PHD SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CANDIDATES SUPERVISED BY EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS IN 2017 GUIDELINES

This is an internally funded scheme for members of the Sydney Medical School (SMS) and provides scholarship funding for PhD candidates for up to a period of three years in the first instance. Applications must be submitted to the Office of Research and Research Training for consideration by a sub-committee of the School's Research and Research Training Committee. The sub-committee will make its recommendations to the Dean.

PURPOSE OF THESE SCHOLARSHIPS
These scholarships, of up to $25,640 per annum for an initial period of three years, are for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to recruit and provide scholarship funding to PhD candidates where they may not have otherwise been able to do so. In addition to the stipend, direct research funding of $5000 per year for an initial period of three years will be awarded.

The ECR will submit the application on the candidate's behalf. Only one award can be made to a nominated supervisor. Applications can be made for both domestic and international candidates, although international candidates must have demonstrated their capacity to pay tuition fees and other incidental costs not covered by this scheme.

TIMELINE
Applications close: 1 September 2016

DEFINITIONS
Early Career Researcher: To be considered an Early Career Researcher under this scheme the applicant must have been awarded her/his PhD in 2006 or later, and hold a Level A, B or C academic appointment with the Sydney Medical School at the closing date for applications.

SUPERVISOR ELIGIBILITY
- Applicants who do not satisfy the definition of ECR above may present their case as to why they should be considered an ECR within their application. This should be covered in the Track Record section of the application under the heading “Career interruptions”. Circumstances establishing ECR status beyond the primary definition could include career interruptions due to non-research employment, parental leave, misadventure or carer responsibilities.
- Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent and would normally be expected to have permanent resident status in Australia
- Applicants must be registered as a primary research supervisor and have identified an appropriately qualified auxiliary or co-supervisor for the candidate
- Applicants would usually be expected to provide a commitment that they have at least three year's salary support and have no other means of financially supporting HDR candidates
- Applicants would usually not be supervising more than two other HDR candidates at the time of application
• Applicants must be either:
  1. members of the academic staff of the Sydney Medical School, and on the payroll of the University of Sydney or;
  2. have been formally appointed with an academic title (including clinical and conjoint appointments) to the Sydney Medical School in accordance with the “Honorary Titles” policy.

Note: General staff, casuals, adjuncts and honorary research affiliates may not apply. Medical Research Institute staff whose institutes have a current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are eligible to apply if they meet all the other conditions.

• Applicants must demonstrate evidence of ongoing affiliation with the Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, by providing a list of publications and other research productivity (e.g. grants and student supervision) from the last five calendar years (or longest time applicable). Applicants must also agree to have their forthcoming research productivity correctly affiliated to the Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney and administered by the University of Sydney to be eligible for this scheme. Affiliation must be with the Sydney Medical School or the University of Sydney.

• Preference will be given to applicants who have been awarded research grants by the Sydney Medical School or those who have external competitive salary support (e.g. NHMRC ECR fellowships)

• These scholarships will not be awarded to researchers who are Chief Investigators A (CIAs) on any Category 1 grant which has funding in the year of application, other than training fellowships (e.g. NHMRC Career Development Awards, C J Martin Fellowships)

• Applicants who have been a CIA on a Category 1 grant in the past (excluding training awards such as NHMRC Career Development Awards and C J Martin Fellowships) will be ineligible

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY
• Students must be eligible for admission to a research degree program at the Sydney Medical School and will normally have received an offer of candidature for admission. Scholarships will not normally be awarded to students who have already commenced candidature.

• Students must normally meet eligibility requirements consistent with Australian Postgraduate Awards (APAs)

• Students must undertake their research degree full time. Students who convert to part time study will forfeit their scholarship.

• Preference will be given to applications for students who are considered competitive for alternative scholarship support e.g. APA/UPA, NHMRC, or other scholarships. It is expected that students who receive an ECR PhD scholarship will apply for other scholarships during the duration of their degree.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Applications must include:
1. Completed application form
2. ECR’s PhD award letter
3. Track record: maximum 1 page, may include statement regarding career interruptions if applicable
4. Publications list: last 5 years, include citation rates and impact factors
5. Statement regarding the impact of the scholarship award for the ECR, and how the student’s candidature can be successfully completed in the ECR’s area
6. Copy of the proposed student’s academic background including transcripts and CV
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The following criteria will be taken into account by the assessment committee when they are considering the applications relative to other applications in the same round.

1. Excellence of the ECR applicant as demonstrated by Track Record relative to opportunity. This will take into account:
   - Career awards
   - Quality of publications
   - Presentations at conferences

2. Impact of the potential scholarship award to the ECR: how the award of a scholarship would assist the ECR to pursue their research agenda and how the candidature can be successfully completed in the ECR’s area where the student plans to undertake candidature.

3. Quality of the student’s academic background. This will take into account:
   - Academic background
   - CV including publications, prizes and awards

FURTHER INFORMATION
Office of Research & Research Training
Ph.: 02 9114 0802
Email: medicine.profiles@sydney.edu.au