Postgraduate Research Scholarship in Proteomic Changes from Nevus to Melanoma

Terms and Conditions
July 2017

1. Background

a. The Postgraduate Research Scholarship in Proteomic Changes from Nevus to Melanoma (Scholarship) is funded by the University of Sydney. It is available to full-time postgraduate research students interested in the use of state of the art proteomics techniques to study nevi and melanomas, because understanding the difference in protein expression between them may lead to discovering possible targets for early diagnosis and therapy.

2. Eligibility

a. Applicants must be Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents with unconditional offer of admission for full-time studies in either a Masters of Philosophy or PhD within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney, and be willing to undertake research in the use of state of the art proteomics techniques to study nevi and melanomas.

b. Applicants must also hold Honours degree or a Master's degree in a related field with a substantial research component (or equivalent).

3. Selection Criteria

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

I. academic merit,
II. area of study and research proposal,
III. curriculum vitae, and
IV. a cover letter which demonstrates their interest in the use of state of the art proteomics techniques to study nevi and melanomas.

b. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship by the nomination of the relevant research supervisor.

4. Value

a. The Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance of $26,682 per annum (indexed to the RTP rate) for up to three years for a PhD recipient, or two years for a Masters of Philosophy recipient, subject to satisfactory academic performance. A PhD recipient may apply for an extension of up to 6 months. No extension is possible for a non-PhD recipient.
b. A supplementary stipend valued at between $2,000 and $4,000 annually, may be awarded to an outstanding recipient. The supplementary scholarship will have the same tenure as the Scholarship. To be awarded the supplementary scholarship the recipient must:

i. have achieved First Class Honours to obtain an annual top-up amount of $2,000, or

ii. have achieved First Class Honours and have proteomic experience to obtain an annual top-up amount of $4,000.

c. 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.

d. The Scholarship cannot be deferred or transferred to another area of research.

e. No other amount is payable.

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 carer’s 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 Department and 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. Conversion between Research Programs

a. The Scholarship recipient may convert a masters by research to a PhD or vice-versa provided such change in candidature is approved by the HDRAC. The maximum duration of the converted Scholarship will be the time remaining for their new candidate, providing it does not exceed more than 3.5 years in total (includes the potential extension) since the commencement of the Scholarship.

11. Termination

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

I. on resignation or withdrawal of the student from their PhD or Masters of Philosophy,
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,
IV. if the recipient receives an alternative primary scholarship,
V. where an alternative top-up scholarship is awarded that results in the recipient obtaining an overall amount of more than 75% of the value the primary Scholarship. In such circumstances, if this Scholarship offers the lesser top-up amount, the top-up component of this Scholarship will be terminated, 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.

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.