

HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH (HDR) STIPEND SCHEME

Developing capacity and building the next generation of researchers in Australian higher education equity is a priority of the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) at Curtin University.

This includes engaging, collaborating with, and funding students to conduct research on Australian higher education equity issues. The **NCSEHE Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Stipend** scheme provides supplementary funding to higher degree by research students enrolled in an Australian university ([Table A Providers](#)) to undertake a research project relating to Australian higher education student equity that is projected to lead to the publication of a journal article. Further, the Stipend is intended to encourage the translation of research to practice, evaluation and policy in student equity.

Funding and support

Funding of \$10,000 per successful application is available. Each application should scope out a research project that will lead to the development of a journal paper manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal in the field of higher education.

The funding will permit funded HDR candidates to undertake travel and present their research findings at the annual NCSEHE policy symposium, to be agreed upon with NCSEHE. The remainder of the stipend can be used at the successful candidates' discretion, including to fund research costs, journal publication fees, or a living allowance.

Key outputs

- The research project will culminate in the completion of a journal paper manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal in the field of higher education. Published output(s) arising from the research project should acknowledge funding from the NCSEHE HDR Stipend.
- Presentation of the research findings at the annual NCSEHE policy symposium.

Eligibility

For the purposes of this scheme, students must be enrolled in any of the following degrees at an Australian Table A Provider university:

- A Master by research degree, or equivalent (AQF level 9)
- A Doctor of Philosophy, or equivalent (AQF level 10).

Students from all disciplines are eligible to apply, but the research project must be on a topic relating to Australian higher education equity and policy.

Research priorities

Research projects must have an emphasis on **one or more** of the following higher education equity groups.

Equity groups

- Students from low socioeconomic status (low SES) backgrounds
- First Nations Australian (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) students
- Students from regional or remote Australia
- Students with disability
- People who experience cumulative disadvantage that results in barriers to higher education (please specify in your research plan).

Research projects can take the form of original research or a systematic review of the literature. Original research should address one of the following priority topics from an equity lens.

Priority topics for original research

- Cost-of-living issues and related implications for university students
- Determinants of academic success at university
- Financial implications of widening participation for higher education institutions
- Student success beyond academia
- Widening access and participation in university study.

Priority topics for systematic reviews of the literature

- Barriers and enablers for higher education access and participation
- Determinants of academic success.

Selection criteria

- The quality of the research plan, including but not limited to the following:
 - Importance of the research topic for Australian higher education equity
 - Demonstrated incorporation of extant literature at a preliminary stage
 - Clear and measurable implications for student or graduate outcomes
 - Potential for policy impact
- Demonstrated academic achievement, relative to opportunity
- Feasibility of the research timeline
- Students from the four equity groups mentioned above are particularly encouraged to apply.

Application

Applications should include:

- Completed NCSEHE HDR Stipend application form, using the template provided
- A current CV, academic record, and proof of HDR enrolment
- A research plan, including:
 - Topic and research aims (one A4 page limit)
 - Data (one A4 page limit)
 - Methodological approach, including outcome measures (one A4 page limit)
 - Timeline, including proposed start and end dates

Applications should be sent to ncsehe@curtin.edu.au, with the subject line stating "NCSEHE HDR Stipend Scheme", and the applicant's name. **Applications close: 4pm (AWST) on Friday, 29 March 2024.** Outcomes will be announced in May 2024.