Skellern Family Foundation Scholarship

Terms and Conditions
August 2018

1. Background

   a. A unique opportunity is available for an outstanding PhD scholar enrolled within The University of Sydney Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery.

   b. This Scholarship was established in 2013 by a generous gift from the Skellern Family Foundation to assist currently practising early to mid-career nurses and midwives to complete a PhD as a full-time candidate.

2. Eligibility

   a. Applicants must be currently enrolled as either a full-time or a part-time PhD candidate within Sydney Nursing School who at the time of application has not completed a period of more than two years equivalent full-time study load (EFTSL) of their candidature.

   b. Applicants must be currently registered with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as a registered nurse or midwife.

   c. Applicants must be an Australian Citizen or Australian Permanent Resident (applicants who are currently applying for permanent residency will be considered).

3. Selection Criteria

   a. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship on the basis of:

      I. academic merit,
      II. research proposal,
      III. curriculum vitae,
      IV. annual progress reviews, and
      V. a personal statement.

   b. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship by the Dean of the Sydney Nursing School or their nominee.

4. Value

   a. A successful full-time recipient of the Scholarship will be provided with an annual stipend allowance of $30,000 per annum for up to three years, subject to satisfactory academic performance.

   b. No extensions will be granted.

   c. The Scholarship is for commencement in relevant research period in which it is offered for and cannot be deferred or transferred to another area of research.

   d. No other amount is payable.

   e. The Scholarship will be offered subject to the availability of funding.
5. Eligibility for Progression

a. Progression is subject to passing the annual progress review.

6. Leave Arrangements

a. The Scholarship recipient receives up to 20 working days recreation leave each year of the Scholarship and this may be accrued. However, the student will forfeit any unused leave remaining when the Scholarship is terminated or complete. Recreation leave does not attract a leave loading and the supervisor’s agreement must be obtained before leave is taken.

b. The Scholarship recipient may take up to 10 working days sick leave each year of the Scholarship and this may be accrued over the tenure of the Scholarship. Students with family responsibilities, caring for sick children or relatives, or experiencing domestic violence, may convert up to five days of their annual sick leave entitlement to carers leave on presentation of medical certificate(s). Students taking sick leave must inform their supervisor as soon as practicable.

7. Research Overseas

a. The Scholarship recipient may not normally conduct research overseas within the first six months of award.

b. The Scholarship holder may conduct up to 12 months of their research outside Australia. Approval must be sought from the student’s supervisor, Head of School and the Faculty via application to the Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre (HDRAC), 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 counted towards a student’s candidature. Students must remain enrolled full-time at the University and receive approval to count time away.

8. Suspension

a. The Scholarship recipient cannot suspend their award within their first six months of study, unless a legislative provision applies.

b. The Scholarship recipient may apply for up to 12 months suspension of Scholarships for any reason during the tenure of their Scholarship. Periods of Scholarships suspension are cumulative and failure to resume study after suspension will result in the award being terminated. Approval must be sought from the student’s supervisor, Head of School and the Faculty via application to the Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre (HDRAC). Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the Scholarship.

9. Changes in Enrolment

a. The Scholarship recipient must notify HDRAC and their supervisor promptly of any planned changes to their enrolment including but not limited to: attendance pattern, suspension, leave of absence, withdrawal, course transfer, and candidature upgrade or downgrade. If
the award holder does not provide notice of the changes identified above, the University may require repayment of any overpaid stipend.

10. Termination

a. Unless terminated earlier under this paragraph, the Scholarship will terminate:

I. on resignation or withdrawal of the student from their PhD,
II. upon the student having completed 4 years equivalent full-time study for a PhD,
III. upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award,
IV. if the recipient receives an alternative primary scholarship. In such circumstances this Scholarship will terminate in favour of the alternative scholarship where it is of higher value,
V. if the recipient does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave, or
VI. If the student ceases to meet the eligibility requirements specified for this Scholarship, (other than during a period in which the Scholarship has been suspended or during a period of approved leave).

b. The Scholarship may also be terminated by the University before this time if, in the opinion of the University:

I. the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the terms of this offer,
II. the student fails to maintain satisfactory progress, or
III. the student has committed misconduct or other inappropriate conduct.

c. Stipend payments will be suspended throughout the duration of any enquiry/appeal process.

d. Once the Scholarship has been terminated, it will not be reinstated.

11. Misconduct

a. Where during the Scholarship a student engages in misconduct, or other inappropriate conduct (either during the Scholarship or in connection with the student’s application and eligibility for the Scholarship), which in the opinion of the University warrants recovery of funds paid to the student, the University may require the student to repay stipend amounts and any other payments made to the student in connection with the Scholarship. Examples of such conduct include and without limitation; academic dishonesty, research misconduct within the meaning of the Research Code of Conduct (for example, plagiarism in proposing, carrying out or reporting the results of research, or failure to declare or manage a serious conflict of interests), breach of the Code of Conduct for Students and misrepresentation in the application materials or other documentation associated with the Scholarship.

b. The University may require such repayment at any time during or after the Scholarship period. In addition, by accepting this Scholarship, the student consents to all aspects of any investigation into misconduct in connection with this Scholarship being disclosed by the University to the funding body and/or any relevant professional body.