The Engineering and Information Technologies Research Scholarship (EITRS)

Terms and Conditions

1. Background

a. Funded by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies at the University of Sydney, this Scholarship has been established to encourage and support outstanding higher degree research (HDR) students within the Faculty.

2. Eligibility

a. Candidates must have an unconditional offer of admission for full-time enrolment in a PhD program or an unconditional offer of admission for full-time enrolment in a Master’s by Research program with the intent to transfer to PhD after satisfactory completion of the first Progress Review interview within the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies at the University of Sydney.

b. Candidates must apply and meet the eligibility requirements for the Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarships.

c. Candidates cannot be in receipt of an RTP or equivalent primary scholarship.

3. Selection Criteria

a. The successful candidate(s) will be awarded the Scholarship on the basis of their RTP application, their area of study and research proposal, or other evidence of research potential.

b. The Faculty maintains the discretion to prioritise the awarding of the Scholarship to students whose supervisors are early to mid-career researchers and where their proposed research aligns with the Faculty’s strategic research priorities. The Faculty will also ensure an equal distribution of these Scholarships across the Faculty’s five schools including consideration of distribution of other primary HDR Scholarships within the Faculty.

c. The Scholarship will be awarded based on the nomination of a Selection Committee consisting of the Faculty Associate Dean (Research), Associate Dean (Research Training), each Head of School and each School’s Research Training Director, or their nominees. The ultimate decision rests with the Associate Dean (Research).

4. Value

a. The Scholarship provides a stipend allowance equivalent to the minimum Research Training Program (RTP) stipend rate (indexed on 1 January each year), for a duration of up to 3 years, subject to satisfactory academic performance. Recipients may request up to a six-month extension.
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b. Academic course fees and the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) is provided for successful international recipients for up to 12 research periods, subject to satisfactory academic performance. Recipients may request up to a 2 research-period extension.

c. Where the recipient is in receipt of an alternative primary scholarship providing part fee coverage, the amount and duration covered by the EITRS will be stated in the letter of offer.

d. 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.

e. Recipients can defer the Scholarship for up to 3 research periods subject to the approval of their Supervisor and Head of School, or their nominee. Deferment of scholarship for more than 3 research periods is considered on a case-by-case basis by the Associate Dean (Research), or their nominee.

f. Recipients cannot transfer the Scholarship to another area of research or change their supervisor without the prior approval of the Associate Dean (Research), or their nominee.

g. The Scholarship will be offered subject to the availability of funding.

h. No other amount is payable.

5. Eligibility for Progression

a. Progression for PhD students is subject to passing the annual progress review and remaining enrolled full-time in their PhD. Progression for Master’s by Research students is subject to satisfactory completion of their first progress review interview and subsequent transfer to a PhD program.

b. Recipients may enrol part-time only with the prior permission of the Associate Dean (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
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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 Department and 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 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.

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 Master’s by Research or PhD,
   II. upon the student having completed the maximum candidature for their degree as per the University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule 2011 Policy,
   III. if a Master’s by Research student does not satisfactorily complete their first progress review interview and subsequently transfer to a PhD program,
   IV. upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award,
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V. 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,

VI. if the recipient receives an alternative primary scholarship. In such circumstances this Scholarship will be terminated in favour of the alternative scholarship where it is of equal or higher value,

VII. if the recipient does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave, or

VIII. 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 unless due to University error.

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.