Centre of Research Excellence in Indigenous Health and Alcohol Postgraduate Research Scholarship
Terms and Conditions

1. Background
   a. A unique opportunity is available for an outstanding Research Masters or PhD scholar to conduct research in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) health and alcohol.

2. Eligibility
   a. This Scholarship is offered subject to the applicant having an unconditional offer of admission or being currently enrolled full-time in a Masters by Research or PhD at the University of Sydney.
   b. Applicants must conduct research into Indigenous health and alcohol.
   c. Applicants must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
   d. At least one of the applicant’s Research Supervisors must be affiliated with the Discipline of Addiction Medicine, University of Sydney or another relevant discipline in Sydney Medical School.

3. Selection Criteria
   a. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship on the basis of:
      I. academic merit,
      II. curriculum vitae,
      III. written and oral communication skills,
      IV. the ability to work as part of a team,
      V. references from two professional referees, and
      VI. a cover letter that demonstrates your interest in contributing to improved health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to conducting high quality evidence-based research. (Maximum 1 page with 12 point font.)
   b. Shortlisted applicants may be required to attend an interview.
   c. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to develop a one page Expression of Interest, setting out their research proposal.
   d. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship by the Centre of Research Excellence’s Executive and Indigenous Advisory Group.

4. Value
   a. The Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance of $40,000 per annum for up to two years for a successful Research Masters applicant, or for up to three years for a successful PhD applicant, subject to satisfactory academic performance.
   b. A successful PhD recipient may apply for an extension of up to 6 months.
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c. If a successful applicant converts from a Research Masters to a PhD or vice-versa, the maximum total duration of the Scholarship becomes that of the new candidature.

d. If successful recipient has not completed the duration of their Scholarship by the 30 April 2022 the Scholarship will be terminated.

e. 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.

f. The Scholarship cannot be transferred to another area of research (i.e. outside Indigenous health and alcohol).

g. No other amount is payable.

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

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 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, 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
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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 Research Masters or PhD,
   II. upon the student having completed 4 years equivalent full-time study for a PhD, or 2 years equivalent full-time study for a Masters by Research,
   III. upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award,
   IV. if the scholarship duration has not been completed by the 30 April 2022,
   V. if the student ceases to be a full-time student,
   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 higher value and the recipient may be eligible for an additional supplementary scholarship,
   VII. 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.

11. Misconduct
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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. Acknowledgement

a. The successful applicant must provide the NHMRC and the University of Sydney with a copy of any proposed publications within 28 days in advance of submitting for publication.

b. Comments and/or reasonable amendments to the publication can be made by the CRE Executive and the University of Sydney provided they are given to the student no later than 14 days before the report is published.

c. The successful applicant must acknowledge the NHMRC and the Centre of Research Excellence: Indigenous Health and alcohol in any publications resulting from the research undertaken during the Scholarship.

13. Confidentiality

a. The successful applicant is required to keep all confidential information revealed by the NHMRC or University of Sydney confidential and ensure it is not given to a third party without the prior written consent of the University of Sydney or NHMRC, as appropriate, or as required by law.
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Approval

Account Codes: K1901 N7927 – 100%

Amount and Duration: The Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance of $40,000 per annum for up to two years for a successful Research Masters applicant, or for up to three years for a successful PhD applicant, subject to satisfactory academic performance.

A successful PhD recipient may apply for an extension of up to 6 months.

Number of Scholarships to be Awarded: 3

Budget: $420,000

Awarding: Centre of Research Excellence in Indigenous Health and Alcohol Postgraduate Research Scholarship

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Name: Professor Arthur Conigrave
Title: Dean, Sydney Medical School
The University of Sydney

Date: _____________________