Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies Leadership Scholarship

Terms and Conditions
August 2018

1. Background
   a. The objective of the Scholarship is to facilitate structured learning to advance the Scholarship recipient’s growth as a professional and leader consistent with the aims and objectives of the Faculty Leadership Program and in accordance with University’s rules and policies as are made and amended from time to time.

2. Eligibility
   a. Recent school leavers who are an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident, that qualify and enter into an undergraduate program in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies at the University of Sydney.
   b. Applicants must obtain an ATAR of 98 or higher in the NSW HSC or equivalent. Exceptional applicants with an ATAR of up to 3 points lower may be accepted at the discretion of the Associate Dean (Education) if they meet any of the diversity/equity criteria.

3. Selection Criteria
   a. The Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of:
      i. academic merit, and
      ii. a personal statement, references and interview that demonstrate the applicants interpersonal skills, leadership qualities, communication skills, creativity, self-motivation and achievements in non-academic pursuits and involvement in both school and community activities.
   b. Shortlisted applicants will be required to attend an interview either in-person or via Skype. Industry representatives may sit on the interview panel. At the interview shortlisted applicants may also be required to complete a practical exercise to demonstrate leadership potential.
   c. Preference will be given to applicants that identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, or LGBTIQ, or as female or those that demonstrate that they are from a low SES background. The Faculty may reduce the minimum ATAR required from 98 to 95 to make an offer to any of these cohorts.
   d. Low SES includes those with demonstrated financial hardship, a disability, significant medical hardship, family hardship, carer’s responsibilities, or attendance at an EAS or equivalent listed school. For low SES applicants, preference will be given to those from an outer regional, remote or very remote as classified by the Doctor Connect regional classification standard.
   e. In the event that the Scholarship is offered to replace a student who has left the Program, the replacement will be chosen on the basis of their academic performance at university and other demonstrated skills as outlined in Term 3.a.
f. The Scholarship will be awarded on the nomination of a selection committee consisting of the Associate Dean (Education), or their nominee, the Director of the Faculty Leadership Program and at least one other academic member of staff from the Faculty. Representatives from industry may also assist at the interviews, but the final decision rests with the University.

4. Value

a. The Scholarship is valued up to $18,000 per annum and with a duration of four years. $12,000 will be paid as a stipend in two equal instalments after the census date of each semester. The Faculty will supplement the stipend with a Leadership Development Fund of up to $6,000. The Leadership Development Fund can be used to spend on Faculty endorsed leadership development programs and full details on how the funds can be spent will be provided during the Leadership Scholarship orientation.

b. Where a combined degree or honours student must undertake an additional year of study as part of their degree program, the University may approach the industry sponsor to fund the additional year. This will be managed on a case by case basis and an additional year of funding is not guaranteed.

c. Deferral of the Scholarship is not permitted without the prior permission of the Faculty Associate Dean (Education), or their nominee, and it is not transferable to another University school, faculty or university.

d. The Scholarship will be offered subject to the availability of funds.

e. No other amount is payable.

5. Ongoing eligibility and Professional Experience

a. To continue receipt of the Scholarship, the recipient must maintain a minimum Semester Average Mark (SAM) of 65 each semester.

b. Recipients must enrol and continue to be enrolled full-time in the program that they applied for at the commencement of the Scholarship, except where a transfer has been approved at the discretion of the Associate Dean (Education) or their nominee. Approval to undertake studies part-time will only be approved by the Associate Dean (Education) in exceptional circumstances such as medical hardship.

c. Recipients must, in order to satisfy the requirements of the Scholarship, undertake professional experience with one or more of the associated industry sponsors as established and agreed to by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies. Recipients must also complete the official requirements of the Faculty Leadership Program including enrolling into specified units of study that capture the requirements of the Leadership Scholarship.

d. The professional experience and Leadership Program schedule will be as follows unless otherwise advised:
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I. From the end of Year One through to and including Year Two – completion of the Faculty Leadership Program.

II. From the end of Year Two through to the middle of Year Three – 8 weeks professional experience with the industry sponsor (usually between December and February).

III. From the end of Year Three to the middle of Year Four – 12 weeks professional experience with the industry sponsor (usually between November and February).

e. Combined degree students will follow the above schedule accordance with their core degree offered by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

f. The intended purpose of the professional experience is to ensure a recipient gains appropriate practical skills and achieves the goals of the Scholarship and Faculty Leadership Program.

g. Scholarship recipients will be allocated to an industry sponsor to undertake their professional experience placement at the end of their second year of studies. Scholarship recipients and industry sponsors may indicate a preference, however the final decision rests with the University of Sydney through the Associate Dean (Education) and the Director of the Faculty Leadership Program.

h. Scholarship recipients will ideally remain with the same industry sponsor; however the University of Sydney maintains the discretion through the Faculty Associate Dean (Education) to vary a Scholarship recipient’s professional experience provider from year-to-year.

i. All recipients must also sign a student placement agreement before undertaking their first placement with each industry sponsor.

j. There shall be no bonding or other commitment with regard to employment with either the industry sponsor providing the professional experience placement.

k. In the event that the industry sponsor offers payment for the placement undertaken with them, this shall be negotiated and managed directly between the Scholarship recipient and industry sponsor only.

l. The thesis or project topic chosen should, where possible, be related to the industry sponsors’ area of interest. The industry sponsor shall where possible provide support with facilities, supervision and technical material.

m. The Scholarship recipient must submit a professional experience placement report no more than 4 weeks post the completion of each placement.

n. Recipients undertaking an exchange during the tenure of this Scholarship are required to have achieved a Satisfied Requirements grade (SR) to receive their next payment.

6. Termination

a. The Scholarship will be terminated if the recipient(s):

   I. withdraws from an eligible course or fails to enrol,

   II. withdraws or transfer their stream without prior approval,
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III. does not provide their professional experience report to the Faculty,
IV. commences part-time study without prior approval,
V. does not maintain satisfactory academic performance,
VI. professional experience is terminated by the industry sponsor on the basis of the recipient’s serious misconduct or other wrong doing while completing their placement. In the event of this occurring, evidence to support the allegation must be provided to the University of Sydney Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies. The recipient will be given the opportunity to address the allegation prior to any final decision being made by the University,
VII. does not meet the requirements of the Leadership Program or successfully undertake their professional experience,
VIII. is determined by the University to be guilty of serious misconduct, including, but not limited to, having provided false or misleading information as part of their Scholarship application,
IX. is awarded an alternative scholarship exceeding the value of the stipend. In such circumstances the full value of this scholarship will be terminated in favour of the alternative scholarship where the alternative scholarship is of higher value,
X. does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave, or
XI. any other provision as indicated in these terms that would lead to termination.

b. Once the Scholarship has been terminated, it will not be reinstated unless due to University error.

c. Where a student is found guilty of serious misconduct or withdraws from the relevant course, the University reserves the right to request that any Scholarship funds paid to the Scholarship recipient be reimbursed.