The University of Sydney

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

The Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Established in 2008 by a bequest from Nita Winifred Whiteley to establish a postgraduate scholarship in surgery named for herself and her husband.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident as at the application closing date.

2. To be able to take up the scholarship, a student must be enrolled in the Master of Surgery (by research), a Master of Philosophy or a Doctor of Philosophy in the Discipline of Surgery.

3. The successful applicant must be undertaking research into the cause, treatment and cure of cancer, with priority given to upper gastro-intestinal tract malignancy.

Tenure

4. An award shall be tenable for up to two years in the case of a masters by research and up to three years for a Doctor of Philosophy, with the possibility of a 6 month extension for the PhD. 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.

5. A student may not hold another scholarship providing a living allowance in conjunction with a Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship. Furthermore, if a student is offered another scholarship of equal or greater value s/he must accept that scholarship and relinquish his/her Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship.

6. 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 Faculty approval to defer commencement of candidature. See also sections 15 and 16 on Suspensions.

Stipend

7. The scholarship shall provide a tax free stipend of $30,000 per annum.

Leave Arrangements

8. Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship 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. Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship 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. Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship 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 Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship 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. Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship holders who have not completed twelve months of their award may access unpaid maternity leave through the suspension provisions.

Employment

12. Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship holders may undertake part-time work up to a maximum of twenty hours per week, evening, weekend and holiday work included. If employed by the University, the appointment must not exceed half time or 50% of a full time position. However, work undertaken must not interfere with the student’s study programme and progress. There is no limit on how much income an award holder can receive from part-time work but this income will not be tax-exempt.

Research overseas

13. PhD students must complete a minimum of two semesters at the University and master’s students must complete a minimum of one semester at the University. Approval to conduct research outside Australia must be sought from the student’s supervisor, head of department and the Faculty, 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 the Faculty Office in order to obtain permission to count the time at the overseas institution.

Transfer

14. Scholarship holders may convert from a Master of Surgery (by research) to a PhD or vice-versa provided such change in candidature is approved by the Discipline of Surgery and the Faculty of Medicine, and the Research Office is notified. The maximum duration of a converted Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship becomes that for the new candidature.

Suspension

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

16. Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship 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 the Faculty and by the Discipline of Surgery. Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the award.

Changes in Enrolment
17. Scholarship holders must notify the Faculty and the Research Office promptly of any changes to their enrolment including but not limited to: attendance pattern, suspension, leave of absence, withdrawal and course transfer. If the award holder does not provide notice of the changes identified above, then 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 Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship, or fails to maintain satisfactory progress, or has committed serious misconduct.

Annual Report

19. All students must complete an Annual Progress Report form towards the end of each year. Renewal of the scholarship will be dependent on the report being considered satisfactory by the Chair of the Board of Postgraduate Studies of the Faculty of Medicine.

I hereby agree to abide by the Conditions of Award and accept the Nita and Norman Whiteley Scholarship.

Name (Please print)

Signature        Date

Intended commencement date: ……………………………………………………………………

Degree course: ……………………………………………………………………………………….