Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship

A scholarship is available for investigations into the cause, prevention and treatment of mental and physical pain and distress during pregnancy, labour and puerperium.

Scholarship value and duration

The scholarship will provide an annual allowance of $45,000 per annum for up to two years for a Master’s degree and up to three years for the Doctor of Philosophy. A possible extension of up to six months is available for a Doctor of Philosophy.

The Scholarship may be awarded as a full stipend or a supplementary to a student who has another scholarship that provides a stipend. For a student with another scholarship, the supplementary will be $45,000 per annum less the total amount of any other living allowance scholarship(s).

Eligibility criteria

1. Applicants must be a graduate of the University of Sydney, Australia, or the University of Edinburgh, Scotland or Yale University, USA.
2. The scholarship is offered subject to the applicant having an unconditional offer of admission or being currently enrolled in full-time studies in a postgraduate research degree in the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology within the Sydney Medical School at the University of Sydney.
3. Applicants must be seeking to undertake research into the cause, prevention and treatment of mental and physical pain and distress during pregnancy, labour and puerperium in Australia.
4. At the time of application, applicants must be an Australian citizen.
5. The proposed supervisor is required to be an academic or affiliate with the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology or Neonatology at the University of Sydney.
6. Applicants who hold another award or scholarship that provides a living allowance may only be eligible for a supplementary scholarship.
7. Applicants who have already completed a PhD or other doctorate by research are not eligible for the scholarship.
8. Applicants who have already completed a Masters by Research, and are applying to undertake another Masters by Research at the University of Sydney are not eligible for this scholarship.

For more information

Student Administration Services
T 1800 SYD UNI (1800 793 864)
T +61 2 8627 1444 (outside Australia)
E scholarships.officer@sydney.edu.au

Background

The Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship is a postgraduate scholarship established in 2009 by a bequest from Dr Albert S McKern for investigations into the cause, prevention and treatment of mental and physical pain and distress during pregnancy, labour and the puerperium.

Selection criteria

Applicants will be assessed on:

- academic merit,
- quality of the research proposal and research strategy and their feasibility, and
- research experience.

Applicants will need to fill out the electronic application form on The University of Sydney Scholarships’ Office Website and attach:

- Proof of change of name (if applicable),
- Proof of Australian citizenship,
- Research proposal and research strategy (limit three pages),
- Certified copies of all post-secondary qualifications and academic transcripts,
- Evidence of Research Potential (details provided in the application form), and
- Curriculum Vitae covering the following information:
  - Academic achievements,
  - Involvement with pregnancy related research, and
  - Involvement with other research areas.

The successful applicant will be awarded the scholarship by the nomination of three academics from the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology, Sydney Medical School.

Payment schedule

- Fortnightly stipend payments

Please refer to the full terms and conditions for more details.

Faculty: University of Sydney Medical School
Scholarship name: Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship
Scholarship number: SC1089
RC/PC: K001183360
1. **Background / Scholarship Description**
   
   a. The Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship is a postgraduate scholarship established in 2009 by a bequest from Dr Albert S McKern for investigations into the cause, prevention and treatment of mental and physical pain and distress during pregnancy, labour and the puerperium.
   
   b. Depending on funding availability, more than one scholarship may be awarded.

2. **Eligibility**
   
   a. Applicants must be a graduate of The University of Sydney, Australia, or The University of Edinburgh, Scotland or Yale University, USA.
   
   a. The scholarship is offered subject to the applicant having an unconditional offer of admission or being currently enrolled in full-time studies in a postgraduate research degree in the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology within the Sydney Medical School at the University of Sydney.
   
   b. Applicants must be seeking to undertake research into the cause, prevention and treatment of mental and physical pain and distress during pregnancy, labour and puerperium in Australia.
   
   c. At the time of application, applicants must be Australian citizens.
   
   d. The proposed research supervisor is required to be an academic or affiliate with the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology at the University of Sydney.
   
   e. Applicants who hold another award or scholarship that provides a living allowance may only be eligible for a supplementary scholarship.
   
   f. Applicants who have already completed a PhD or other Doctorate Degree by research are not eligible for the scholarship.
   
   g. Applicants who have already completed a Master’s Degree by Research, and are currently applying to undertake a Master’s Degree by Research at this time are not eligible for this scholarship.

3. **Selection Criteria**
   
   a. Applicants will be assessed on:
      
      i. academic merit,
      
      ii. quality of the research proposal and research strategy and their feasibility, and
      
      iii. research experience.
   
   b. Applicants will need to fill out the electronic application form on the University of Sydney Scholarships’ Office Website and attach:
SC1089 Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship

i. Proof of change of name (if applicable),
ii. Proof of Australian citizenship,
iii. Research proposal and research strategy (limit three pages),
iv. Certified copies of all post-secondary qualifications and academic transcripts,
v. Evidence of Research Potential (details provided in the application form), and
vi. Curriculum Vitae covering the following information:
   • academic achievements,
   • involvement with pregnancy related research, and
   • involvement with other research areas

c. The successful applicant will be awarded the scholarship by the nomination of three academicians from the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology, Sydney Medical School.

4. Amount awarded and duration

a. The Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance of $45,000 per annum for up to two years for a Master’s Degree by research and up to three years for the Doctor of Philosophy by research. A possible extension of up to six months is available for a Doctor of Philosophy.

b. Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum duration of the Scholarship excluding the potential extension period.

c. The Scholarship may be awarded as a full stipend or as a supplementary to a student who has another scholarship that provides a stipend. For a student with another scholarship, the supplementary will be $45,000 per annum less the total amount of any other living allowance scholarship(s).

d. A Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship recipient on a full stipend may not hold another scholarship providing a living allowance.

e. 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 the section on Suspensions.

f. The value of the Scholarship will be pro-rated for a student who has been approved to undertake their study part time.

g. No other amount is payable.

5. Eligibility for Progression

a. Progression is subject to passing the annual progress review and the review being considered satisfactory by the Combined Board of Postgraduate Studies for the Faculties of Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy.

b. Scholarship holders may convert from a research Master’s Degree to a Doctorate Degree or vice-versa provided such change in candidature is approved by the Faculty of Medicine. The
maximum duration of a converted Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship will match the duration of the new candidature. The maximum period is up to three years for a Doctorate Degree by Research with the possibility of an extension of up to six months; and for up to two years for a Master's Degree by research.

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.

c. Once the Scholarship recipient has 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. Scholarship recipients who have not completed twelve months of their award may access unpaid maternity leave through the suspension provisions.

7. Employment

a. Scholarship recipients 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.

8. Research overseas

a. Doctorate students must complete a minimum of four research periods at the University of Sydney and Master’s students must complete a minimum of two research periods at the University of Sydney.

b. Approval to conduct research outside Australia must be sought from the student’s research supervisor, head of department and the Faculty, and will only be granted if overseas research is essential for completion of the degree.

c. All periods of overseas research are cumulative and will be credited to a student’s candidature.

d. Students must remain enrolled at the University and submit a Candidature Variation form through the HDRAC in order to obtain permission to count the time at the overseas institution.
9. **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 for any reason during the tenure of their Scholarship. 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 by both HDRAC and the head of the department concerned. Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the Scholarship.

10. **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.

11. **Termination**

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

   I. on resignation or withdrawal of the student from their degree,
   II. upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award,
   III. if the student ceases to be a full-time student and prior approval has not been obtained to hold the Scholarship on a part-time basis, or
   IV. 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.

12. **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.

13. Acknowledgement

a. Scholarship recipients must acknowledge the support of the Dr Albert S McKern Scholarship in any publications arising from the work undertaken while on this scholarship.

b. Scholarship recipients must make themselves available to present their work to the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology as requested

c. Scholarship recipients must make themselves available to attend functions at which donors will be present. Mandatory attendance is limited to twice a year.

d. Any media coverage arising from the research must refer to the Scholarship’s support of the project. Copies of media articles must be sent to the Head of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology.