

Sydney West Translational Cancer Research Centre PhD Scholarship

Terms and Conditions September 2017

1. Background

- a. A unique opportunity is available for an outstanding PhD scholar in the area of translational cancer research. The research is to be conducted at one of the primary sites of the Sydney West Translational Cancer Research Centre (SW-TCRC).
- b. This scholarship is supported by a grant from the Cancer Institute NSW.

2. Eligibility

- a. This scholarship is offered subject to the applicant having an unconditional offer of admission or being currently enrolled in a PhD at the University of Sydney.
- b. Applicants must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident at the time of award.
- c. Applicants must have completed at least one of the following:
 - i. Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery,
 - ii. Doctor of Medicine,
 - iii. Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours or equivalent, or
 - iv. Degree with an outstanding record of professional and/or research achievement since graduation.
- d. The applicant, their supervisor and their research project must be based in Australia and located at one of the SW-TCRC sites.
- e. The applicant must already be, or will become, a member of SW-TCRC by the time of award.
- f. The primary supervisor of the applicant must have at least six months membership of the SW-TCRC at the time of the application.

3. Selection Criteria

- a. The Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of:
 - I. academic merit,
 - II. previous research experience,
 - III. specialist training in oncology,
 - IV. supervisor of proposed research,
 - V. area of study and research proposal,
 - VI. letters of support from two professional referees, and
 - VII. alignment of research with the goals of the SW-TCRC.
- b. Priority will be given to applicants whose research projects have a significant laboratory based and/or basic research component.

Sydney West Translational Cancer Research Centre PhD Scholarship

- c. This scholarship is offered subject to the applicant being a confirmed member of the SW-TCRC.
- d. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship by the nomination of the SW-TCRC PhD Scholarship selection committee.

4. Value

- a. If the applicant meets the requirements outlined in 2(c)(i) or 2(c)(ii) the scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance equivalent to the (indexation, subject to satisfactory academic performance).
- b. If the applicant meets the requirements outlined in 2(c)(iii) or 2(c)(iv) the scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance equivalent to the Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship for up to three years, subject to satisfactory academic performance.
- c. The stipend will be indexed annually on the anniversary of the scholarship commencement date in line with particular scholarship that is awarded.
- d. The successful applicant will receive \$2,000 per annum towards the purchase of consumables and conference travel that is relevant to the scholarship. Any unspent funds may be carried forward into the following year but not beyond the end date of the scholarship.
- e. A one off amount of \$500 will be payable to the successful applicant in the final year of the scholarship to assist with costs associated with thesis preparation and presentation. These funds cannot be used for other purposes and must be used within six months of the scholarship end date.
- f. 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.
- g. The Scholarship is for commencement in Research Period 1 2018 and cannot be transferred to another area of research.
- h. The Scholarship cannot be deferred.
- i. No other amount is payable.
- j. The Scholarship will be offered subject to the availability of funding.
- k. The successful recipient will only be able to commence their scholarship once all required ethics approvals are in place or until approval has been given by the SW-TCRC Director to commence preparatory research not requiring ethics approval.
- l. The scholarship holder will be invited to attend SW-TCRC events from time-to-time.

5. Eligibility for Progression

Sydney West Translational Cancer Research Centre PhD Scholarship

- a. Progression is subject to passing the annual progress review.
- b. The scholarship holder must demonstrate how they have or will actively engage as a member of the SW-TCRC.
- c. The scholarship holder and their supervisor may not hold or be applying for other funding from another Cancer Institute NSW Translational Cancer Research Centre during the tenure of the scholarship.

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, Director of the SW-TCRC, 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.

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

Sydney West Translational Cancer Research Centre PhD Scholarship

- a. Unless terminated earlier under this paragraph, the Scholarship will terminate:
 - I. on resignation or withdrawal of the student from their PhD,
 - 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. In such circumstances this Scholarship will be terminated in favour of the alternative scholarship where it is of higher value,
 - V. 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.

12. Reporting

- a. The scholarship holder will be required to report annually to the SW-TCRC.

Sydney West Translational Cancer Research Centre PhD Scholarship

- b. The scholarship holder will be required to submit a final report to the SW-TCRC at the end of the scholarship.
- c. The scholarship holder will provide other information as requested in a timely manner to assist the SW-TCRC to fulfil its reporting requirements.

13. Acknowledgement

- a. The successful applicant must acknowledge the Cancer Institute NSW and the SW-TCRC in all publications and presentations resulting from research supported by this scholarship.