NHMRC CRE Disability and Health PhD Scholarship

Terms and Conditions
March 2019

1. Background

a. An opportunity is available for an outstanding PhD scholar to conduct research in the area of disability and health. The research project will explore the disadvantage and inequities experienced by people with disabilities and impact on their health and wellbeing.

b. The research is to be conducted with the Centre of Research Excellence – Disability and Health (CRE-DH) team which is co-located with the Centre for Disability Research and Policy and the Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney.

c. This Scholarship is funded by a National Health and Medical Research Council Centre of Research Excellence (NHMRC-CRE) in Disability and Health grant.

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 a PhD within the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney.

b. Applicants must be willing to undertake research into the field of disability and health.

c. Applicants must be an Australian Citizen, New Zealand Citizen or Australian Permanent Resident.

d. Applicants must also hold an Honours degree (First Class) or equivalent in one of the following areas:
   i. Public health,
   ii. Social sciences,
   iii. Statistics,
   iv. Social policy,
   v. Allied health, or
   vi. a related area.

e. Applicants must have a strong research background in one of the following areas:
   i. Biostatistics, or
   ii. Social sciences, and/or
   iii. Health research including qualitative methods or quantitative social sciences.

f. Applicants must demonstrate interest in applying these skills to examining inequities in social participation, economic and health outcomes of people with and without disabilities.
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3. Selection Criteria

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

I. academic merit and timely completion of academic studies,
II. curriculum vitae,
III. feedback from two academic referees, and
IV. a personal statement and/or additional information which demonstrates:
   i. their experience in investigating disability and health topics,
   ii. interest in applying skills to examining inequities in social participation, economic and health outcomes of people with and without disabilities, and
   iii. familiarity with disability issues through lived experience and/or academic studies.

b. Applicants familiar with disability issues either through lived experience or academic studies will be preferred.

c. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship on the nomination of a selection committee comprising of the Associate Dean Research Education, Professor Gwynnyth Llewellyn and Professor Roger Standcliffe.

4. Value

a. The Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance equivalent to the minimum Research Training Program (RTP) rate (indexed on 1 January each year) for up to three years, subject to satisfactory academic performance. The recipient may apply for an extension of up to 6 months, if funding becomes available.

   a. 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.

b. 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.

c. No other amount is payable.

d. 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.

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. when the student suspends studies of their research degree,
III. upon the student having completed the maximum candidature for their degree as per the University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule 2011 Policy,
IV. upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award,
V. 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,
VI. 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,
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 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.