



## **UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY MERIT AWARDS**

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS 2019**

#### **1. Background**

- a. Established in 2009, the University of Sydney Merit Awards provides a supplementary stipend to selected domestic Research Training Program Stipend Scholarship or University Postgraduate Award recipients who wish to pursue full-time research doctorate studies at the University of Sydney.

#### **2. Eligibility**

- a. The Scholarship is offered subject to the applicants having an unconditional offer of admission or being currently enrolled in a PhD at the University of Sydney.
- b. Applicants must have received a Research Training Program Stipend Scholarship or University Postgraduate Award paid at the minimum rate payable for the Research Training Program stipend.
- c. Applicants who were a recipient of research scholarship that provided stipend previously are not eligible.
- d. Applicants must be Australian Citizens, Australian Permanent residents or New Zealand Citizens.

#### **3. Selection Criteria**

- a. The successful applicants will be awarded the Scholarship on the basis of the ranking of their application for the Research Training Program Stipend Scholarship and University Postgraduate Award as determined by the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Sub Committee.
- b. The successful applicants will be awarded the Scholarship on the nomination of the Academic Board's Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Sub-Committee.

#### **4. Value**

- a. The Scholarship will provide a stipend allowance of \$5,000 per annum (fixed rate) for up to three years, subject to satisfactory academic performance. A six month extension is possible.
- 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. Successful applicants are expected to commence their Scholarship in the research period that the scholarship is awarded.
- d. The Scholarship is not transferable to another university.
- 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 same conditions as indicated in the terms and conditions of the primary scholarship.

**7. Research Overseas**

- a. The same conditions as indicated in the terms and conditions of the primary scholarship.

**8. Suspension**

- a. The same conditions as indicated in the terms and conditions of the primary 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 be terminated:
  - I. on resignation or withdrawal of the student from their PhD (including downgrade to a Masters by Research),
  - 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. on receipt of another supplementary scholarship that increases the overall supplementary rate paid to a student to more than 75% of the primary amount. In such circumstances, the supplementary scholarship of the higher value prevails,
  - V. if the recipient does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave, or
  - VI. 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.