Postgraduate Scholarship in Health Economics – Patient Centred Care and Outcomes in Chronic Disease

Terms and Conditions
March 2019

1. Background

a. An opportunity is available for an outstanding PhD scholar in the area of health economics. The research project will examine the costs and benefits of frameworks for patient-centred management of chronic diseases. Patient-centred care encompasses respect, emotional support, physical comfort, information and communication, continuity and transition, care coordination, involvement of family and carers, and access to appropriate care.

b. The research will be conducted within the Sydney School of Public Health located at the Centre for Kidney Research at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

2. Eligibility

a. This Scholarship is offered subject to applicants having an unconditional offer of admission or currently being enrolled for full-time studies in PhD within the Faculty of Medicine and Health at the University of Sydney.

b. Applicants must be willing to undertake research in the field of health economics for patient-centred management of chronic disease. Available areas of research include but are not limited to:

   I. The evaluation of alternate pathways and complex interventions for the care of children and adults with chronic disease, including those specifically addressing the health of Indigenous Australians,
   II. Transitional care for adolescents for paediatric to adult care,
   III. The use of patient navigators for children with chronic diseases,
   IV. Addressing barriers and inequalities for children with chronic diseases,
   V. Addressing barrier and inequalities in access to kidney replacement therapy in patients in rural communities, or
   VI. The use of sophisticated e-health systems in the provision of out of clinic care to assist in addressing waiting times for specialist clinics and promoting self-management.

c. Applicants must hold an Honours degree (First Class or Second Class upper) or a Master’s degree with a substantial research component, or equivalent in at least one of the following fields:

   I. health economics,
   II. biostatistics, or
   III. health, or
   IV. health-related science.

d. Applicants must also demonstrate knowledge, skills and experience in research and a particular interest in chronic disease.
e. Applicants must be an Australian Citizen, New Zealand Citizen or Australian Permanent Resident

3. Selection Criteria

a. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship on the basis of:
   
   I. academic merit,
   II. curriculum vitae, and
   III. a cover letter which demonstrates their interest in the application of health economics in patient-centred care and outcomes in chronic disease.

b. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship on the nomination of Professor Kirsten Howard.

4. Value

a. The Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance equivalent to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Standard Stipend rate (indexed 1 on January each year), subject to satisfactory academic performance. The duration of the Scholarship will be as per the below payment schedule:
   
   I. A successful recipient who commenced their candidature prior to 1 January 2019 will receive the Scholarship for up to 3.5 years. A recipient in this situation may apply for an extension of up to 6 months.
   II. A successful recipient who commenced their candidature on or after the 1 January 2019 will receive the Scholarship for up to 3.5 years.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. No other amount is payable.

e. 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.

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.