

# Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Stipend Scheme

2026–27 Round: Application Pack

Universities For All

[aces.ed.au](https://aces.ed.au)

# Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success (ACSES) acknowledges Indigenous peoples across Australia as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the nation's campuses are situated. With a history spanning more than 60,000 years as the original educators, Indigenous peoples hold a unique place in our nation. We recognise the importance of their knowledge and culture, and reflect the principles of participation, equity, and cultural respect in our work. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and future, and consider it an honour to learn from our Indigenous colleagues, partners, and friends.

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# Application process

Applications to the ACSES 2026–27 Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Stipend Scheme must use the template in this application pack and include the following:

1. **Application Form:** Using the template provided in this pack.
2. **Research Plan:** Using the template provided in this pack, the Research Plan should comprise four (4) content pages addressing the issue(s) to be examined:
  - *Topic and research aims* (one page limit)
  - *Data* (one page limit)
  - *Methodological approach* – including outcomes measures (one page limit)
  - *Timeline* – a plan of activities to address the issues, including proposed start and end dates.
3. **Declaration:** The applicant should read the Privacy Notice and sign the Applicant Declaration.
4. **Signatures:** Signatures are required from the applicant's *Principal/Primary HDR Supervisor* and the *Head of Organisational Unit (Department, School or Faculty)* that constitutes their enrolling area. In addition, as per [Section 4](#) below, a letter of support is required from the principal supervisor.
5. **Supporting Documentation:** Applicants should provide attachments in the relevant sections for: a *current one-page CV*; *letter of support from their HDR supervisor*; and *proof of HDR enrolment*.

## Proposal Documentation

The *Application Pack* (this document) and *Guidelines for the 2026-27 Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Stipend Scheme* are available on the [ACSES website](#). Please consult the *Guidelines* to ensure you are eligible to apply for funding and that your application is compliant.

All proposals should be provided using this **Application Pack**, with the completed document and required attachments provided in a **single PDF document**.

## Submission

Applications are due before 4pm (AWST) on **Wednesday, 15 April 2026**.

Please submit this application to: [aces@curtin.edu.au](mailto:aces@curtin.edu.au) (**Subject:** ACSES HDR Stipend Application – Applicant Name).

# 1. Application form

## 1.1 ACSES HDR Stipend applicant contact details

Title:	
First name:	
Last name:	
Position:	
Organisational unit/ Faculty:	
Institution:	
Institution's postal address:	
Email address:	
Telephone number:	
Applicant's equity status: *(please tick any that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low socio-economic status (low SES) background <input type="checkbox"/> First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Australian <input type="checkbox"/> Regional or remote background <input type="checkbox"/> Person with disability <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative disadvantage <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____

\* We are collecting information on equity status to inform us of applicants' lived experience as members of priority groups. In relation to Low SES and Regional and Remote status, this refers to historic status, rather than their current status or geographic location. This information is primarily used in aggregate reporting.

## 1.2 Proposed project details

Project title:	
Abstract of proposed project: (max. 160 words)	
Equity groups focused on: (tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Students from low socio-economic status (low SES) backgrounds <input type="checkbox"/> First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Australian students <input type="checkbox"/> Students from regional or remote Australia <input type="checkbox"/> Students with disability <input type="checkbox"/> Students who experience cumulative disadvantage that results in barriers to higher education (please specify in research plan)
Research focus – priority topics: (tick all that apply)	<p><i>Priority topics for original research</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of living issues and related implications for university students <input type="checkbox"/> Determinants of academic success at university <input type="checkbox"/> Student success beyond graduation <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonisation of the vocational education and training (VET) and university sectors <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways into university, such as enabling programs <input type="checkbox"/> Definition and measurement of student engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Generative AI and implications for equity in higher education  (Please see the <i>Guidelines</i> for details).

## 2. Research plan

### 2.1 Topic and research aims (one page limit)

Describe the project to be funded by the HDR Stipend, including its rationale, research aims and projected outcomes and outputs. (Arial 11)

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## 2.2 Data (one page limit)

Outline the data sources to be used in this project. (Arial 11)

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## 2.3 Methodological approach, including outcome measures (one page limit)

Outline the methodological approach to be used in this project. (Arial 11)

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## 3. Declaration

The applicant should read the Privacy Notice and Privacy Consent statements and sign the Applicant Declaration.

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### 3.1 Privacy Notice

ACSES must comply with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) contained in the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) when handling all personal information provided for application purposes.

#### 3.1.1 Collection of Personal Information

As part of the application process, ACSES collects the personal information provided in the HDR Stipend Application documentation.

#### 3.1.2 How We Use Personal Information

Personal information is collected to assess eligibility for an ACSES HDR Stipend and to report on activities in relation to the ACSES HDR Stipend Scheme. We will also use this information to:

- maintain an ongoing relationship with applicants, and/or
- invite applicants to relevant events and programs.

### 3.2 Privacy Consent

By applying for an HDR Stipend, the applicant acknowledges and consents to ACSES disclosing their personal information to others. ACSES may also publish successful applicants' personal information (including photo provided; excluding telephone contact details) in media releases, presentations, and any promotional materials on the ACSES website.

ACSES will not use or disclose personal information for any other purpose unless permitted by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

Recipients of an ACSES HDR Stipend and their respective institutions will be required to enter into an agreement with ACSES. The conditions of funding will be specified in the agreement. The agreement will specify the outcomes to be achieved, the payment arrangements, conditions of the funding including financial and performance reporting requirements, requirements regarding variation to agreements, acquittal of funding and other related issues.

### 3.3 Applicant Declaration

I apply as an ACSES HDR Stipend candidate and agree to the terms and conditions of the Stipend.

I confirm that I have read, acknowledge, and accept the Privacy Notice and Privacy Consent in this form.

Signature:		Date:	
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## 4. Signatures

### 4.1 Principal/primary supervisor of the applicant

I support this application on the basis of the attached documentation. I undertake to support this applicant in the activities associated with the HDR Stipend.

I confirm that the information above is true and correct, and that the applicant named on this form is currently an HDR student of this institution and in good academic standing.

I confirm that I have read, acknowledge, and accept the Privacy Notice and Consent section.

Name:			
Position:			
Organisational unit/ Faculty/Institution:			
Email (Phone):			
Signature:		Date:	

**Note:** A letter of support is also required from the principal/primary supervisor in [Section 5.2](#) below.

### 4.2 Head of organisational unit (Department, School, or Faculty)

I support this application on the basis of the attached documentation. I undertake to support this applicant in the activities associated with the HDR Stipend.

I confirm that the information above is true and correct, and that the applicant named on this form is currently a student of this institution and in good academic standing.

I confirm that I have read, acknowledge, and accept the Privacy Notice and Consent section.

Name:			
Position:			
Organisational unit/ Faculty/Institution:			
Signature:		Date:	

## 5. Supporting documentation

## 5.1 Current CV (one page limit)

(Arial 11)

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5.2 Letter of support from principal/primary supervisor (please attach)

### 5.3 Proof of HDR enrolment (please attach)