

Examples of un-solicited inquiries received by CAPA on postgraduate eligibility for the *Household Stimulus Package*.

Hi,

I was just reading your article that states, students with an APA are eligible to receive the \$950 stimulus package. Does this include student with equivalent scholarships? For example I am on a UQJRS which is essentially an equivalent scholarship that the University of Queensland provides.

Thanks,

--
Tissue Engineering and Microfluidics Group
Australian Institute for Bioengineering & Nanotechnology
The University of Queensland
St. Lucia QLD 4072 AUSTRALIA

Hi Capa,

I have an APA at La Trobe and have not yet received the stimulus payment. There does not seem to be anything specifically mentioning post grads on the centrelink website, although we may be covered under the "administrative scheme" I am aware of the various capa/greens/ Swan etc statements on the capa website from Feb - do you have any more recent info?

--
Sociology Program
School of Social Sciences
La Trobe University
Australia 3086

To whom it may concern:

I am a postgraduate student who holds an Australian Postgraduate Award. I am finding it very difficult to find information on how APA holders are going to be paid their \$950 training and learning bonus payment. I have contacted the tax office and they inform me that they have nothing to do with it. My university (the University of Queensland) also doesn't know. When I called Centrelink they tried to tell me that APA holders also had to be receiving a payment from Centrelink to qualify for the bonus - stupid thing being that if one holds an APA they are ineligible for a Centrelink payment. This would mean that Centrelink is either responsible for giving out the payment and are creating impossible criteria for postgraduates to meet - or they are clueless and the money is coming from else where. I was just wondering if you had any further information on this payment for postgraduates?

Thank you for your time, --

Hello,

I read your February 9th article regarding the Government stimulus package and I was wondering if between then and now any changes have been made which would allow me, a full time PhD student on a tax free scholarship, to be entitled to the \$950.

I made the mistake of assuming all students would gain this bonus but was mortified to find out recently I couldn't get it because I a) don't pay tax or b) am unable to claim Youth or Austudy.

I am hoping that my wife did tutoring last year that she was able to earn over the \$6000 tax free threshold but it's difficult to get from just part time tutoring.

I thank you for your article it cleared a lot of this mess up.

I appreciate any time you spend on my matter.

--

Thanks heaps for looking into this! If I may ask, could you also check about the APAI postgrad scholarships as well? (australian postgraduate award industry). My officemate is getting one of those, and up until now had also assumed that he would be seeing none of the stimulus package!

Thanks again

--

I'm writing to enquire as to whether recipients of Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) scholarships will receive the government's tax bonus. I phoned the ATO, and the person I spoke to knew nothing about this and advised me to call centrelink. Centrelink informed me that the payments they administer had already been made. The information I've found has been ambiguous. Does anyone know about this?

Regards

--

Dear CAPA,

Can you please advise if you now have updated information about eligibility for postgraduate students for the Training and Learning Bonus? DIISR has apparently announced that "Postgraduate students may be eligible for a Training and Learning Bonus Payment if they are undertaking full time study in a higher education degree by research program in Semester 1 2009, and in receipt of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA); an APA(Industry) or National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) PhD Scholarship; or any other scholarship, where the scholarship is equivalent in value and nature to an APA. Eligible students must also be living in Australia on the date of claim and be a citizen, or permanent resident, of Australia.

Postgraduate students will be contacted before the end of Semester 1 and invited to claim a Training and Learning Bonus subject to the criteria outlined. Bonus payments to qualified postgraduate students are expected to be paid from mid 2009"

However, it is unclear how postgraduate students will be identified. Any updated information will be gratefully received!

Many thanks

--

Graduate Research & Scholarships Office
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley WA 6009

Hi,

I understand you have been inundated with questions regarding the Training and Learning Bonus - unfortunately, here is another one...

I am one of the full-time PhD students who does not receive support from either an APA or such an equivalent from the university - my scholarship is funded by an independent organisation. Centrelink won't touch me and my taxable income for 07/08 was little over \$1000, so pretty much ineligible for everything.

I've read through the available information regarding the stimulus package, and understand this is not a unique situation - as such my question is just concerning any updated information on the bonus. Has there been any correspondence to indicate it is likely to be extended to include such students?

Cheers, appreciate the effort on the behalf of us folk.

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to find out if you have any up-to-date information on the tax bonus as it applies to APA holders. I'm at the University of Sydney, and there are rumours going around that the bill was changed by Sen. Brown to include APA holders in the tax bonus eligibility category.

However, I haven't been able to find any sort of confirmation of this online. Do you know if it is true?

Thanks,

--

PhD Scholar
Mycobacterial Research
Centenary Institute

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to enquire about the Teaching and Learning bonus for APA holders especially in regards to which government agency is responsible for the payment. I have contacted both Centrelink and the ATO and neither have any information about the amendment and referred me to their respective websites. The DEST site was unfortunately equally unhelpful. Any information you might have will be extremely welcome as myself and all fellow post grads are slightly anxious as no government or university site has any clear information on when the bonus will be paid.

Regards,

--

B.App.Sc.(H1)/B.Bus.
Physical and Chemical Sciences

Faculty of Science
Queensland University of Technology

Hi,

I am a full time PhD student on a University scholarship. Like everyone else, I do not pay tax and I do not receive AUSTUDY, thus I cannot receive the stimulus package.

I was relieved to find out that the government has decided to consider research students for the stimulus package bonus. However, I would like to know if non-APA holders will receive the bonus at this stage?
Any information will be much appreciated.

Kind Regards,
PhD student
Victoria University

To whom it may concern,

I am hoping that you may be able to provide me with some information regarding postgraduate access to the stimulus package.

I am a fulltime PhD student from Murdoch University in Perth WA. I did not pay tax last year, I am no longer in receipt of the APA scholarship and I do not receive any of the Centrelink payments listed as qualifying people for the Training and Learning Bonus.

I have read information on your website confirming that the Greens have been successful in their bid to ensure that amendments to the original bill will mean that no students will miss out on the \$950 stimulus package Training and Learning Bonus. However, all of the government agencies associated with the stimulus package that I have been in contact with have said that I am ineligible for the payment despite being a full time postgrad student because I am not in receipt of the relevant Centrelink payments.

Other students at my university appear to have been given the same information - even those still in receipt of either an APA scholarship or University-based scholarship (Murdoch University Research Scholarship or MURS)

Many postgrad students at my uni are confused about this, and so they have coerced me into emailing you to see whether you may be able to provide us with information that may help us to determine whether we will in fact be able to access this payment. Any help to assist us to resolve our ongoing debate would be greatly appreciated!!

Thank you for your time,

--

Combined Clinical Masters/PhD Candidate

School of Psychology
Murdoch University
Perth, Western Australia

I am hoping you might assist me with an enquiry after reading your article online (Stimulus Package and Bradley Highlight Inequities in Student Income Support).

I am a postgraduate student in the final stages of my PhD. I am currently writing my thesis. I was in receipt of an APA from March 2005- Sep 2008 but am now receiving an internal scholarship from my research institution for until June 1st, which will allow me to finish off my work.

Since I am not currently in receipt of an APA I suppose that sees me missing out on the Training and Learning Bonus?? Is there any provision for postgraduate students who are in receipt of alternative scholarships, or a student at the end of their candidature having had already held an APA?

Many thanks for your attention.

Regards,

--

Postgraduate Scholar
St. Vincent's Haematology Research
St. Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research
Level 8, The Lowy Packer Building
405 Liverpool Street
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Hi capa

I am wondering if you can verify or give me any information about the current government stimulus package. I am a PhD student at the University of Newcastle and am on a University scholarship- not an APA.

I will not be receiving a payment as I am on a tax free scholarship thus didn't earn enough to pay tax last year. I have read that the greens party rallied for APA recipients to get the bonus but there is no further mention of what happens to students on University scholarships.

Do you have any information or know of any avenues I can go down to get some info?

Cheers --

Dear CAPA,

I have spoken to the tax office today and they have confirmed that, despite my APA scholarship, I will NOT receive the stimulus bonus. Could you please make your readers aware of this, as it goes against the advice on your website presently. This is not your fault I know, it seems the government has gone back on its promise to include PhD students. It would be really good if you could also let us know (through your website) who we could contact to petition our cause.

I'm sure there are lots of students who will be dismayed to find out they are not receiving the bonus after all!
Kindest thanks,
--

Just a quick note – a student called who said that she just spoke to the ATO and they stated that APA holders (and students in similar situation) will definitely NOT be getting stimulus packages. Maybe this is something you are already aware of, but just wanted to let you know.

Regards, --

Dear CAPA,

I phoned the other day regarding stimulus package eligibility. I was told that currently only APA scholarship recipients will be eligible and not students on other types of scholarships. I was also told that your office was attempting to raise the issue again to try to get this amended.

The purpose of my email is to request that if you have any luck with this, could you please also raise the issue of recent graduates. I know CAPA exists to represent current students, but there is going to be a fairly large group of recent graduates (including those who had APA scholarships, and even recent graduates from undergraduate courses) who will still miss out even if the bill is amended to be inclusive of all types of p'grad scholarships, because this will only apply to current recipients. Anyone who graduated in the last 12 months is going to miss out, even if their current salary is well below the \$80k cut off that applies to everyone else.

regards,
--

Hi there,

Hope that you can help me. I'm sure that you are getting a lot of these generic 'do i get tax money????' type emails, so I am sorry to bore you!

My situation:

-I am doing a Doctorate in Physics (DR029), and this is a PhD by thesis.

-I am on an RMIT PhD Scholarship
<http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=hjs5cy41leld>
This gives me \$25,000 per year. (tax free)

-Because of the amount earned from the scholarship, I do not have any centrelink benefits. (which is a shame, because a health care card would be nice!!!)

-I do some side work, but not enough earned to pay any tax upon.

I saw on your website that some students (those with APA's) will be getting the stimulus package, with the possibility that no other students will be left out. Now at this stage, I really dont wanna be

left out because that makes me sad... and would be quite happy to take some \$\$\$ to stimulate our economy!

Can you help me?

Thanks again

--

Applied Physics
RMIT University, Melbourne

To whom it may concern,
Regarding the government stimulus payment to students on an APA scholarship I was wondering if you knew the administrative body that is involved in making these payments?
I have contacted the scholarships division at my university and they don't know anything about it

Regards --

Hi there,

Just wondering if there was any clarity on access to the stimulus payments for post-grads. I am on an APA(I).

Many thanks,

--

PhD Candidate
Global Studies, Social Science and Planning Centre for Applied Social Research RMIT University (City Campus) Building 15, Level 5 GPO Box 2476V Melbourne 3001

Thank you for helping me on the phone just now. If you could please contact me when there is more information on postgraduates and the Training and Learning Bonus and how we might go about receiving this, that would be great.

Kind regards,

--

DPsych Candidate
Monash University
(Monash Graduate Scholarship recipient)

Sorry to bother you, but I am wondering if there is any news about APA holders receiving their stimulus payments, and when that may be. I have also sent an email to Julia Gillard, but have failed to get a response, are we to be forgotten again? Thanks for your time, --

I just want to clarify the media release about the stimulus package payment. It says CAPA negotiated so that "...all postgrads currently in receipt of the APA.." will receive it. The word "currently" concerns me.

The Tax Bonus will be paid related to 2007-2008 income, and the amended Education and Training bonus seems to be paid related to 2009 income ("currently"). Is this just loose wording or is that the actual form of the amendment?

In my case, I will be ineligible for the Tax Bonus because I was on an APA until 30 Sep 2008 and thus had no tax liability in 2007-2008, and also ineligible because I am not "currently" in receipt of an APA.

Could you please clarify this on the web?

Thanks for all the work you do.

Re: the Training and Learning bonus for APA holders

I've been doing a little research on when and how APA holders will get the bonus. I've called the Treasury, who told me to call DEST, who told me to call Centrelink, who told me to call the ATO, who told me to call Centrelink. I then called the Treasurer's office, where I was told that I had to write to the relevant minister to apply to receive the bonus. I was then transferred to the Minister for Education's office, who gave me a DEST hotline number, where nobody knew what I was talking about and I was told to call Centrelink again.

Just sharing the fruits of my afternoon's research!

Regards,

--

Hi

I've been looking at a number of your articles on the tax bonus from early February. I am a post-graduate who earned less than the tax free threshold last year, and was on AusStudy (or ABStudy or whatever they call it now) until December 2008, where I began full time employment. As a result, I miss out on the tax bonus because:

1. I was not on AusStudy in Feb 2009, and
2. I had \$0 tax withheld last year.

I was wondering if through your work you had been able to get the ATO to amend this (I'm sure I'm not the only new-graduate in this position) or even draw their attention to it, and if so, what the response was.

Kind regards,

--

Dear CAPA,

I've just been reading the press releases from CAPA concerning amendments to the Rudd government's stimulus package. It's unclear from the CAPA website and other resources on the internet if anything has come of this? Could you shine any light on the matter?

Cheers, --

I am a recipient of APA scholarship. Could you please tell me how can I get the training and learning bonus.

Regards

--

Hi

I was wondering if there were any updates on how student's receiving an apa were to receive, if at all, the training and learning bonus. I have asked various government departments, and was referred to centrelink who informed me that I was not eligible to receive the bonus- do you know if this is actually the case?

thanks, --

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was pleased to see your report that postgrads had been considered in the government's stimulus package, with scholarship holders being granted the Teaching and Learning bonus. After reading the information on your site and the others you've linked to, as well as searching for further information, I have been unable to find out the mechanism through which the APA holders will receive payment. Do you have this information, or do you know where it might be obtained from? So far I have been unable to find this out on my own, and a request for information to the Treasurer's office a month or two ago remains unanswered.

Any information you have on the mechanism for APA holders to receive the stimulus package would be greatly appreciated by me as well as a number of my friends in the same situation.

--

Dear CAPA,

I was just wondering if there had been any further updates regarding the stimulus payments for postgrad students with non-taxable scholarships.

All the best,

--

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a postgraduate student (by research) at the University of Adelaide. I am writing to inquire about the Australian Government's Stimulus Package as it applies to students.

In particular, I am wondering whether you could please clarify eligibility for a postgraduate (PhD) student who does NOT receive an APA. I receive a divisional scholarship from the University of Adelaide, am a full-time postgrad and do not classify for the Tax Bonus as I only undertake casual work and did not pay tax last year. I have read the CAPA media release of 13 February ("Postgrads secure win in stimulus package") but am wondering whether, since that date, there has been any further clarification about whether or not a PhD student such as myself, and many of my colleagues, will be eligible.

Thank you very much,

--

PhD Candidate
University of Adelaide

Hi, I am a recipient of a postgraduate award (a university issued equivalent to an APA). On your website it says postgraduate students, at least those in receipt of an APA, will be eligible for the training and learning scheme bonus payment. As I cannot get any clarification about this from the university i attend, I was wondering if you could please tell me how i might go about claiming this?
thanks

I am wondering if there has been an update on the Post graduates training and learning bonus. Many of our post graduate students, those with APA grants and those without, as to if they will be eligible for the \$950 dollar bonus.

If you could provide some deeper insights in the problem that would be appreciated.

Best wishes

--

PhD candidate
Curtin University of Technology

Hi guys,

You know the stimulus package that the government is about to release? That juicy \$900?

Well, the adverts have said the package is for 'anyone who earns less than \$80,000 per year and lodged a tax return last year'.

But actually, the stimulus is only for anyone who **PAID** tax last year.

This is likely to be a problem for postgrad students....like me!

Last financial year I received an APA scholarship (tax-free) plus I earned around \$5,000 from my casual jobs. When I lodged my tax return, I had all my tax refunded as I was below the \$6000 tax-free threshold.

This means that, as I did not pay tax, I do not qualify for the \$900 stimulus package. This is probably the case for many postgraduate students.

This is a real oversight. Students have been awarded a stimulus package - but only if they claim Centrelink payments. The unemployed have been given payments, even people earning *far* more than us have received packages.

This is bad news for struggling, starving students!

Anyway, I'm just letting you know because a) you may not know and b) you might be able to spread the word and mention this to your uni's postgrad association.

--

PhD Candidate
Curtin University of Technology

2 questions.

1. My PhD scholarship is through an ARC Research Centre/University partnership, not APA. Has the government worked out how they will identify and pay non APA scholarship holders?
 2. My husband and I were recently declined a home loan because they would not except by scholarship as income; despite PhD study being a full time job. Do you have any advice on how I can challenge this?
-

Hello,

I'm writing with an inquiry about the Household Stimulus Package. I'm currently in receipt of a (tax-free) PhD Scholarship from CSIRO Livestock Industries, and enrolled at Monash University: I'm unsure of whether I will be eligible for the \$900 payment, and if there is anything I'm required to do to get the payment. It's just very hard to find information about this- the tax office have certainly been unable to help.

Cheers,

--

Hi,

I am a PhD student at the University of Tasmania. I have been on an Australian Postgraduate Award for the last 2 years.

I am enquiring as to whether I am eligible for the government's "Training and Learning Bonus Payment", even though I have not submitted a tax form for several years, and do not receive funding from Centrelink. Both the Tax Office and Centrelink have informed me that I am not eligible, however

I have read the press release on your site that states that students on APA's are, in fact, eligible. If so, will I have to lodge a tax form or do anything to be registered on the system in order to receive the payment?
Thank you in advance,

Hello,

I received this email via the university system. I am currently on an APA scholarship and as such the information in this email relates directly to me. I was wondering who is the best person to speak to about how this money will be distributed.

Kind regards

--

PhD Candidate in Clinical Psychology
School of Psychology
Griffith University, Mt Gravatt

Hi, I'm a science research PhD student receiving an APA scholarship, and I have rang centrelink regarding the Training and Learning bonus which you published had been altered to include APA holders, and they don't seem to know anything about it.

Could you please get back to me with any knowledge you have on whether APA holders will be receiving this payment, and from what funding body it will be provided by (ATO / centrelink/ a different one altogether)?

Thankyou for your help! My fellow APA holders and I are very confused on this matter.

--

CSIRO

Hi,

I have read your article on "Training and Learning Bonus":
http://www.capa.edu.au/mediarelease/2009/stimulus_amendments

However, as per the official Treasury website below, only recipients of APA research scholarship are entitled to the Training and Learning Bonus:
<http://ministers.treasury.gov.au/DisplayDocs.aspx?doc=factsheets/2009/003.htm&pageID=011&min=wms&Year=&DocType=3>

"The Government will also ensure that full time postgraduate students receiving Australian Postgraduate Awards (stipends) this semester receive a Training and Learning Bonus payment through an administrative scheme. "

Would other full-time PhD students receiving other scholarships (e.g. from

University or CSIRO etc) would be eligible for the Training and Learning Bonus?

Thanks,

--

Dear Sir/Madam,

On the capa's website, under the section of postgrads secure win in stimulus package, it states that "Training and Learning Bonus have been amended to at least include all research students currently in receipt of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), and we are confident that administrative measures included in the package will mean that no other students are left out"

I am an Australian citizen and during 2007-08 I was a full time PhD student on the Australian Postgraduate Award Industrial (APA (I)) scholarship of approximately \$ 25000 per annum. My PhD scholarship was the only sole income that I received. I was wondering whether I get a payment from the stimulus package, or is the APA (I) not recognized as the APA, though the APA (I) came from the Australian government, the Australian Research Council.

Thank you for your time and help.

Regards,

--

Please forward this on: Even if you are sure you will be receiving the bonus remember those who are not so fortunate.

As the financial analysts and spin doctors of this country hope and pray that the much argued about stimulus package revives the economy out of recession (unlikely) I need to point out that some will be missing out entirely. Unfortunately it is the most vulnerable members of our community who are getting nothing from the stimulus package.

As the rest of Australia plans to spend, save or squander their payments spare a thought for the part time or casual low-income earners; the pensioners on fixed incomes; the elderly and the retired; the students who are not on Austudy or Youth Allowance - who will be missing out on the payments entirely. At the moment, deceased estates are being granted the bonus and it seems ridiculous that someone earning under the threshold misses out.

In a time when everyone is hurting – why forget those who need help the most? I simply expected better from a Labor government.

--

(PhD student; will not be receiving bonus).

I just read your post / article at
http://www.capa.edu.au/mediarelease/2009/Bradley_Stimulus_Package and was

Wondering if there has been any news on this subject and if they have changed anything to help students out

I currently don't get any support whatsoever to do my study's which i think is pretty unfair, but if the government has changed it in a way that i can place an application or something along those lines would make a huge difference

Hi,

Thankyou for including information about the Postgraduates and the Stimulus Package.

The media release only mentions APA holders. "eligibility requirements for the Training and Learning Bonus have been amended to at least include all research students currently in receipt of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), and we are confident that administrative measures included in the package will mean that no other students are left out."

Do you know what the situation is with PhD students who have a scholarship other than an APA? For example, I attend the University of Queensland and one of the major scholarships available is the University of Queensland Research Scholarship (UQRS). The stipend for this scholarship is the same as the APA and also provided by the Government. There are other scholarships in a similar situation.

Can you confirm if holders of scholarships such as the UQRS will be eligible for the Training and Learning Bonus as APA holders are?

Institute for Molecular Bioscience
Division of Chemistry and Structural Biology
The University of Queensland
306 Carmody Road
St Lucia 4072
Brisbane, QLD
Australia

Hello

I'm a postgraduate student at Monash uni currently receiving an APA scholarship for my phd. Yesterday (13/3/09) I rang the ATO and centrelink to enquire about my eligibility for a payment under the economic stimulus package. I was told that as I didn't pay any tax last financial year and I wasn't in receipt of a government payment (eg youth allowance), I wasn't eligible for a payment. By coincidence, today a friend forwarded me a press release from you guys implying that postgrad students will receive the payment. I was wondering whether this is actually the case and the tax office web page and helpline are out of date/ not aware of changes, or in fact postgraduate students who didn't earn enough to pay tax are excluded?

Cheers

--

PhD student
School of Biological Sciences
Monash University
Victoria, Australia 3800

Dear Sir,

Your media release below mentions postgrad research students would be entitled to \$950 Training and Learning Bonus:

1. http://www.capa.edu.au/mediarelease/2009/stimulus_amendments

2. <http://bob-brown.greensmps.org.au/content/media-release/gillard-greens-agreement-for-students-and-sacked-workers-revealed>

3. <http://parsa.anu.edu.au/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=67&cntnt01origid=15&cntnt01returnid=60>

However, centrelink doesn't have postgrad research students on Training and Learning Bonus's eligibility:
http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/individuals/hsp_training.htm

Kindly advice if full-time postgrad research students would eventually be included in the eligibility who may not be on APA scholarship but other scholarships such as NICTA/CSIRO/UQ/UNSW PhD Scholarships?

Thanks and regards,

--

I have followed this issue very closely and read your most recent press release that the greens has secured amendment so that phd students under an APA qualify for the stimulus package. I quote from the press release,

"We are aware that eligibility requirements for the Training and Learning Bonus have been amended to at least include all research students currently in receipt of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA),"

However, when I check the centerlink website at http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/individuals/hsp_training.htm, it makes unfortunately makes no mention of research students.

May I know if I continue waiting for an official announcement by the treasurer or until centerlink changes the webpage? Should I contact centerlink? As a student with an APA, is there anything else I can/should do? Thanks.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am a postgraduate in History at the University of Tasmania. I have seen in your media releases that the Training and Learning Bonus is now being given to students on APAs. I currently receive an APA equivalent scholarship. I am wondering if I will be eligible for the bonus. No government websites appear to sufficiently answer this question.

Thank you for your help.
Yours sincerely,

--

In regards to your media release about the Training and Learning bonus being extended to cover recipients of APA scholarships. I have been in contact with Centrelink, who are administering that payment and they inform me that they have received no correspondence regarding this. They inform me that I will have to lodge an appeal if I want the issue to continue and to do this I will need to reference the appropriate media

release which indicates my eligibility.

I have examined the government media release you mention in your media release and it does not explicitly state that postgraduate students, APA recipients, etc. are covered. Thus this would probably not suffice as evidence.

Do you have any further information regarding this issue?

If it turns out APA recipients are not eligible then maybe you should consider amending your media release to reflect the current status of this issue. Given what Centrelink are telling me, your release is currently misleading.

I am an international PhD student and was wondering if international students are eligible for the stimulus package as well.

Best. --

I was wondering what the situation is for postgraduate students, such as myself, who are doing the PhD without being paid the APA? I did not earn enough to pay above the tax amount to receive the \$950 that way, and I struggle each day without being paid any scholarship from my uni except for having my fees paid. Am I included or excluded in this package?

Many thanks,

-

University of Western Sydney

I am a PhD student and a holder of a university scholarship. The scholarship is equivalent to an APA in all respects except it is awarded from the university directly, rather than via the government. The recent amendment to the Stimulus Package sounds like it will include support for all APA holders. I am wondering if I will be eligible as a holder of a non-APA scholarship. I attend Macquarie University and the scholarship I receive is called "Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship". It is a tax free stipend equivalent to an APA.

I hope you can clear this up for me,

Thanks,

--

PhD Student
Physics Department
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY NSW 2109

I am a PhD student at Griffith University in receipt of an APA.

I am seeking clarification regarding the Australian government stimulus package amendments. In your media release you state "We are aware that eligibility requirements for the Training and Learning Bonus have been amended to at least include all research students currently in receipt of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), ... " I have examined the Centrelink page describing the eligibility requirements of the Training and Learning Bonus and it makes no mention of postgraduate students or the

APA.

Are you aware if these changes were actually included in the final version of the legislation? If so who would be the best agency to contact with regard to the eligibility conditions, etc.?

Regards,

--

Subject: Postgrad student bonuses

Dear Capa,

I am a PhD research student at the University of Sydney, receiving a scholarship. Through recent discussions with SUPRA (the Sydney Uni Postgrad association) about how Postgrad students on scholarships initially seemed to have been overlooked by the governments economic stimulus package, I have learned that CAPA and the Greens party managed to negotiate for Postgrad students to be included. However, since then, I have not heard from anyone how this will be managed, exactly which students and scholarship recipients are eligible, and what postgrad students need to do to receive the bonus.

So, I am wondering if you happen to know when, and how, any details will come out regarding this matter.

Thanks very much for your help, and I really appreciate your advocacy on postgraduate issues.

All the best,

--

Does the stimulus package for APA's (http://www.capa.edu.au/mediarelease/2009/stimulus_amendments) also include APA(I) recipients?

Kind regards

--

PhD Student
Ian Wark Research Institute,
University of South Australia

To whoever can address this question.

"The Government will also ensure that full time postgraduate students receiving Australian Postgraduate Awards (stipends) this semester receive a Training and Learning Bonus payment through an administrative scheme."

I am an Australian citizen undertaking a postgraduate degree (PhD) full time through Monash University. I started this PhD 2 years ago, and will continue to study for at least another year. However, I have a different PhD scholarship (stipend) to the Australian Postgraduate Award, but which pays the identical rate. Do I still qualify for this Bonus payment?

Many of my fellow PhD students are in this situation, and I would like to enquire on their behalf.

Kind regards,

--

PhD student

Dear Sir,

I am a PhD student on APAI scholarship, I wanted to know whether we are eligible for stimulus package, and if so how do we apply for it.

thanks

regards

--

Subject: Stimulus Package

To whom it may concern,

I have just seen on the CAPA website that the stimulus package is being changed to include postgraduate students in receipt of an APA. This is a big improvement and to be applauded, however to say that this will include all postgraduate students is just not true. There are many other scholarships which would make up a large proportion of the PhD student population.

I hope that this will be taken into account in future media releases as well as negotiations regarding the stimulus package.

Yours sincerely,

--

Ph. D. student
Nuclear Receptor and Skeletal Muscle Group
Institute for Molecular Bioscience
Division of Molecular Genetics and Development

The University Of Queensland
Brisbane QLD. 4072 AUSTRALIA

Re: Govn Stimulus Package for PG Student

Many Research PG students here at Macquarie University hold internal PG MQRES scholarships rather than APAs. Is there any understanding on how these people may be handled under the \$900 cash bonus in the 2009 Stimulus Package? Would it not be better to suggest that any Australian PG researcher, enrolled under the Research Training Scheme (RTS) be considered, rather than just APA holders?

Best Regards,

--

PhD Student,
Dept. Physics
Macquarie University, Sydney
2109

Subject: Re: Stimulus Package

Well, that's okay as a starting point I guess, but I would like to think the poor buggers not in receipt of an APA will also be getting it because most of `em are also taxpayers earning less than \$100,000pa to support

themselves. Personally, I would have voted for giving it to students NOT in receipt of an APA. I did a two-year research masters with no financial support and it was bloody hard-going. By the end of it our shoes were all worn out and our car tires were pretty bald - we'd used up all our reserves. \$950 would have been most welcome.

Actually, right at the end I couldn't even afford a copy of my own thesis and then I won first prize for the development of IP (student category) which gave me \$1000. Whoo-hoo. That is why I'd rather it go to non-recipients. I've been there and a thousand bucks is like winning lotto. We bought fresh vegetables and premium mince and stuff I'll never take for granted again.

--

Doctoral candidate

Thank you for issuing the press release regarding the how the latest stimulus package is hugely unfair toward PhD students. I am an engineering PhD student from Sydney Uni with a APA scholarship in the financial year 2007-2008 and I miss out because my (side) taxable income was lower than the taxable threshold.

I conducted my own independent research and discovered on my own that PhD students are treated very unfairly here. I am also sent a letter to my MPs. I was surprised that there is an association that has already acted on this matter, I thought I was the only one worrying about this!

Is there anything else I can do?

Thank you again!

--

As a post-graduate student, I know that we tend to fall through the cracks in regards to many different benefits and therefore I was quite skeptical. As a result I contacted the ATO and was informed that, as a PhD student, we don't qualify for Youth Allowance or Austudy, and therefore cannot receive the \$950 as a payment through Centrelink.

Due to our very low incomes, we do not generally pay any tax (we get it all back in a rebate), and therefore we don't qualify for the low-middle income earners \$950 bonus either. To qualify for this bonus you have to have paid at least \$950 in tax, after deductions, in the first place.

Normally I wouldn't bother taking something like this any further but given that practically every single adult in Australia (including undergrads registered with Centrelink) will be receiving this and a very large proportion (if not most) of PhD students will miss out, I felt a need to inform someone.

This is a great injustice and since VSU students are increasingly being overlooked. What can be done?

Regards,

--

Research PhD Candidate
Clinical Psychologist

School of Psychology
University of Wollongong
Wollongong, NSW, 2522
Australia
