



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of the **Premier and Cabinet**



# **Defence Science Centre Research Higher Degree Student Grants**

**Applicant Guidelines**  
**Round 7 - 2026**

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# 1. Nature of Grant

The Defence Science Centre (DSC) Research Higher Degree Student Grant (RHDSG) provides funding to students working on collaborative Defence relevant projects and/or undertaking defence industry placements as part of their study. It is awarded to the primary supervisor of the student for payment by the enrolling institution as a living stipend for the student.

The RHDSG encourages students to consider the potential Defence or defence industry applications of their research. It gives students the opportunity to explore career pathways in Defence and the WA defence industry. The RHDSG develops research linkages among universities, Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) and defence sector businesses, supports capacity-building in research areas where Defence has an interest, and promotes new Defence related research collaborations among universities.

Applications for the RHDSG are made by the student's project supervisor. Grants can be awarded for proposed RHDSG projects where a student has not yet been identified, as well as those where a student is enrolled, subject to the conditions below.

Projects are to address one of the six Defence innovation, science and technology priorities, or AUKUS Pillar 1, or AUKUS Pillar 2 themes.

Projects can be undertaken within any discipline provided alignment to a theme can be demonstrated.

Applications can be made for PhD students who have already commenced a course of study if the research is Defence relevant. It is preferred that they be within six months of commencement at the time of the application.

## Categories

Grant category and funding amount is determined by enrolment. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis.

### PhD

Where the project is to be undertaken by a student in a PhD program the funding amount is \$15,000 payable in two instalments:

- \$10,000 on enrolment or execution of the Grant Agreement, whichever is the latter, and;
- \$5,000 on completion of the project.

## **Masters by Research / Coursework**

Where the project is to be undertaken by a student in a Masters by Research or Masters by Coursework program, the funding amount is \$10,000 payable in two instalments:

- \$6,700 on enrolment or execution of the Grant Agreement, whichever is the latter, and;
- \$3,300 on completion of the project.

## **4th Year Engineering or Honours program**

Where the project is to be undertaken by a student in the fourth year of an Engineering degree, or an Honours program, the funding amount is \$7,500 payable in two instalments:

- \$5,000 on enrolment or execution of the Grant Agreement, whichever is the latter, and;
- \$2,500 on completion of the project.

## **2. Conditions of Award**

The awarding of the grant is subject to terms of the RHDSG Grant Agreement (the Grant Agreement). The terms of the Grant Agreement are non-negotiable and will be provided to successful recipients upon notification that their application has been successful.

A signed Grant Agreement must be provided back to the DSC within 3 months of notification that the application has been successful. In the event that a signed Grant Agreement is not provided to the DSC within 3 months, the grant may be rescinded.

Unless already enrolled, the student must commence within 6 months of the execution of the Grant Agreement. In the event that a suitable student has not been identified and enrolled within this period, the grant may be rescinded.

The student must conform to the usual requirements of the enrolling university in regard to eligibility, satisfactory progress, research integrity, ethics and other related matters.

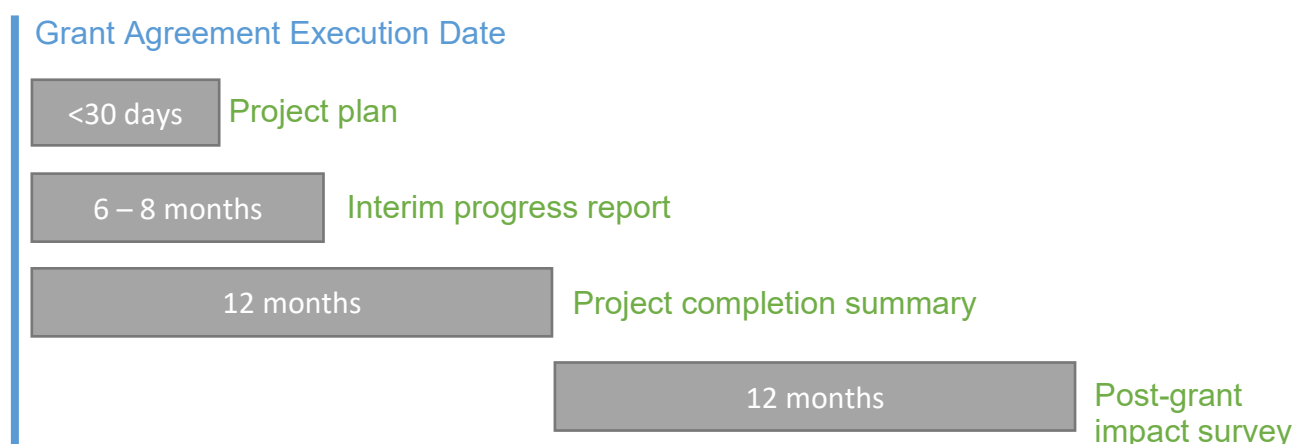
The student must be an Australian citizen, permanent resident, citizen of a Five Eyes Alliance country (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and United States of America), a NATO country, Japan, or South Korea.

Payment of the first instalment of the grant is conditional upon enrolment of the student, or signing of the Grant Agreement by both parties, whichever is the latter.

The student is expected to comply with the reporting requirements. The reporting requirements to DSC are not intended to be overly burdensome but rather assist in facilitating collaboration between stakeholders and measuring opportunities for innovation, industry diversification and job growth benefits for Western Australia. There are four reporting requirements, templates of which will be provided as annexes to the Grant Agreement:

- **Project Plan.** No more than 30 days after Grant Agreement Execution Date.
- **Interim Progress Report.** Not sooner than 6 months and no later than 8 months from the Grant Agreement Execution Date.
- **Project Completion Summary.** Upon completion of the project term.
- Payment of the second instalment of the grant is conditional upon receipt of the Project Completion Summary to DSC's satisfaction.

## Timeline of reporting requirements



## 3. How to Apply

All applications are to be made via the provided application form on the DSC Grants Programs webpage. Applications must be submitted to [dsc@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:dsc@dpc.wa.gov.au) before the closing date.

### Closing date

**Applications close 5pm, 2 April 2026.** Late applications cannot be accepted.

### Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Project Impact
- Collaboration
- Benefit to student, university and defence sector

## 4. Getting help

If you require assistance or guidance to complete this application, or support to connect with potential collaboration partners please email the team at [dsc@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:dsc@dpc.wa.gov.au). We will respond to your email within two working days. For urgent assistance please call DSC on (08) 6552 6734.

The DSC strongly advises that you contact your defence research university liaison for further assistance completing your application or making connections. The contact details of the DSC-member defence research liaison are as follows:

### Curtin University

Gary Hale – Chief Security Officer & Director Defence & Space Research

Phone: 08 9266 1448

Email: [defence@curtin.edu.au](mailto:defence@curtin.edu.au)

### Edith Cowan University

Michele Clement – Director, Defence Engagement

Phone: 08 6304 5194

Email: [defence.research@ecu.edu.au](mailto:defence.research@ecu.edu.au)

### Murdoch University

Todd Gillam – Research Fellow

Email: [todd.gillam@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:todd.gillam@murdoch.edu.au)

### University of Western Australia

Gia Parish – Director, Defence and Security Institute

Phone: 08 6488 3390

Email: [defencedirector@uwa.edu.au](mailto:defencedirector@uwa.edu.au)