1. **AUSTRALIAN POSTGRADUATE AWARD (APA)**

The Department of Education funds Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA). APAs are awarded to postgraduate researchers with exceptional promise on the basis of academic merit and research potential. They will be available to applicants intending to commence in 2016 or who are currently enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research program.

1.1 **Eligibility Criteria**

Eligibility for 2016 has not yet been confirmed but as a guide the eligibility criteria for 2015 commencement was available to those applicants who:

1.1.1. Are Australian or New Zealand citizens entitled to stay in Australia, or to enter and stay in Australia as an Australian permanent resident, without any limitation as to time, or an international student with an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS).

1.1.2. Have completed a Bachelor Degree with First Class Honours or can demonstrate an equivalent level of academic attainment through previous study, relevant work experience, research publications, referee’s reports and other research experience.

1.1.3. Will commence a Masters by Research or Research Doctorate in 2015, or is currently enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research program.

1.1.4. Are enrolling as a full-time student or, in exceptional circumstances, be granted approval by CSU for a part-time award in line with the criteria detailed in 1.1.5.

1.1.5. Have had their enrolment into the proposed Higher Degree by Research program accepted by CSU.

Awards were not available to those who:
- Receiving another equivalent award, scholarship or salary from the Australian Government or its statutory authorities;
- Have already completed a degree at the same, or higher, level;
- Have previously had more than 6 months of a Commonwealth–funded postgraduate research scholarship.

The University will rank applicants by academic merit. The applicant’s place in the order of merit will not be affected by age, proposed area of research or study or having applied to another institution.

1.2 **Benefits**

1.2.1 **Stipend**: Currently $25,849 per annum (2015 rate) and at present considered tax exempt. Stipend is indexed each year by the Department of Education. 2016 rate is yet to be announced.

1.2.2 **Relocation Allowance**: Scholarship recipients may be eligible for a relocation allowance in addition to the annual stipend for the cost of relocating themselves, their spouse and dependants to a new place of residence where this is necessary to enable the student to undertake the Masters by Research or Research Doctorate.

1.2.3 **Thesis Allowance**: Can be claimed after submission of thesis on production of receipts for both the soft and hard bound thesis. Claims must be made within twelve (12) months of submission of the thesis and no longer than twenty four (24) months after the expiry or termination of the scholarship.

1.2.4 **Tuition Fees**: All domestic APA holders are exempt from fee liability under the Research Training Scheme (RTS) for a maximum of two (2) years full time equivalent for a Masters by Research and 4 years full time equivalent for a Research Doctorate. International APA holders would be awarded an IPRS for a maximum of three (3) years.

1.2.5 **Operating Funds**: Scholarship recipients are allocated an allowance per session of enrolment to assist with the reimbursement of costs associated with conducting their research studies.

1.3 **Duration of Scholarship & Leave Entitlements**

1.3.1 The award is normally for two (2) years for Masters by Research and three (3) years for Research Doctorate. Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to commencement in the APA, will be deducted from the period of tenure.
1.3.2 An extension of up to six (6) months may be granted for Research Doctorate candidates where the University is satisfied that the extension is based on grounds which are beyond the control of the candidate and related to their research rather than of a personal nature.

1.3.3 Scholarship recipients are entitled to twenty (20) days paid recreation leave per year calculated on a pro-rata basis. Students are also entitled to up to ten (10) days paid sick leave per year and may be eligible for up to twelve (12) weeks paid maternity leave within the tenure of the award.

2. CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (CSUPRS)
Charles Sturt University Postgraduate Research Scholarships (CSUPRS) are awarded to applicants studying towards a Masters by Research or Research Doctorate degree. They are available to applicants intending to commence in 2015 or currently enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research program.

All Criteria for the Australian Postgraduate Award applies to the Charles Sturt University Postgraduate Research Scholarship with the following exceptions:-

2.1 Eligibility Criteria
2.1.1 There is no nationality restriction relating to these awards.

2.1.2 Applicants should hold, or expect to hold, at least a Bachelor degree with upper second class honours or a qualification deemed equivalent.

2.2 Transferability
A Charles Sturt University Postgraduate Research Scholarship is NOT transferable to another university.

2.3 Tuition Fees
- Domestic CSUPRS recipients are exempt from tuition fees under the Research Training Scheme (RTS).
- International applicants awarded a CSUPRS but not an IPRS will automatically be awarded CSU International Tuition Payment scholarship (CSUITP) for the duration of the CSUPRS.

3. INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (IPRS)
The Department of Education funds Charles Sturt University to provide tuition fee support scholarships for international HDR students in Australia. The purpose of these scholarships is to attract top quality international postgraduate applicants to areas of research strength to participate in postgraduate research programs in Australia. Eligibility for 2016 has not yet been confirmed but as a guide the eligibility criteria for 2015 commencement was available to those applicants who:-

3.1 Eligibility Criteria
3.1.1 Citizens of countries other than Australia and New Zealand and are an overseas student are eligible to apply.

3.1.2 Those who are commencing full-time enrolment for the first time in a Higher Degree by Research program at an Australian Tertiary Institution

3.1.3 Those who have held a research qualification equivalent to an Australian Research Doctorate or if undertaking a Research Masters, not hold a research qualification equivalent to or higher than an Australian Research Masters.

An IPRS cannot be awarded to an applicant who has either held an AusAid scholarship within two (2) years prior to commencing the IPRS or is receiving a scholarship for which course tuition is a component under any scholarship scheme that the Australian Government makes a substantial contribution to.

3.2 Benefits
3.2.1 The scholarship will cover tuition fees payable for each year of the course. The duration of the scholarship is normally two (2) years for Masters by Research and three (3) years for Research Doctorates. An extension may be granted in certain circumstances.
3.2.2 Holders of an IPRS and their dependents are provided with basic Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). The scholarship does not provide financial support for the cost of English language testing, bridging programs or English language programs, nor does it provide a living allowance or allowances covering other expenses.

Holders of an IPRS are permitted to hold jointly an APA and IPRS or a CSUPRS and IPRS.

4. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRE (URC) SCHOLARSHIPS

CSU has six (6) University Research Centres. Annually up to two (2) University Research Centre (URC) Scholarships are awarded per URC to applicants whose research area is relevant to the key research objectives of a CSU URC. Eligible applicants must also be studying on a full-time basis towards a Masters by Research or Research Doctorate degree. URC scholarships are available to applicants intending to commence in 2015, or are currently enrolled, in a Higher Degree by Research program.

All Criteria for the Australian Postgraduate Award applies to the University Research Centre Scholarships with the following exceptions:-

4.1 Eligibility Criteria

4.1.1 University Research Centre scholarships are only available to Australian and New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents.

4.1.2 An applicant’s proposed research is to be aligned with the key objectives of the University Research Centre. To determine if your proposed research is in line with the key objectives of a URC please refer to section 4.4 About the Centres – Determining the URC Key Research Objectives

4.1.3 Applicants should hold, or expect to hold, at least a Bachelor degree with upper second class honours or a qualification deemed equivalent.

4.2 Transferability

A University Research Centre Scholarship is NOT transferable to another university.

4.3 Value of Stipend

Each URC scholarship offers a stipend at the same rate as the APA and CSUPRS with the exception of the URC – Graham Centre. A scholarship recipient of the URC – Graham Centre scholarship stipend rate is the current APA/CSUPRS stipend rate plus $5,000 per annum

4.4 About the Centres – Determining the URC Key Research Objectives

To determine if your proposed research area is aligned with one of the URCs please refer to each of the URC websites.

4.3.1 Centre for Applied Philosophy & Public Ethics (CAPPE)  
http://www.cappe.edu.au/

4.3.2 Graham Centre  
http://www.csu.edu.au/research/grahamcentre/

4.3.3 Institute for Land, Water and Society (ILWS)  
http://www.csu.edu.au/research/ilws

4.3.4 National Wine & Grape Industry Centre (NWGIC)  
http://www.csu.edu.au/nwgic/

4.3.5 Public & Contextual Theology (PACT)  
http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/theology/pact/

4.3.6 Research Institute for Professional Practice, Learning and Education (RIPPLE)  
http://www.csu.edu.au/research/ripple/home
5. APPLYING FOR A HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

5.1 How to Apply & Application Closing Date

Applications for all scholarships will be opened in late August/early September. The application form will be an online application.

6. APPLYING FOR ADMISSION TO A HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Applying for a HDR scholarship is a separate process to applying for admission to the University. Applicants awarded an Offer of Scholarship cannot access the scholarship entitlement until they have been made and accepted an Offer of Admission into a HDR program.

An Offer of Scholarship is only valid with an offer of Admission.

It is recommended that you commence the process of applying for Admission prior to or at the same time that you submit your Higher Degree by Research Scholarship application.

7.1 How to Apply - Domestic & International Applicants

To apply for Admission into a Higher Degree by Research program you need to refer to the following web link and apply online: [http://www.csu.edu.au/apply](http://www.csu.edu.au/apply)

7. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS FOR CENTRALLY FUNDED HDR SCHOLARSHIPS – A GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

OVERVIEW

The primary goal in providing scholarships for candidates to undertake higher degrees by research (HDR) is to attract and facilitate the progress of high quality students whose research interests align with the strategic priorities of the University.

There are a number of indicators used to assist in assessment and ranking of scholarship applications; these are outlined briefly below. Applicants may wish to consider these when preparing an application for scholarship funding to ensure that clear, relevant detail is provided in their submission.

PROCESS OF ASSESSMENT AND ALLOCATION OF AWARDS

Preliminary assessment and ranking of scholarship applications is completed within the relevant Faculty and/or Research Centre. These preliminary assessments provide insight from the areas close to where a prospective HDR candidate may undertake their research project. The assessment takes into account the academic credentials and achievements of each applicant, their demonstrated research capacity and allows for prioritisation of strategic areas by Faculties as outlined below.

Advice from these assessment processes is then integrated and forwarded to the University Scholarships Committee. Consistent with scholarship assessment across the Australian Higher Education sector, this assessment system is used as an initial guide to support the deliberations of the University Scholarship Committee.

The University Scholarship Committee is chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research Development and Industry) or their nominee and comprises members of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The role of the Scholarships Committee is to –

- Recommend to the RAC criteria and selection procedures for the award of centrally funded awards, such as the Charles Sturt University Postgraduate Research Scholarships (CSUPRS), Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA), International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS), International Tuition Payment Awards (ITP) and University Research Centre Scholarships (URC);
- In accordance with the approved criteria and selection procedures, conduct the ranking of candidates for postgraduate research scholarships on behalf of the RAC;
- Submit recommendations to the RAC and the Academic Senate relating to the award of postgraduate research scholarships.

CRITERIA FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

As noted above, scholarships are designed to facilitate the progress of high quality students who benefit from and add to the research culture at the University. Allocation therefore seeks to identify candidates with: demonstrated capacity to undertake a higher degree by research; demonstrated capacity to achieve a timely completion; and research interests that align with the strategic priorities and supervisory capacity of the University. The criteria are reviewed each year and for scholarships commencing in 2016 the criteria is yet to be confirmed.

In summary, applications for commencement in 2015 were assessed against three key areas:
- Academic merit as an indicator of capacity makes up around 70% of the assessment. This assessment considers the nature and level of the applicant's highest, relevant qualification as well as the grade point average (GPA) achieved in that program.
- Evidence of an applicant’s research achievements and relevant professional experience can contribute up to around 15% of the assessment. This includes such aspects as peer-reviewed research outputs, high esteem academic awards and prizes, relevant research or professional experience.
- Alignment with strategic research priorities contributes up to around 15% of the assessment. This includes demonstrated alignment in skills through previous academic study and/or employment; having made contact with potential supervisors and identification/description of a preliminary research proposal.

**GENERAL RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS**
The following links may assist prospective scholarship applicants.

The range of HDR programs at CSU and information on how to apply for admission: [http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/research-higher.degrees](http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/research-higher.degrees)

About research at CSU and finding a supervisory: [http://www.csu.edu.au/research/support/research-students/my-hdr](http://www.csu.edu.au/research/support/research-students/my-hdr)

Key contacts: [http://www.csu.edu.au/research/contact-us](http://www.csu.edu.au/research/contact-us)