

**2023 Edith Cowan University  
CHINA SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL (CSC)–ECU SCHOLARSHIP**

**OVERVIEW**

The China Scholarship Council (CSC) and Edith Cowan University (ECU) offer co-funded scholarships to students from the People’s Republic of China to undertake a doctoral program (PhD) at Edith Cowan University. Eligible doctoral programs at ECU include:

- Doctor of Philosophy (L61)
- Doctor of Philosophy Integrated (J42)
- Joint Doctor of Philosophy (L81 or L74)

This is a co-funded scholarship and these conditions (CSC-ECU PhD Scholarship) must be read in conjunction with CSC-specific scholarship terms and conditions (<https://www.csc.edu.cn>).

Where the scholarship recipient is undertaking a Joint PhD program, the scholarship conditions will be determined in accordance with the [Joint Doctor of Philosophy Programs Policy](#) and the Joint PhD Candidate agreement.

Scholarship recipients will not be enrolled at ECU when studying at the partner university. Conditions and entitlements will be apportioned between the home and host universities as outlined in the Joint PhD Candidate agreement.

**1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Candidates receiving a CSC-ECU Scholarship must:

- meet CSC selection criteria and be successful in receiving CSC scholarship funding;
- be enrolled, or have received an unconditional offer to be enrolled, and thereafter continue to be enrolled in an accredited University HDR Course, including meeting all University admission and English proficiency requirements;
- meet visa requirements, as specified by the Department of Home Affairs including the requirement to purchase and maintain an Overseas Student Health Cover policy approved by the Commonwealth (for international Candidates only);
- be enrolled as a fulltime and on-campus student at University upon commencement of scholarship;
- not be living or working outside the People’s Republic of China at the time of application; and
- not hold a research doctorate degree or equivalent.

**2. OFFERS AND ACCEPTANCE**

- The University Fees and Scholarships Office may provide an offer of a CSC-ECU Scholarship in writing to a proposed Recipient.

- b. Recipients must accept offers and commence the CSC-ECU Scholarship by the deadlines in the CSC-ECU Scholarship offer letter. If the offer is not accepted and the CSC-ECU Scholarship commenced by the relevant deadlines, the offer will lapse, and the CSC-ECU Scholarship will be rescinded.

### **3. PERIOD OF SUPPORT**

- a. The period of support for a CSC-ECU Fees Offset and Stipend commences on the relevant date set out in the Recipient's offer letter.
- b. CSC-ECU Scholarships are awarded for full-time, on-campus study only. The CSC-ECU scholarship is co-funded and comprises a CSC and ECU component.
- c. The maximum duration a scholarship recipient is entitled to the ECU scholarship component is:
  - 4 years (48 months) tuition fee offset; and
  - 3.5 years (42 months) stipend payments from the commencement date as verified by the Principal Supervisor.
- d. The duration of a CSC-ECU Joint scholarship will be reduced by any period of study undertaken:
  - towards the degree prior to the commencement of the scholarship; or
  - at a partner university if in a Joint-PhD program; or
  - towards the degree during non-voluntary suspension of the scholarship.

### **4. SCHOLARSHIP SUSPENSION**

- a. Course Intermission
  - i. If a Recipient intermits from their Course, their CSC-ECU Scholarship will be automatically intermitted for the same period.
  - ii. International Recipients should note that Course intermission may have visa implications. International Recipients considering Course intermission should seek guidance from Student Success via [enquiries@ecu.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@ecu.edu.au)
- b. Scholarship Suspension
  - i. This paragraph applies when a Recipient continues to be enrolled in Units for their Course but wishes to apply for a CSC-ECU Scholarship suspension.
  - ii. CSC-ECU Scholarship suspension is not permitted until a minimum of one teaching period has been completed, unless in Exceptional Circumstances and approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or nominee.
  - iii. If a Recipient wishes to cease, rather than suspend their scholarship, they are required to notify the Scholarships Office that they intend to terminate the CSC-ECU Scholarship. If a CSC-ECU Scholarship is terminated, Recipients will be required to reapply should they later wish to recommence the CSC-ECU scholarship. There is no guarantee of course entry or scholarship availability.
  - iv. Recipients may suspend their CSC-ECU Scholarship (including for Course intermission) for a maximum of 12 months during their Candidature. This period may only be extended beyond 12 months in Exceptional Circumstances as approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or nominee.
- c. Suspension of CSC-ECU Stipend by School / Teaching Area

- i. The Director, Research Services or nominee may suspend or reinstate CSC-ECU stipend payments upon the relevant Associate Dean (Research)'s recommendation if Recipients have been absent (but remains enrolled) without leave or approval. The Director, Research Services or nominee may stipulate a period of suspension, and conditions required to be satisfied in order for payments to be reinstated.
- d. Voluntary suspension of CSC-ECU Stipend
  - i. Recipients may voluntarily suspend or cease their CSC-ECU Stipend without intermitting their Course or varying their candidature.
  - ii. Periods of study undertaken towards the HDR Course during suspension of the CSC-ECU Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum period of support.
- e. Requests for scholarship suspensions should be made via the University's Prescribed Processes at the earliest opportunity.
- f. A Recipient who is suspended pursuant to any University Rule, including the [Admission, Enrolment and Academic Progress Rules](#), the [Academic Misconduct Rules \(Students\)](#) or the [General Misconduct Rules \(Students\)](#), will also have their CSC-ECU Scholarship suspended for the equivalent period.

## **5. ELIGIBLE RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS**

- a. The Dean, Graduate Research, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, may approve a Recipient to undertake an Eligible Research Internship. An Eligible Research Internship must:
  - i. be a minimum of three calendar months in duration;
  - ii. include 60 full-time equivalent days of engagement in research and development activities undertaken by the Recipient;
  - iii. be related to the student's doctorate area of research; and
  - iv. be documented in accordance with section 1.4.13 of the [Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#).
- b. An Eligible Research Internship may be undertaken on-campus, onsite with a research end-user, or online, and may be part-time or full-time.
- c. An Eligible Research Internship may be undertaken during a period of enrolment or suspension.
- d. If an Eligible Research Internship is not undertaken during a period of suspension, the University may ensure continued scholarship during the Internship. A candidate will only be eligible for continuation of the scholarship if they are not provided a similar value salary, stipend or equivalent as part of the internship. If approved, the University will provide, after the Period of Support has expired, an additional period of scholarship and an extension of candidature. The additional period and extension will:
  - i. only be awarded for a completed Eligible Research Internship, unless non-completion is outside of the reasonable control of the Candidate;
  - ii. be equivalent to the number of full-time equivalent days (plus relevant reckoning of weekends) of internship completed by the Candidate outside of a period of suspension;
  - iii. be for a maximum of 90 calendar days; and
  - iv. only be awarded provided that the Recipient remains enrolled during the additional period and has not submitted their thesis.

## **6. VISA REQUIREMENTS**

- a. It is the responsibility of CSC-ECU scholarship recipients to ensure that their student visa is valid. CSC- ECU scholarship holders planning to depart and return to Australia during their course should ensure they hold a valid visa for re-entry into Australia.
- b. All international students studying in Australia are required to purchase and maintain Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of their student visa. It is the responsibility of scholarship recipients to ensure that their health cover is current.

## **7. VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP AND PAYMENTS**

- a. The Recipient's offer letter must stipulate the value of the proposed CSC-ECU Scholarship.
- b. CSC contribution for the scholarships, full-time and on campus are:
  - i. A living allowance as prescribed by the Chinese Government (2020 indicative rate: AUD \$22,800 per year). The CSC living allowance will be paid directly to the scholarship recipients by the CSC;
  - ii. Single overseas student health cover insurance;
  - iii. A return international airfare to Perth, Australia via the route specified in the scholarship offer; and
  - iv. Reimbursement of the initial visa application fee.
- c. ECU contribution for the scholarships, full-time and on campus are:
  - i. A living allowance top-up to the current ECUHDR scholarship stipend allowance up to a maximum of 42 months. Fortnightly payments of the top-up stipends will be made directly to Recipients to an Australian Approved Deposit-taking institution (such as an Australian bank); and
  - ii. Tuition fee offset for the entire period of their PhD studies up to a maximum of 48 months.

## **8. TERMINATION**

- a. Benefits will cease on the date of termination of the CSC-ECU Scholarship. If a scholarship is terminated it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error.
- b. A CSC-ECU Scholarship will be terminated:
  - i. on initial submission of the thesis for examination;
  - ii. if the Recipient ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in these Conditions of Award;
  - iii. if the Recipient ceases to be a full-time and on campus Recipient and approval has not been obtained to hold the CSC-ECU scholarship on a part-time basis from both the Chinese Scholarship Council and the University;
  - iv. upon death, incapacity or withdrawal of the Recipient from the University;
  - v. if the Recipient does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of Course intermission, or does not make arrangements to extend the period of Course intermission;
  - vi. once the maximum duration of the period of support has been reached;

- vii. if the University determines that the Recipient has breached the terms and conditions of the CSC-ECU Scholarship as determined by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or nominee; or
  - viii. in the event the Recipient's enrolment in the Course is terminated for any reason, subject to any right to provisional enrolment.
- c. The University may seek reimbursement of CSC-ECU Scholarship payments where there is a breach of these Conditions of Award, or if the Recipient does not meet the relevant CSC-ECU Scholarship criteria.

## **9. ERRONEOUS OVERPAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP**

- a. A Recipient who is changing their enrolment, intermitting, taking leave or any other changes that may influence their scholarship are required to submit the appropriate approval form in a timely manner and, where possible at least 4 weeks in advance in order to avoid receiving an overpayment of their HDR Scholarship.
- b. In circumstances where an overpayment of a HDR Scholarship occurs, the Recipient must refund the overpayment to the University, unless the University determines otherwise.

## **10. OUTSIDE WORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- a. Full-time Recipients can undertake part-time employment, a paid research fellowship, an industry placement, or other enrichment activities ("**Outside Work**"), on condition that the Outside Work undertaken does not interfere with the progress of the Recipient's study program. An Eligible Research Internship (refer to Condition 5) is not considered Outside Work.
- b. Recipients intending to undertake Outside Work must complete a [HDR Living Stipend Employment Entitlement Request](#) form, and obtain the prior written approval of the Recipient's Principal Supervisor and Associate Dean (Research). Before approval is given, the Principal Supervisor and Associate Dean (Research) must be satisfied that the Outside work will not interfere with the Recipient's study program or contravene the terms of any agreement the Recipient or ECU may have with an Industry Collaborator who is providing support for the Recipient's HDR studies.
- c. Recipients who undertake a paid research fellowship, industry placement or other similar enrichment activity may be required to apply to suspend their CSC-ECU Scholarship Stipend for the duration of the activity. A candidate will only be eligible for continuation of the scholarship if they are not provided with a salary or comparable stipend from any other source, which is equal to or above the rate of the relevant CSC-ECU Scholarship stipend, during the activity.
- d. It is expected that part-time work between Monday and Friday (9am to 5pm) should not exceed an average of 8 hours per week over a 6-month period (January to June or July to December). The total number of hours worked in each 6-month period between Monday and Friday should not exceed 208 hours.
- e. In Exceptional Circumstances, with the endorsement of the Candidate's Principal Supervisor, the Associate Dean (Research) may approve additional hours of paid employment if a case can be made that the additional employment has a direct benefit to

the Recipient's Course (for example practicum or industry experience) and will not interfere with progress. The Recipient's research proposal and ethics approval should be formally confirmed before considering additional work. Where additional paid employment is approved, the arrangements must be reviewed each academic semester for continued approval.

- f. The Recipient must keep a record of their working hours and discuss with their Principal Supervisor. Recipients should note either the average hours they worked each week or the total number of hours they worked over the previous 6-month period, including the kind of work that was undertaken. Recipients should also specify the average or total number of hours they intend to work in the coming 6-month period, and if more than the 208 hours allowed, seek approval from the relevant Associate Dean (Research).
- g. Recipients accepting employment as lecturers or tutors are reminded to consider additional work completed outside of face-to-face delivery. Given considerations for paid preparation eight hours of face-to-face lecturing or tutoring per week is not permitted.

## **11. ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

- a. Recipients are permitted to:
  - i. obtain funds from other sources for fieldwork, equipment or other expenses not covered by the CSC-ECU Scholarship;
  - ii. obtain funding for overseas travel costs from other Australian Government awards or any other sources;
  - iii. receive income derived from part-time work undertaken within the guidelines set out under the Employment section of these guidelines; and
- b. The University may provide travel insurance cover for personal accident and sickness, hijack and detention, baggage/business property, travel documents, etc. for Recipients travelling with the University's prior authorisation.

## **12. LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS**

Recipients may be eligible for a range of paid and unpaid leave. Leave entitlements are separated into short-term and extended leave. Applicants applying for leave that may influence their scholarship or payments must submit their application as early as practicable to avoid an erroneous payment (refer to Condition 9 – Erroneous Overpayment). Recipients who are already on intermission are ineligible to apply for any leave entitlements.

- a. Short-term leave

Short-term leave includes Annual Recreation Leave and Sick Leave. All short-term leave entitlements are included within the period of support. Normal stipend payments will continue throughout periods of short-term leave.

  - i. Annual Recreation Leave
    - Full-time enrolled Recipients are entitled to up to 20 working days of annual recreation leave in each year of the CSC-ECU Scholarship Stipend. Recipients on part-time enrolment are entitled to pro-rata annual recreation leave.
    - Annual recreation leave days may be accrued to be used in another year; however, the Recipient will forfeit without compensation any unused leave

remaining when the scholarship is terminated or expires.

- Recipients should submit a request for annual recreation leave prior to the leave using the [online portal](#) which will be reviewed by the Principal Supervisor and in line with School/Teaching Area requirements for Recipient leave.
- Recipients are required to report the number of days of annual recreation leave taken on each Progress Report.

ii. Sick Leave

- Recipients may take up to a total of 10 working days of sick leave each year. Recipients on part-time enrolment are entitled to pro-rata sick leave.
- Sick leave days may be accrued and used in subsequent years; however, the Recipient will forfeit without compensation any unused leave remaining when the scholarship is terminated or expires.
- Sick leave entitlements may be used to cover Recipients to provide care or support for an immediate family member or household member because of personal illness, injury or unexpected emergency affecting the member, or because the member is experiencing the effects of family or domestic violence.
- Recipients are required to report the number of days of sick leave taken on each Progress Report. For periods exceeding 2 consecutive days, Recipients must provide a medical certificate upon their return from sick leave to their School/Teaching Area and upload a medical certificate with their Progress Report. Medical certificates must be provided by a medical practitioner or other approved and registered health professional (excluding chemists).
- The period of support will not be extended for sick leave.

b. Extended leave

Extended leave includes Parental and Partner Leave and Additional Sick Leave. The period of support for Recipients with approved Extended Leave will be increased by the length of the approved leave. Recipients will continue to consume Candidature during their Extended Leave, but Candidature will be extended by the length of the approved Extended Leave.

Recipients who choose to intermit their studies following a successful application to take Extended Leave may be entitled to continue receiving their scholarship during the period of any approved Extended Leave, subject to approval from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or nominee.

i. Parental and Partner Leave

- Paid and unpaid Parental and Partner Leave is available to Recipients on the birth or legal adoption of a child under 5 years of age.
- Primary caregivers, who have completed 12 months of their scholarship, are entitled to a maximum of 18 weeks paid parental leave (pro-rata for part time scholarship Recipients).
- Recipients who are not the primary care giver, and have completed 12 months of their scholarship, are entitled to a maximum of 2 weeks paid Partner Leave (pro-rata for part time scholarship recipients).
- Recipient must advise the Scholarships Office at least 4 weeks before the commencement of Parental or Partner Leave, and apply for leave by including:

- Notice of their intention to take Parental or Partner Leave and the dates of such leave;
  - For the birth of a child, a certificate from a medical practitioner or midwife stating that the Recipient or Recipient's partner is pregnant and the expected date of birth;
  - For an adoption, sufficient verifiable evidence of adoption.
  - Recipients who have not completed 12 months of the award may access unpaid partner leave through the voluntary suspension provisions outlined in these conditions (refer to Condition 5 – Scholarship Suspension).
- ii. Additional Sick Leave
- If all short-term leave has been used, Recipients may be eligible for additional paid sick leave of up to 60 working days. Part-time Recipients are eligible for pro-rata additional paid sick leave entitlements.
  - Recipients must provide a medical certificate in a timely manner to their School/Teaching Area. Medical certificates must be verifiable and provided by a medical practitioner or other approved and registered health professional (excluding chemists).
  - Recipients are required to report the number of days of additional sick leave taken on each Progress Report.
  - The Recipient will not be entitled to any compensation for unused additional sick leave remaining when the scholarship is terminated or expires.
  - With approval, additional sick leave entitlements may be used to support Recipients when providing care or support for an immediate family or household member during periods of personal illness, injury, unexpected emergency or the family or domestic violence.

### 13. OFF-CAMPUS OR OVERSEAS RESEARCH

- a. In order to receive a CSC-ECU Scholarships, Recipients must be completing their studies full-time and on campus, unless otherwise approved by the Dean, Graduate Research or nominee.
- b. The Dean, Graduate Research or nominee may, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, approve Recipients conducting their research off-campus or overseas if:
- i. enrolled in an approved Joint or collaborative partner HDR course/program;
  - ii. the research is essential for completion of the thesis;
  - iii. there will be continued regular supervision;
  - iv. the Recipient will comply with all scholarship and course enrolment conditions; and
  - v. the work will be credited to the Recipient's course.
- c. A Recipient planning to undertake research overseas must comply with the University's [Authorised University Travel Policy](#), including obtaining any relevant approval of their insurance arrangements. Please refer to the [Travel requirements](#) website for more information.
- d. Where the Recipient is undertaking a Joint PhD, these Conditions of Award may be modified with approval from the Dean, Graduate Research, having regard to prevailing



university policies on educational partnerships and any agreements between the University and the joint PhD partner.

#### **14. SCHOLARSHIP VARIATIONS**

- a. No extension is possible for the ECU living allowance top up and tuition fees.
- b. CSC-ECU Scholarships are not transferable to another provider or institution.
- c. Change of Research Area or Transfer of Course
  - i. Subject to the usual practices of the University, a Recipient may change their research area or transfer from a Course originally indicated at the time of being awarded a CSC-ECU Scholarship, provided appropriate supervision is available. The transfer must be accommodated within the original tenure of the CSC-ECU Scholarship (i.e. no extension of the scholarship will be approved for a change in research area or course alone).
  - ii. There may be visa implications for a change in course. Recipients should seek guidance from Student Success via [enquiries@ecu.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@ecu.edu.au).

#### **15. PROVISION OF FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION**

- a. If the University knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that a HDR Scholarship Recipient has provided false or misleading information to the University in relation to the HDR Scholarship, the University:
  - will immediately reassess the Recipient's entitlement to the HDR Scholarship;
  - may terminate the HDR Scholarship; and
  - is responsible for notifying the Department of Education or Department of Home Affairs, where relevant, of the suspected false or misleading information, and providing a copy of the Recipient's application or other relevant information.

#### **16. REVIEW**

- a. The University's Admission, Enrolment and Academic Progress Rules contain provisions to enable Recipients who are dissatisfied with the assessment of their academic work or academic progress to appeal against those decisions.
- b. Subject to section 2(a), a Recipient (or prospective Recipient) who has reason to believe that the University has acted outside of these Conditions of Award may ask the Dean, Graduate Research or nominee to review the relevant decision or omission within 14 days of it occurring.
- c. In conducting the review, the Dean, Graduate Research or nominee may, but is not obliged to:
  - i. consult with any relevant Staff member;
  - ii. seek advice from relevant subject matter experts within the University;
  - iii. consult with and seek further information or documentation from the Recipient;
  - iv. consider any information or documentation available to them at the time of the review; and
  - v. rely on any information, guidance or standards (if any) provided by the Australian Government or industry.

- d. Within a further 14 days (or such longer timeframe as may be reasonable in the circumstances and communicated to the Recipient or prospective Recipient), the Dean, Graduate Research or nominee will confirm in writing the outcome of the review including reasons for any decision made.
- e. The review outcome is the final avenue of review within the University in relation to determinations made under these Conditions of Award.
- f. Recipients may also access the University's [Complaints Policy and processes](#).

## **17. GENERAL**

- a. For detailed information on the conduct of research degrees, Recipients are referred to the [Research Forms, Policies and Guidelines](#).
- b. For details of academic regulations, including grievance resolution, Recipients are referred to [Student Information](#).
- c. The Scholarships Office will administer the HDR Scholarship, monitor Recipient progress, and arrange payment of all entitlements to Recipients.
- d. The [University Glossary](#) applies to these Conditions of Award for any capitalised terms that are not definition in these Conditions of Award.
- e. These Conditions of Award may be varied by the University with the approval of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), to reflect current university rules, policies and processes, to reflect changes to HDR Scholarship support, or where required by changes in law, regulations, or reporting requirements.
- f. A reference to a statute or other law includes regulations and other instruments under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them.
- g. A reference to ECU policy, procedures or guidelines includes any consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them.