The University of Sydney

The Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Established in 2015 by a generous donation from Dr Austin M Curtin to establish and award scholarships and additional research project grants to medical graduates who are undertaking a PhD involving clinical research at the University of Sydney through Sydney Medical School. Each scholarship will be named “The Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research”.

Eligibility

1. Medical graduates or graduands of any approved Australian or overseas university are eligible to apply.

2. To take up the award, a student must be enrolled for a postgraduate research doctorate (PhD) degree in Sydney Medical School, be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident as at the application closing date.

3. The student must be undertaking a PhD involving clinical research.

The following special terms apply:
- Preference will be given to applicants whose research is focussed on indigenous health and/or rural health.
- Preference will be given to applicants undertaking clinical work and research at Lismore Base Hospital and/or the University Centre for Rural Health.

Tenure

4. Each Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research will be tenable for up to three years full time study (prorated for part time enrolment), with a possible extension of up to six (6) months subject to the University’s approval. Periods of study undertaken towards a research degree prior to the commencement of the award will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the award.

A student may not hold another scholarship providing a living allowance in conjunction with the Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research.

5. A student must commence his or her scholarship by the date stipulated in the letter of offer. A request to defer commencement of the award will only be considered subject to Sydney Medical School approval to defer commencement of candidature. See also sections 15 and 16 on Suspensions.

Stipend

6. Each award shall provide a stipend of $50,000 per annum (50% for part time enrolment).
7. Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research holders will be granted a HECS-exempt place under the Research Training Scheme for the tenure of their award.

**Leave Arrangements (details are per full time enrolment. Entitlements will be halved for part time enrolment).**

8. Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research holders receive up to 20 days recreation leave each year of the award and this may be accrued. However, the student will forfeit any unused leave remaining when an award is terminated or completed. Recreation leave does not attract a leave loading and the supervisor's agreement must be obtained before leave is taken.

9. Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research holders may take up to ten days sick leave each year of the award and this may be accrued over the tenure of the award. Students with family responsibilities caring for sick children or relatives may convert up to five days of their annual sick leave entitlement to carer's leave on presentation of medical certificate/s. Students taking sick leave must inform their supervisor as soon as practicable.

10. Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research holders may receive additional paid sick leave of up to a total of twelve weeks during their award for medically substantiated periods of illness lasting longer than ten days. Students applying for additional paid sick leave must do so at the start of absence or as soon as practicable. Periods of additional paid sick leave are added to the normal duration of the award. All claims must be supported by a medical certificate.

11. Once Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research holders have completed twelve months of their award, they are entitled to a maximum of twelve weeks paid maternity leave during the tenure of the award. Students applying for paid maternity leave must do so at least four weeks prior to the expected date of birth. Periods of paid maternity leave are added to the normal duration of the award. Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research holders who have not completed twelve months of their award may access unpaid maternity leave through the suspension provisions.

**Employment**

12. Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research holders may undertake full time work and be enrolled part time in the PhD. Students enrolled part time must lodge a TFN form with the University Scholarships Office as the stipend will not be tax free.

**Research overseas**

13. PhD students must complete a minimum of two semesters at the University. Approval to conduct research outside Australia must be sought from the student’s supervisor, head of department and Sydney Medical School, and will only be granted if the research is essential for completion of the degree. All periods of overseas research are cumulative and will be credited to a student’s candidature. Students must remain enrolled at the University and submit a Candidature Variation form through Sydney Medical School Office in order to obtain permission to count the time at the overseas institution.
Transfer

14. Scholarship holders may not transfer from a research doctorate to a research masters.

Suspension

15. Students may not apply for a suspension within the first 6 months of the tenure of their award.

16. Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research holders may apply for up to 12 months suspension for any reason during the tenure of their award. Periods of suspension are cumulative and failure to resume study after suspension will result in the award being terminated. Approval to suspend must be given both by Sydney Medical School and by the head of the department concerned. Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the award.

Changes in Enrolment

17. Scholarship holders must notify Sydney Medical School and the Scholarships and Financial Support Service promptly of any changes to their enrolment including but not limited to: attendance pattern, suspension, leave of absence, withdrawal and course transfer. Should overpayment occur due to changes in enrolment, the University may require repayment of any overpaid stipend.

Termination

18. The award will be terminated on resignation or withdrawal of the student, upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award, whichever is earlier. Awards will be terminated before this time if after due enquiry the University concludes that a student has not carried out the course of study with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of the Curtin PhD Scholarship for Clinical Research, or fails to maintain satisfactory progress, or has committed serious misconduct.

Annual Report

19. All students must complete an Annual Progress Review form towards the end of each year. Renewal of awards will be dependent on the report being considered satisfactory by the Chair of the Combined Board of Postgraduate Studies for the Faculties of Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy.

20. Scholarship holders may be asked to make themselves available to meet with donors and/or the Council of the Sydney Medical School Foundation as requested, and/or, from time to time, to attend functions at which donors will be present. Expected attendance is limited to twice a year.
21. Any media coverage arising from the research supported by the scholarship must refer to the scholarship support of the project. Copies of media articles must be sent to the Sydney Medical School Foundation office.

22. Failure to satisfy any of these conditions may (at the absolute discretion of the Sydney Medical School) result in termination of the Scholarship.