Scholarships now open for students to join the Asia Pacific's premier regional degree in human rights and democratisation

Scholarship applications are now open for students to join the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) (MHRD) for its 2015 – 2016 program.

This unique degree (commencing July 2015) provides students with the opportunity to study at the University of Sydney and one of four Universities in the Asia Pacific region with particular expertise in human rights and democracy scholarship: the University of Colombo (Sri Lanka), Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia), Ateneo de Manila Law School (the Philippines) and the Kathmandu School of Law (Nepal).

MHRD students undertake a rigorous inter-disciplinary program in the philosophical, political, institutional, legal, sociological and cultural dimensions of human rights and democratisation, as well as carrying out independent research and building valuable professional networks.

MHRD students emerge with a firm academic grounding in human rights scholarship, critical and analytical skills that will enhance their future careers as human rights practitioners and a one-of-a-kind ‘lived experience’ of human rights and democratisation issues as they relate to the Asia Pacific region.

About the MHRD scholarships

MHRD scholarships are prestigious and co-funded by the European Union and partner universities.

For the 2015 – 2016 cohort more than scholarships will be awarded according to two scholarship schemes:

1. **International Scholarship Scheme:** This scholarship covers all tuition costs for full-time study of 60 credit points at the University of Sydney and partners, plus a partial stipend to cover some living costs and travel.
2. **Domestic Scholarships:** This scholarship covers all tuition costs for full-time study of 60 credit points at the University of Sydney and partners.

Scholarship applications close at 12pm December 14 2014. Applications must be made using the attached form and emailed to mhrd.admin@sydney.edu.au.

1. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1.1 Financial Assistance

The University of Sydney, in partnership with Ateneo de Manila University (the Philippines), Kathmandu School of Law (Nepal) and Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia), University of Colombo (Sri Lanka) is offering two schemes of financial assistance for citizens of countries in the Asia Pacific region¹, to join the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific).

1.1.1 International Scholarship Scheme: 20 partial scholarships for citizens of countries in the Asia Pacific region. Please note, that citizens or permanent residents of Australia and/or New Zealand will only be awarded scholarships in exceptional circumstances under this scholarship scheme. For example, by demonstrating criteria such as representation of minority rights or long-term educational disadvantage as per the selection criteria described in point B below.

Applicants should note that only a partial scholarship is offered under the International Scholarship Scheme. This provides for tuition costs and a stipend of approximately AUD $1000-1250² a month, for twelve months. This monthly stipend will significantly reduce the financial burden of the scholarship holders' year studying abroad, however it will not be sufficient to cover the total cost of living expenses expected during this period. Scholarship holders must ensure they have additional adequate funds to support their total living expenses. Payment of the monthly stipend to contribute to the scholarship holder's living expenses will only be made for the two semester minimum duration of the degree (a 12 month period). Should the scholarship holder choose to extend their study in the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) program, no further stipend payments will be made beyond this 12 month period.

1.1.2 Domestic Scholarship Scheme: One-tuition fee waiver scholarship, which is available to citizens and/or permanent residents of Australia only.

Applicants should note that the Domestic Scholarship Scheme provides for tuition costs only. All Australian citizens and/or permanent residents will automatically be considered under both the Domestic Scholarship Scheme and the International Scholarship Scheme (i.e. they are only required to apply once).

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¹ Countries in the Asia Pacific region are defined at http://sydney.edu.au/arts/human_rights_democratisation/student_administration/admission/financial_support.shtml.

² As the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific) is funded by a grant from the European Union and received by the University of Sydney in Euro currency, the dollar amounts stated in this form are subject to change in accordance with international currency fluctuations.
1.2 Scholarship Criteria

Scholarships will be awarded according to a combination of at least two of the following selection criteria:

- Regional/geographic representation taking into account the Human Rights Development Index of the country/ies concerned;
- Demonstrated interest in and commitment to human rights and democratisation;
- Relevant professional experience;
- Strong academic background and/or research ability;
- Representation of minority groups;
- Experience of socio-economic, political, physical and/or other forms of disadvantage that impacts students’ access or ability to study; and
- Prospective contribution to the field of human rights and democratisation in the Asia Pacific region.

Applicants are asked to describe how they fulfill these criteria in Sections 3 and 4 of this application form.

1.3 Required Documentation

All applicants must also include the following documentation to be considered for a scholarship:

- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Proof of citizenship/s and/or permanent residency as a member of a country from the Asia Pacific region.

The most common proof required is an IELTS score of 6.5 overall with no less than 6 in any band/category, however a range of other tests are accepted, as outlined in the policy. Requirements for individual countries are also outlined in the policy.

In addition, students are asked to provide supporting documentation for any unique aspects of their application and the specific combination of selection criteria (e.g. relating to disadvantage. See Sections 3 and 4 of this application form).

1.4 Making an application

All applications must be submitted to Georgie Wheadon, mhrd.admin@sydney.edu.au by 12pm, 14 December 2014 to be considered for the July 015 intake of MHRD scholarships. To be shortlisted for an MHRD scholarship, applicants must:

- Complete all questions and provide all required documentation.
- Ensure they have applied for, and received, an unconditional offer of admission to a Master degree in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences from the University of Sydney. Applications for admission must be made via:
- Ensure they have provided the required proof of English proficiency if from a non-English speaking background.

Students may be required to submit additional supporting documentation or participate in a face-to-face, phone or Skype interview during the short-listing process.

Students should note that all information submitted as part of the MHRD Scholarship Application will remain confidential as according to the University of Sydney’s Privacy Policy: [http://sydney.edu.au/arms/privacy/policy.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/arms/privacy/policy.shtml)
2. PERSONAL DETAILS

Family Name:

First Name(s):

Gender:

Country or countries of Citizenship and/or permanent residence (please list all):

Country of physical residence (if different from above):

Student ID (SID) (if known):

Email address:

Phone number:

How did you find out about the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific)?

☐ Internet  ☐ Friends/colleagues
☐ University of Sydney Information Day  ☐ MHRD Alumni
☐ Partner University Information Day  ☐ Other:

Are you a member of a minority? YES / NO

If you answered ‘YES’, please explain:

3. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

3.1 Educational qualifications

Please describe your educational qualifications and how they have prepared you for your future studies/to contribute to the field of human rights.
3.2 Professional experience

Please describe the (certifiable) work experience relating to human rights or democracy that you have and how it is relevant to your future studies to contribute to the field of human rights. Note: Experience can be paid or voluntary. List your most recent experiences first. Please attach an additional sheet if you require more writing space.

POSITION 1. Dates you were engaged:
Name and location of organisation:
Your position:
Your tasks/contributions:

Skills or experience gained that will be relevant to your work as a human rights professional:

POSITION 2. Dates you were engaged:
Name and location of organisation:
Your position:
Your tasks/contributions:

Skills or experience gained that will be relevant to your work as a human rights professional:

3.3 Research experience

Please describe if you have you conducted any research associated with your studies or work and specifically highlight how this is relevant to the field of human rights. Note: If you have been published, please include the title, date and publication information of your article.
4. PERSONAL STATEMENTS

4.1 Statement of motivation

Please provide a personal statement addressing the following questions:

- Why are you interested in studying human rights and democratisation in the Asia Pacific region?
- How you would apply the skills and knowledge you expect to acquire from the MHRD to contribute to, and improve, human rights and democratisation in your country or the Asia Pacific?

(Maximum one page)
4.2 Statement explaining experience and relevance of socio-economic, political, physical and/or other forms of disadvantage

If applicable and relevant, please provide an explanation of any socio-economic, political, physical and/or other forms of disadvantage you feel should be considered as they have impacted or will impact your access to education. Examples may include financial hardship, refugee status, personal illness/disability, carer responsibilities, geographical remoteness, English language difficulty. Please attach relevant supporting documentation.

(Maximum half a page)
4.3 Additional information

Please describe any additional information relevant to your merit of a scholarship. Note:
Please attach an additional sheet if you require more writing space.

5. SIGNATURE

Applicant's name:

Date:

Signature:

6. CHECKLIST FOR SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

☐ Completed and signed Supplementary Application Form.
☐ Required documentation provided including proof of English Proficiency, CV and any other supporting documentation.

Completed applications must be sent to Georgie Wheadon via mhrd.admin@sydney.edu.au by 12pm 14 December 2014.