

Overseas Research Experience Scholarships (ORES)

ORES are awarded on a competitive basis to University of Melbourne confirmed PhD and other research doctorate students to travel overseas for a minimum of three months in order to:

- obtain research experience as part of their graduate research degree training, and
- consolidate research links with overseas universities and research institutions.

Students travelling to [Universitas 21](#) institutions are strongly encouraged to apply.

[Number](#)

[Benefits](#)

[Eligibility criteria](#)

[Selection criteria](#)

[Application process](#)

[Checklist and required documents](#)

[Eligible costs for budget estimate](#)

[Reporting requirement](#)

[Closing dates & timelines](#)

[Application outcome](#)

[For further information](#)

[Embassy of France - Freycinet Grant](#)

Number

Each year approximately 50 ORES are awarded on a competitive basis.

Benefits

Each scholarship is worth up to \$5,000.

Eligibility criteria

1. The travel must be relevant and academically justifiable but **not essential** to the completion of the student's thesis (departments and faculties are responsible for the funding of research that is essential to the research doctorate).
2. To be eligible for the ORES scheme, students **must** demonstrate that they have additional funds to support the trip. It is **expected** that the department and/or faculty will provide these funds.
3. The scheme is available only to PhD or other research doctorate students who have [confirmed](#) candidature at the University of Melbourne at the application closing date and at the time of travel. Confirmed PhD candidature takes place between 6 and 12 months of full-time study via a Confirmation Report Form. Please contact the [Melbourne School of Graduate Research](#) if you are unsure about your confirmation status.

If you are yet to be confirmed, please apply in a future round. Students undertaking research doctorate degrees which do not have a confirmation process should refer to point [14](#) below.

4. The research project must be of high quality and:

- form part of a recognised or developing collaboration between the University of Melbourne and the university or institution hosting the student

or

- involve collaboration with a university with which the University has a formal exchange agreement (refer to the list of [partner institutions](#))

or

- include travel to a [Universitas 21](#) institution.

The proposed overseas visit by the student **should not** form the sole basis of the collaboration unless the interaction is being carried out under the terms of a **formal exchange** agreement between the University and the overseas university, network, academic or Universitas 21 institution.

Investigating post-doctoral opportunities is acceptable as an element of the proposed travel but not as the main purpose of the trip. **Evidence** of arrangements made to investigate post doctorate opportunities must be attached to the application.

5. ORES applicants must be intending to spend a **minimum of three months** engaged in research overseas. **Only** if the student is travelling exclusively to a Universitas 21 institution will trips of a minimum of one month duration be considered.

6. A supervisor acceptable to the Graduate Research Scholarships Committee (GRSC) **must** be available at the overseas university or institution for the duration of the proposed visit.

7. Travel should occur in the 'middle' (ie. between 12 and 36 months) of the research candidature. Travel after 36 months of candidature will need particular justification from the applicant's supervisor or head of department. Applications for travel beyond 42 months **will not** be considered.

8. Applicants **must** obtain additional funds for this trip. It is **expected** that the applicant's supervisor, department and/or faculty will provide the additional funds.

9. Applicants may not apply for a PORES and a [Melbourne Abroad Travelling Scholarship](#) (MATS) for the same purpose.

10. If the next ORES closing date falls during the applicant's trip or after the trip has occurred, an application can be considered, and an ORES awarded retrospectively, provided all eligibility requirements listed were met and the application form and **all** required documents were submitted to the [Melbourne Scholarships Office](#) (MSO) **before departure**.

11. If details of your trip change, you **must** advise the MSO for approval from the Graduate Research Scholarships Committee (GRSC).

12. Part-time students are eligible to apply but must be enrolled **full time** while overseas.

13. Before departure, applicants must obtain [overseas study leave](#) from the [Melbourne School of Graduate Research](#). A [Leave of Absence](#) **can not** be used for an overseas study trip. Scholarships will **only** be awarded on the condition that evidence of approved OSL can be supplied.

14. Students enrolled in research doctorate courses are eligible to apply if:

- the course is awarded on the basis of a thesis rather than a body of substantial published work
- they have been enrolled in the course for at least 12 months (full time equivalent), and
- they submit with their ORES application a letter from their supervisor or their head of department that comments on their progress to date.

Applicants are **ineligible** if they:

- do not meet all of the eligibility requirements listed above
- have completed more than 42 months of candidature
- have previously received an ORES
- are a masters by research student
- are full-time or fractional full-time academic staff (including research fellows and assistants) at any university
- submit a late or incomplete application, or
- are a [Cotutelle](#) student whose home institution is in France.

No exceptions will be made to the ineligibility criteria.

[▲ top of page](#)

Selection criteria

The Committee will **only** consider applicants who:

- satisfy **all** of the eligibility requirements noted above, and
- submit a **complete** application (ie. all sections of the application form completed and all required documents provided by the closing date and **prior to departure**).

When awarding the ORES, the PGSC considers the strength of the entire application, including the:

- statement of purpose and reasonableness of the budget
- applicant's academic results
- the strength of the existing or developing collaboration (applications can be used to initiate collaboration)
- the expected benefit of the overseas study to the University and to the student, and
- the quality of the research project.

Particular attention is paid to the rationale and support the applicant's supervisor (or head of department or postgraduate coordinator) provides for the intended trip.

Applicants should note that selection for this award is competitive as the number of applications exceed the available funds. Submission of an application **does not** guarantee the award of a scholarship. Applicants are strongly encouraged to pursue [alternative funding](#) in the event their application is unsuccessful.

Application process

Download or collect from the [Melbourne Scholarships Office](#) (MSO) the [application form](#) (including [budget proforma](#)).

Submit a completed ORES application form, budget proforma and **all** required documents to the MSO by the closing date and **prior to departure**.

Applicants are advised to keep a copy of their application for their own reference, as copies cannot be made once the application has been submitted.

Checklist and required documents

Before submitting the application, please carefully check you have:

1. Answered **all** the questions on the application form. The application form should be completed by the student in conjunction with their supervisor. The supervisor **must** ensure the criteria are met and that evidence of collaboration and funding is provided.
2. Read the applicant's declaration and signed and dated the application form.
3. Ensured that both your supervisor has signed and dated the application.
4. Attached the following documents in the order listed below. Please label each document as it appears below.

Attachment A: a detailed explanation of your trip that:

- details the collaboration details as outlined in the ORES application form, and
- explains what you plan to achieve whilst overseas and how your proposed travel is relevant to your thesis but **not essential** to the completion of it.

Attachment B: a statement of expected benefit as outlined in the ORES application form.

Attachment C: a statement of support from your supervisor (or head of department or postgraduate co-ordinator) that:

- supports the explanation of what you intend to achieve whilst overseas and explains how the travel is relevant to your thesis* but **not essential** to the completion of it
- illustrates the expected benefit of the travel to yourself and the University
- confirms that your budget costs are justified/reasonable, and

- details the funds that your department/faculty will contribute to your trip (if another source is providing the required additional funds this statement should be provided by them).

* If the intended travel will occur between 36 and 42 months (full-time equivalent) of your candidature this section of the department statement **must** justify the trip and clearly explain how travel undertaken so close to your submission date will add value to your thesis.

This letter should be on letterhead and signed by your supervisor, head of department or postgraduate coordinator.

Attachment D: a completed [budget proforma](#) with specific and detailed expenses and funding information. Attach any evidence of in-kind contributions to the budget proforma.

Attachment E: a copy of your CV and your academic transcript.

Eligible costs for budget estimate

- Airfare, train/bus fares to destination
- Local travel at research/conference site
- Visa fees and airport taxes
- Accommodation
- Conference fees
- Per diem (living allowance)
- Other costs (eg. entrance fees or search fees)
- 'In-kind' contributions (eg. waiver of bench fees), and
- [Travel insurance](#). ORES recipients are eligible for the University funded Category B travel insurance which covers capital benefits, legal liability and medical cover. If Category B travel insurance is deemed inadequate students may purchase additional 'top up' insurance to cover baggage and personal effects and the quotes for this insurance can be included in your budget proforma.

For further details about travel insurance for University of Melbourne students please consult the [Insurance](#) website.

It is the responsibility of the applicant's University of Melbourne department to ensure that they will have access to all the equipment (eg. laptops and other computers) required for their study overseas.

[▲ top of page](#)

Reporting requirement

Within two weeks of the student returning to the University from overseas, the supervisor and the doctoral student must submit a written report on the visit to the MSO. The head of department must endorse the report. A suggested format for the report can be found [here](#).

Closing date and timeline

There are two rounds each year. The closing dates are noted below.

Round 1 5.15 pm, 31 March

Round 2 5.15 pm, 31 August

If a closing date falls on a weekend, applications will be accepted until 5.15pm on the following Monday.

Applications **can only** be considered if the applicant meets the eligibility requirements noted in these guidelines and has provided all of the required documentation by the closing date and **prior to departure**. Late or ineligible applications **will not** be considered and exceptions **cannot** be made to the closing date.

Application outcome

Applicants should receive notification of the success or otherwise of their application eight weeks after the closing date. Results will also be placed on the web listed by student number and when finalised can be viewed [here](#). Results will not be provided over the phone.

For further information

Please contact the [Melbourne Scholarships Office](#) on 03 8344 8747 or via www.postgradschols.unimelb.edu.au/query.

Embassy of France - Freycinet Grant

This grant enables PhD or other research doctorate students to undertake up to one academic year of research at the doctorate level at a French institution of higher education.

For further information

This website will be updated when the Embassy of France confirms the details of the Freycinet Grant for 2009.