THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SCHEME 2005


The University of Sydney Postdoctoral Fellowships were established in 1996 to support excellence in full-time research undertaken in any Department or School at the University. Successful applicants are expected to be based full-time at the University for the duration of the Fellowship. The University will be offering up to ten new Fellowships in 2005. Applicants seeking to join the University from another organisation in Australia or from overseas are particularly encouraged to apply.

Assessment Criteria
Excellence will be the primary criterion, both in terms of the project and the researcher. Equal weight will be given to the quality of the project, the track record of the applicant relative to opportunity, and the research environment in the host Department/School.

Overlap with other Fellowship schemes including ARC/NHMRC
Applicants who have requested Fellowship support from other sources in 2005 may submit the same project to the University of Sydney Fellowship Scheme provided full disclosure is made in the application. If the applicant is awarded a Fellowship from another source, then the University of Sydney Fellowship application may not be considered.

Preparing an Application
The application form and related information is available from the Research Office website at: http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/reschols/forms/forms.htm

Applicants are required to:

1. Complete the application form and the following attachments. Attachments should be clearly typed on single sided A4 pages, using 12 point font size with at least a 2 cm margin on each side:

   • The proposed research project including project title, aims and significance, research plan, methods and techniques. Applicants who demonstrate novel and innovative variations on their prior research activity will be favourably regarded. This section should be no more than 4 pages including bibliographic references. Additional pages will not be considered by the Selection Committee;
   • Proof that all requirements for the award of a Doctorate have been met (e.g. copies of transcripts). See also the Conditions of Award following (#1);
   • Curriculum Vitae;
   • List of Publications;
   • A copy of no more than two key publications.

2. Arrange for testimonials from two referees to be completed using the template available from the Research Office website. The testimonials should be sent directly to the Research Office and not be attached to the application.

It is highly recommended that applicants discuss the proposed project with the Head of the host Department/School. A list of contact details for all Heads of Department/School is available from the Research Office website.
Conditions of Award
The Fellowship is awarded under the following conditions:

1. Applicants must have a PhD award dated no earlier than 1 December 1999, or provide evidence in the application of graduand status as at 17 September 2004 (i.e. evidence that all the requirements for the PhD award, including examination, have been completed);

2. Fellows must become employees of the University of Sydney. The University will not provide funding to affiliated institutions to appoint Fellows;

3. Awards are tenable for three years;

4. Appointments must commence within six months of a formal letter of offer, unless the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) approves otherwise;

5. A salary (taxable) will be provided within the range of steps 6, 7 and 8 of the University’s Level A Academic salary scale, currently valued at A$54,817, A$56,831 and A$58,843 per annum;

6. A research support grant of $25,000 will be provided upon commencement of appointment to assist Fellows establish their research in the host Department/School. The Head of Department/School must approve expenditure of this grant;

7. A minimum cost airfare direct to Sydney, and return to point of departure on expiry of the Fellowship, will be provided. Fares for dependants, visa charges and removal expenses, will not be provided. Claims for travel expenses will normally be paid on production of an invoice or a receipt from a travel agency;

8. Fellows are required to provide an annual report of their research work, and details of their intended program for the following year. This should be forwarded to the Research Office and be accompanied by an evaluative commentary by the Head of School/Department. A final report covering all aspects of the work undertaken (including grants awarded, grants applied for and their status, details of student supervision or co-supervision, conference presentations and publications) and details of any new knowledge gained in the field of study must also be forwarded to the Research Office at the completion of the Fellowship. This should be accompanied by an evaluative commentary by the Head of School/Department;

9. Fellows shall be entitled to recreational, sickness and maternity leave in accordance with the University’s general policy for all staff. All recreational leave must be taken within the period of the appointment. Requests to suspend or vary the hours of an award for any other reason must be submitted to the Research Office and approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation);

10. Any Fellow considered not to be making satisfactory progress will have the Fellowship reviewed by a committee appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) which, at its absolute discretion, may terminate the Fellowship; and

11. The University asserts certain ownership rights of intellectual property created in the course of the fellowship subject to the University’s Intellectual Property Rule: http://www.usyd.edu.au/policy/