informed dialogue on housing and cities issues
  2. Inform and influence housing policy, planning and practice across relevant sectors
  3. Inform and influence cities policy, planning and practice across relevant sectors
  4. Foster engagement across all sectors and stakeholder groups
  5. Enhance national policy and research capability
  6. Optimise the value we deliver
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Using high quality, independent evidence and through active, managed engagement, AHURI works to inform the policies and practices of governments and the housing and urban development industries, and stimulate debate in the broader Australian community.

Our Board is governed by a Constitution and comprises AHURI's Managing Director and directors nominated and appointed by our government and university funders.

## 2. About the National Housing Research Program

The National Housing Research Program (NHRP) is an annual, nationally competitive program managed by AHURI on behalf of funders and partners.

### Research funding

The NHRP is funded by the Australian Government and all state and territory governments. Under the multilateral agreement governing the management of the NHRP, AHURI is required to:

- Commission, manage and deliver balanced, high quality, solution-oriented and policy relevant research for the purposes of informing Commonwealth, State and Territory reforms and policy development
- Disseminate research findings publicly to stimulate community interest and facilitate policy debate
- Effectively engage the policy and research communities in developing research priorities and delivering and disseminating research findings
- Provide governance and reporting so that the transparency of activities, outcomes and performance are maintained.

### Research partners

Research through the NHRP is undertaken by our network of partner universities from across the country. Our current partners are:

- Curtin University
- Monash University
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- The University of Adelaide
- University of New South Wales
- The University of South Australia
- The University of Sydney
- University of Tasmania.

NHRP research is designed to foster collaboration between AHURI partners and to explore collaborative and comparative research activities with international partners.

Each of AHURI's university partners nominates a senior researcher as its Research Centre Director (RCD). The RCD plays a key coordination role between AHURI and their university's research teams. Details of current RCDs are provided on the [AHURI website](#).

### 3. Objectives and scope of Top Up Scholarships

As part of the NHRP, AHURI offers Top Up Scholarships to postgraduate research students.

One Top Up Scholarship is offered annually through each of our partner universities.

Universities are not required to provide reciprocal funding for Top Up Scholarships.

#### Objectives

In accordance with AHURI's Strategic Goal to 'Enhance national policy and research capacity', the objectives of the Top Up Scholarships are to:

- attract new postgraduate researchers in housing and homelessness
- continue to build national capacity in housing and homelessness research
- promote capacity development in AHURI's network of partner universities
- encourage ongoing participation in the NHRP.

#### Scope

Top Up Scholars receive the following direct benefits:

- annual funding of \$7,000, to a maximum of:
  - \$14,000 over two years for a Masters student
  - \$21,000 over three years for a PhD student
- annual attendance of the AHURI Postgraduate Symposium.

At the Postgraduate Symposium, students present their work to Australian and international scholars and their peers, and receive mentoring and feedback. They also attend early career researcher special interest sessions and develop professional networks.

To support students to attend the Postgraduate Symposium, the cost of travel, accommodation and catering is funded by AHURI.

## 4. Student eligibility for Top Up Scholarships

To be eligible for a Top Up Scholarship, students must be:

- studying at a NHRP partner university
- enrolled full time in a Masters research program or PhD
- conducting research relevant to housing or homelessness policy or practice
- commencing study in 2025–26
- a recipient of a Research Training Program (RTP) or a university awarded scholarship.

Holders of an RTP or university scholarship awarded prior to 16 April 2025 are ineligible for a full Top Up Scholarship unless exceptional circumstances apply.

AHURI will also consider exceptions to full-time study.

## 5. Scholarship administration

### Commencement and payments

Top Up Scholarships are administered by the recipients' university and are subject to a contract between the university and AHURI.

Top Up Scholarships are paid at set milestones, subject to satisfactory student performance:

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Masters students	PhD students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Following signing of the scholarship contract</li><li>• After the successful completion of the first year of study</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Following signing of the scholarship contract</li><li>• After the successful completion of the first year of study</li><li>• After the successful completion of the second year of study</li></ul>

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Payment at each milestone is made by AHURI on receipt of an invoice from the student's university.

### Student performance

By 30 June each year, partner universities must provide AHURI's Head of Research Program with a written notice of satisfactory performance and continuing enrolment for all Top Up Scholarship recipients.

These notices are typically provided by the RCD.

### Leave, illness and extensions

An RCD must notify AHURI in writing as soon as practicable if a Top Up Scholarship recipient:

- defers or discontinues their studies
- is intending to take any form of leave or absence for more than three months
- is impacted by any other circumstances that may make them ineligible for the scholarship.

If a Top Up Scholarship recipient terminates their studies, any unused funds are to be returned to AHURI.

## 6. Applying for Top Up Scholarships

### Selection of applicants

Partner universities are responsible for selecting their preferred Top Up Scholarship applicant and submitting an application to AHURI.

AHURI expects that RCDs will:

- widely promote Top Up Scholarships to all eligible students throughout their university
- coordinate within their university and with their colleagues to ensure fair and effective internal procedures to select each year's applicant.

In the case of there being multiple eligible applicants within a partner university, the RCD is responsible for selecting the preferred applicant.

From time to time, AHURI may have capacity to fund more than one Top Up Scholarship for a partner university. This is usually due to a Research Centre not having had a Top Up Scholar commencing the previous year. In such cases, the RCD should consult with AHURI.

### Key dates for applications

Partner universities may submit a Top Up Scholarship application at any time within the funding year.

This flexibility enables partner universities to align the promotion of Top Up Scholarships and selection of applicants with other postgraduate research timelines.

**The 2026 funding year opens on 16 April 2025 and closes on 15 April 2026.**

### Requirements for applications

Top Up Scholarship applicants are required to provide:

- a completed application form, including a research proposal clearly demonstrating the direct relevance between their research and housing or homelessness policy or practice
- evidence of enrolment in full-time Masters or PhD
- evidence of acceptance of scholarship, typically a RTP or a university awarded scholarship.



## Submission of applications

Top Up Scholarship applications must be submitted by an RCD, on behalf of an eligible student, to AHURI via email at [research@ahuri.edu.au](mailto:research@ahuri.edu.au).

Applications cannot be submitted directly by a prospective postgraduate student.

All applications for the 2026 funding year must be received by **12pm AEST Wednesday 15 April 2026**.

## 7. Further information

For further information, please contact:

Dr Rachel Trigg  
AHURI Head of Research Program  
[rachel.trigg@ahuri.edu.au](mailto:rachel.trigg@ahuri.edu.au)  
0407 016 659