Postgraduate Research Scholarship in Novel Graft Fixation for Ligament Reconstruction

Terms and Conditions
April 2019

1. Background

a. Funded by the Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC) and administered by the University of Sydney, this Scholarship has been established to assist PhD students to work in a multidisciplinary research team to overcome industry-focused challenges in biomedical engineering specifically in ligament reconstructive procedures.

b. The aim of this project is to develop fixation anchors and screws from a novel biodegradable ceramic material using innovative additive manufacturing techniques.

c. The successful candidate will be joining this industry collaborative project. The successful applicant will be expected to collaborate with these partners, work with engineers in the industrial teams and communicate project progress to key stakeholders. The PhD candidate will have the opportunity to spend time at the Industry facility and may become involved with complementary industry projects, as required.

2. Eligibility

a. Applicants with an unconditional full-time offer to study a PhD in the field of ligament reconstruction research within the School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering at the University of Sydney.

b. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in mechanical/Biomedical Engineering with Honours Class I (or equivalent), or a master’s degree in an Engineering field with a substantial research component.

c. Applicants must have a strong background in materials science and additive manufacturing with an interest in medical product design and development.

d. Applicants should also have excellent knowledge of 3D CAD software (preferably SolidWorks).

e. Applicants should have the ability to conduct theoretical analysis and develop test protocols for different bone fixation constructs.

f. Excellent oral and written communication skills in the English language, with ability to produce progress reports to the IMCRC as required.

g. Experience in ligament reconstruction and tissue engineering is highly desirable but not mandatory.
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h. Applicants who have already enrolled full-time in a PhD for less than half year of full-time equivalent study load are also eligible to apply.

i. As part of the terms of the project, applicants will be required to sign a Deed Poll to assign the Intellectual Property rights (that are created under this project) to the University and subsequently to the Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC). This is a precondition for participation.

3. Selection Criteria

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

I. academic merit,
II. curriculum vitae,
III. area of study and research proposal, and a
IV. personal statement which demonstrates interest and any experience in the area of biomaterials, additive manufacturing and tissue engineering.

b. An interview will be required as part of the selection process.

c. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship on the nomination of the relevant research supervisor(s) in the School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

4. Value

a. The Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance of $10,000 per annum (fixed rate) for up to three years, subject to satisfactory academic performance. The recipient may apply for an extension of up to 6 months.

b. Where the successful recipient is in receipt of an alternative primary scholarship from the University of Sydney that provides stipend allowance, this Scholarship will become a supplementary stipend payment of $10,000 per annum (fixed rate) for up to three years, subject to satisfactory academic performance. The recipient may apply for an extension of up to 6 months.

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 is for commencement in relevant research period in which it is offered or specific date. It cannot be deferred or transferred to another area of research without prior approval.

e. No other amount is payable.
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 carer’s leave on presentation of medical certificate(s). Students taking sick leave must inform their supervisor as soon as practicable.

   c. Successful recipients of this Scholarship as a supplementary Scholarship will have the same leave conditions as indicated in the terms and conditions of the primary stipend scholarship.

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 School and the Faculty via application to 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.

   c. Successful recipients of this Scholarship as a supplementary Scholarship will have the same leave conditions as indicated in the terms and conditions of the primary stipend scholarship.

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 of the Scholarship for any reason during the tenure of the Scholarship. Periods of Scholarship suspension are cumulative and failure to resume study after suspension will result in the award being terminated. Approval must be sought from the student’s supervisor, Head of School and the Faculty via application to the Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre (HDRAC). Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the Scholarship.

c. Successful recipients of this Scholarship as a supplementary Scholarship will have the same leave conditions as indicated in the terms and conditions of the primary stipend 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. The Scholarship will terminate:

   I. on resignation or withdrawal of the student from their research degree,
   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. upon the student having completed the maximum candidature for their degree as per the University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule 2011 Policy,
   V. if the recipient (who holds this as a primary scholarship) receives an alternative primary stipend scholarship. In such circumstances this Scholarship will be terminated in favour of the alternative stipend scholarship where it is of higher value,
   VI. if the recipient (who holds this as a supplementary scholarship) receives another supplementary stipend scholarship(s) that increases the overall supplementary rate paid to a student to more than 75% of the primary amount. In such circumstances, the supplementary stipend scholarship of the higher value will prevail,
   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,
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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.