Postgraduate Research Excellence Awards in the Faculty of Science

Terms and Conditions
May 2019

1. **Background**

   a. Funded by the Faculty of Science at the University of Sydney, this Scholarship aims to support outstanding international students undertaking their PhD within the Faculty of Science.

2. **Eligibility**

   a. International students that have applied for admission for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) within the Faculty of Science at the University of Sydney.
   
   b. Applicants must have the support letter, endorsed by the Head of School, from their intended research supervisor in the Faculty of Science at the University of Sydney to apply for this Scholarship.
   
   c. Applicants must hold an Australian standard bachelor’s degree with first class honours in Science or relevant discipline area, or equivalent. Applicants may alternatively/or in addition hold an Australian standard masters degree with at least 25% of the final year being a research component.
   
   d. Applicants must separately apply for a Research Training Program (RTP) Fee Offset and Stipend Scholarship at the University of Sydney.
   
   e. Applicants cannot be in receipt of an alternative scholarship that also provides tuition support and/or a primary stipend allowance at the time of application.

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,
      IV. two academic references which provide exceptional support for further research studies.

   b. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship on the nomination of the Dean of the Faculty of Science, or their nominee, on the recommendation of the Associate Dean (Research Education) and the Head, Research and Research Training.

4. **Value**

   a. The Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance equivalent to the Research Training Program (RTP) minimum stipend rate (indexed annually on 1 January), for up to
Postgraduate Research Excellence Awards in the Faculty of Science

three years, subject to satisfactory academic performance. Recipients may apply for an extension of up to 6 months.

b. Academic course fees and the Student Services Amenities Fee are also provided for an initial 12 research periods. Recipients may apply for up to a 2 research period extension.

c. The Scholarship will also cover overseas health cover for the recipient (single cover only) for the normal full-time duration of their higher degree studies. Reimbursement of the VISA application cost is also provided should a separate VISA application be required to commence the research degree.

d. 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.

e. The Scholarship is for commencement in relevant research period for which it is offered and can only be deferred for up to two research periods with the prior permission of the Associate Dean (Research Education). Deferment beyond two research periods can only be approved with the prior permission of the Dean of the Faculty of Science. The Scholarship cannot be transferred to another University school, faculty, schools or department within a faculty, supervisor, or university.

f. No other amount is payable.

g. 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. 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 Scholarships for any reason during the tenure of their Scholarship. Periods of Scholarships 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.

8. 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.

9. Termination

a. Unless terminated earlier under this paragraph, the Scholarship will terminate:

   I. on resignation or withdrawal of the student from their PhD,
   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 scholarship such as the RTP. In such circumstances this Scholarship will be terminated in favour of the alternative scholarship where it is of higher or equal 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.

10. 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.