

PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

GUIDELINES



2024-27

1. About

DIN's Scholarship Program is a collaborative platform for universities and Defence companies to work together on a three-year defence-related PhD project. The program is designed to support students in defence-related fields and equip them with industry-relevant skills and knowledge while promoting career pathways in Defence.

DIN will support 18 scholarships that will address current or emerging Defence needs.

2. Program Requirements

Research Projects

PhD projects must:

- Align with Defence priorities
- Have a Defence or industry partner
- Be up to three years duration if completed on a full-time basis

Defence partners:

- Must be a Government Organisation or an Australian company with a registered ABN or ACN operating in a defence-relevant area
- Must guide the student during the project and be part of the PhD student supervisory panel
- Can provide additional funding for the student

Universities

- Provide two three-year scholarships at RTP stipend rate (2024- \$32,192- 50,291) and fee off-set for the PhD students
- Provide PhD student supervisors
- Advertise and recruit PhD students
- Provide access to required facilities
- Monitor the progress of students and provide an annual report to DIN

Defence Innovation Network

- Provide scholarship top-up of \$5,500 per year (for three years)
- Monitor the progress of students

PhD Students

- Must be Australian citizens or permanent residents
- Must enrol as a full-time PhD student at one of the DIN member universities
- Must be able to commence the project in the year of the offer
- Must maintain satisfactory progress during their candidature

3. Project Funding

The program is funded by the DIN Member Universities as a part of their commitment to DIN and the NSW Government through the Defence Innovation Network. Student scholarships for each year consist of:

- \$32,192 (min 2024) provided by the DIN member university
- \$5,500 provided by the DIN

The DIN component of the scholarship will be transferred to the university in annual instalments after the student's enrolment (year 1) and after providing a yearly progress report (years 2 and 3).

4. Process

Project Application

Expressions of Interest will be called in November 2023 and can be initiated from either Universities, Defence, or Industry. The application form should be filled in and submitted to DIN. Details such as project title, description, supervisor panel details, IP considerations, and milestones are required.

Project Selection

All applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria by DIN. However, the final decision will lie with the DIN member university. The following criteria will be considered:

- The project's potential for long-term university-industry-defence collaboration
- Project's alignment with defence priorities
- Additional support provided by a Defence partner or university

Award Letter

An award letter with terms and conditions will be sent to the university for acceptance. Where the Defence partner requires specific IP considerations, the member university must negotiate these and establish a separate agreement with the Defence partner.

Student Recruitment

The university has primary responsibility for advertising projects. However, DIN can also assist where required.

The university should assess the student eligibility against PhD admission criteria and must notify DIN once the student is selected and enrolled.

Reporting

The university must submit a yearly progress report and update DIN on any changes, including changes of supervisors, project milestones, and student withdrawals.

5. Unforeseen circumstances, disputes

If the university cannot recruit a suitable student within 24 months of the scholarship award, the scholarship must be allocated to another research project.

In cases where a student withdraws before the completion of the project but before the completion of 24 months, the university must restart the scholarship and provide additional funding for a new student, with the DIN continuing to give the top-up stipend. If a student withdraws after 24 months, the project is considered finished, and all unspent funds must be returned to DIN.

The parties will manage all unforeseen circumstances in good faith to determine alternative project arrangements.

6. Timeline

13 Nov 2023	Call for PhD Proposals opens
12 Feb 2024	Call for PhD Proposals closes
11 Mar 2024	Selection
Mar-Apr 2024	Award Letter & Student recruitment start