A. Objectives of the scheme
The Higher Degree by Research Publications Grant (HDRPG) scheme is designed to support research degree candidates to disseminate their research findings to a wider public through publication in professional journals or books.

The scheme provides a modest income, equivalent to the APA rate, to researchers to enable them to prepare publications (scholarly, refereed articles or books) based on their submitted thesis/project for a research degree. The scheme aims to encourage research candidates to prepare papers for publication without jeopardising their progress towards thesis/project completion.

The HDRPG provides support for candidates who, having submitted their thesis/project, plan to write their research for publication while they await the result of their examination. Thus the grant is explicitly targeted at research degree candidates whose thesis/project is under examination. Accordingly, it is not intended to provide financial support to candidates who have not yet submitted their thesis/project or to former candidates whose thesis/project has been accepted in fulfilment of the requirements for the research degree.

B. Eligibility
Higher Degree by Research candidates who have submitted, or will submit a Thesis/project for examination by the cutoff date for each selection round. Eligible candidates are required to apply in the selection round which coincides with the submission date of their thesis/project. There are three selection rounds per year, which close on 30 April, 31 August and 23 December each year:

Round 1: applications can be submitted from 1 January until 30 April by candidates that will submit their thesis/project between 1 January and 30 April
Round 2: applications can be submitted from 1 May until 31 August by candidates that will submit their thesis/project between 1 May and 31 August
Round 3: applications can be submitted from 1 September until 30 November by candidates that will submit their thesis/project between 1 September and 23 December

Supervisors are reminded that the predicted submission date of an applicant's thesis/project should be as realistic as possible. In the event that submission is delayed by unexpected developments, short-term postponement of the grant may be sought (see Section D: Conditions of taking up the grant). Failure to submit within the designated eligibility period results in transfer of the application for selection in the appropriate round.

In order to ensure applicants are supported through the period of the grant, the supervisor(s) for the applicant must confirm that he/she will actively oversee the writing and publication progress during the HDRPG.

At the closing date the applicant must not yet have received their thesis/project examination result or qualified to graduate.

C. Selection
Priority will be given to doctoral candidates who submit within four years (48 mths) full-time equivalent (FTE), and Masters Candidates who submit within two years (24 mths) FTE candidature. In calculating the period of expired candidature, any Masters candidature is included for candidates who have transferred to the PhD program from a Masters program. Where the length of candidature exceeds these limits, the application will be considered only where exceptional circumstances
affecting the candidature are adequately documented by the school in the application before it is lodged.

If there are two candidates of equal merit on the basis of candidature months, colleges should also consider previous publication track record and the quality of the planned publications. Justifications of delays in candidature provided by the supervisor will also be considered by the Selection Committee.

An applicant having held a scholarship/grant during the period of candidature has no bearing on HDRPG selection. Applicants are required to provide a proposal or a summary of the publications they propose to write during the tenure of the grant. Copies of relevant communications with publishers, editors, and referees should be attached in support of the publications' proposal.

School endorsement of the application is essential. The supervisor and the Dean/Head of School are required to provide the assessments of the quality of the applicant’s Master or PhD research work and the nature of the thesis/project material being written up for publication.

Applications are ranked by colleges in accordance with the selection criteria before consideration by the Selection Committee which will decide on the nominations within two (2) weeks after the closing dates.

D. Conditions of taking up the grant
If the thesis/project has already been submitted when the offer is received, the grant should be taken up immediately.

The grantees must be physically present to accept the grant and to attend the relevant academic work unit (school) on a daily basis and maintain regular communication with the nominated supervisor(s) during the tenure of the grant.

Applicants who have pursued their degree by external mode MUST maintain access to facilities and resources, commensurate to their candidature, during the tenure of the grant. They must also maintain interactive communication with their supervisor on, at least, a weekly basis. A statement outlining the residency and supervision arrangements for the tenure of the grant should be submitted with the application.

The submission date is a major factor in the selection process. Offers of grant are contingent on theses/projects being submitted by the estimated submission date. In the event that exceptional circumstances cause a delay of the anticipated submission, grantees may seek a short-term extension provided the case for delay is adequately documented and confirmed in writing by the school.

Grantees on student visas: please note that ESOS requirements state that should the thesis/project examination be finalised during the tenure of the grant and the candidate completes their course early (4 weeks or more before their CoE end date), they must be reported to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) for early completion. The thesis/project examination is deemed to be finalised on the date when the School of Graduate Research Advisory Board approved the grant of the degree. Candidates with questions about the visa implications of holding a HDRPG following the finalisation of their thesis/project examination are strongly encouraged to seek advice from DIBP, with contact details available from http://www.immi.gov.au/

Any variations in the terms of potential grants must be consistent with the eligibility criteria for the original submission. This implies specifically that no extensions will be granted that shift the submission date into the eligibility interval of a subsequent selection round. See Section B: Eligibility.

An HDRPG cannot be held concurrently with another grant offering similar benefits.
A person to whom a grant is made cannot take either full-time or substantial part-time employment during the tenure of the grant (i.e. not more than eight hours a week of employment).

Grantees undertake to complete a progress report at the end of the first six weeks, and a final report at the end of the grant period. Failure to submit the Progress Report results in termination of the grant.

It is expected that candidates will acknowledge, in their scholarly publication, support received from the RMIT HDRPG.

E. Tenure and stipend
The maximum tenure of a grant is twelve weeks. Grantees will receive a fortnightly stipend that is prorated against the equivalent stipend rate of the Australian Postgraduate Grant in the year of grant. NB: This grant may be considered to be declarable taxable income so please seek further advice from the Australian Taxation Office (http://www.ato.gov.au/)

F. Application Procedures
It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the application is complete with school endorsement and reaches the School of Graduate Research for ranking by the closing dates for each round.

Should you have any queries, please contact:
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