Doctor Liang Voice Program PhD Scholarship

Terms and Conditions

December 2018

1. Background

a. An opportunity is available for an outstanding PhD scholar to conduct research into the establishment and testing of a laryngeal database. This will require knowledge of the field and scoping the speech language community to deliver novel data solutions to enhance research.

b. The Dr Liang Voice Program (DLVP) was established in 2017 to support research, research training, clinical training and education in the field of laryngeal and voice conditions. The objective of this world first program is to transform quality of care and improve outcomes for those affected by voice disorders.

2. Eligibility

a. This Scholarship is offered subject to the applicant having an unconditional offer of admission or being currently enrolled for full-time studies in a PhD at the University of Sydney within the:
   I. Faculty of Health Sciences,
   II. Faculty of Medicine and Health, or
   III. Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

b. Applicants must be willing to undertake research in the field of Laryngology with a focus on the establishment, collection and organisation of data sets.

c. Applicants must have an understanding of relevant clinical data parameters.

d. Applicants must hold an Honours degree (First Class or equivalent) or have completed a four-year degree with an outstanding record of professional and/or research achievements since graduation.

3. Selection Criteria

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

   I. academic merit,
   II. demonstrated interest/experience in the area of study,
   III. a research proposal/summary outlining the proposed methodologies and the importance of the project,
   IV. current curriculum vitae,
   V. applicant’s willingness to work across disciplines,
   VI. a letter of support from applicant’s research supervisor, and
   VII. a personal statement which describes what the applicant hopes to gain from completing a PhD and how they intend to use the Scholarship funds to assist in the completion of their thesis.
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b. Applicants with an interest in health informatics will be highly regarded.

c. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship by the Faculty of Health Sciences on the nomination of a selection committee. The selection committee will be chaired by Professor Joshua Burns and will include the Co-directors of the DLVP and a representative from Health Informatics.

4. Value

a. The Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance equivalent to the minimum Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend rate for up to three years, subject to satisfactory academic performance. The recipient may apply for an extension of up to 6 months.

b. A successful recipient will also be awarded an allowance of $5,000 per annum to attend and present at relevant conferences and/or attend meetings with collaborators. These funds will be accessed by the successful recipient through their primary supervisor and Faculty Finance Manager.

c. Academic course fees and the Student Services Amenities fee are not provided for a successful international applicant.

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

e. No other amount is payable.

f. 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.
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c. Once the Scholarship recipient has completed twelve months of their award, and for international students subject to relevant VISA conditions, they are entitled to a maximum of twelve weeks paid maternity leave during the tenure of the award. Students applying for paid maternity leave must do so at least four weeks prior to the expected date of birth. Periods of paid maternity leave are added to the normal duration of the award. Scholarship holders who have not completed twelve months of their award may access unpaid maternity leave through the suspension provisions.

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.

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.

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 the student having completed the maximum candidature for their degree as per the University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule 2011 Policy,
III. upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award,
IV. 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,
V. if the recipient receives an alternative primary stipend scholarship. In such circumstances this Scholarship will be terminated in favour of the alternative scholarship where it is of higher value,
VI. does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave, or
VII. 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 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.