Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning

Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS)

The PRSS is a scheme that provides direct support for currently enrolled postgraduate research candidates in the School. The funds can be applied for:

- Registration and travel to conferences to present papers (HERDC qualified, which means the full paper has been peer reviewed and published). Only travel approved by the University will be supported, see https://intranet.sydney.edu.au/services/travel.html
- Registration to virtual conferences to present papers (HERDC qualified, which means the full paper has been peer reviewed and published).
- Field expenses. Only travel approved by the University will be supported, see https://intranet.sydney.edu.au/services/travel.html
- Use of specialist services (transcription services are not included).
- Purchase of specialist books, software, or other equipment (computers and laptops are not included).
- Thesis production expenses.

There are usually more applications than available funding, so funds are allocated on a competitive basis.

Applicants are encouraged to read all information to assist in completing their application.

Applicant Eligibility

- Currently enrolled HDR candidates who have successfully completed their probation review and received an outcome in their latest PEM are eligible to apply for PRSS funding. Please include a printout from RECS of your most recent PEM outcome as part of your PRSS application.
- Suspended candidates are permitted to submit applications if they are due to commence their candidature in the following research period. Only after recommencing their enrolment at the time funding is allocated can they receive PRSS funding.
- A maximum of one successful PRSS round can be awarded each year to an eligible applicant. Only one application can be submitted in a round. Successful applicants in a round will not be eligible to apply for another round until the following calendar year.

1. **Doctor of Philosophy Candidates**
   o Candidature must not exceed 4 years full-time (or part-time equivalent).
   o A maximum of 3 (three) applications can be made during a candidature. Those applications must all be within the 4-year candidature limit.

2. **Masters by Research Candidates**
   o Candidature must not exceed 2 years full-time (or part-time equivalent)
   o A maximum of 1 (one) application can be made during a candidature.
   o If a Masters by Research candidate converts to a Doctor of Philosophy, the total number of successful PRSS applications permitted will be three (including any successful application as a Masters candidate).

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Expenses Eligibility

- A maximum of $1500 will be considered for all items besides travel, for conference and fieldwork.
- A maximum of $1500 will be considered for travel in Australia or New Zealand.
- A maximum of $2500 will be considered for travel in Europe, Africa, North and South America.
- A maximum of $2000 will be considered for travel in other countries.
- A maximum of $1000 will be considered for in-person attendance conference registration costs.
- A maximum of $600 will be considered for virtual attendance conference registration costs.

Conferences

Conference expenses should be for the purpose of presenting a paper or poster of which the candidate is the author and in connection with their research. Eligible only if the full paper has been blind peer-reviewed and published in proceedings, unless the supervisor provides a supporting statement as to the value of the conference.

Fieldwork

Clear information must be provided to show when and how the activities occurred. Ethical approval must be obtained before commencing fieldwork involving human research.

Specialist Services

Expenses in connection with the use of specialist services or a visit to use specialist facilities or to learn specialist technique/s directly related to the candidate's research. The supervisor/s must demonstrate that the use of such services, facilities or infrastructure could not have reasonably been anticipated at the beginning of the candidature or was beyond those normally provided by the School.

Specialist Equipment and Items

Purchase of Equipment that is essential to the candidate's research and is above and beyond the normal infrastructure.

Specialist books, periodicals, and software that are essential for a candidate's research and are not normally available through the School or the University Libraries or are difficult to obtain.

Thesis Production

To assist with the costs associated with thesis editing of the final draft of the thesis for examination. Only available to candidates who do not have a scholarship that provides a portion of funding towards thesis editing or production.

Selection Committee

PRSS is awarded by a School-appointed Selection Committee to eligible applicants on a competitive basis.

The Selection Committee will consist of:

1. Chair – Associate Dean (Research Education);
2. Discipline Research Leads (DRLs) or nominees;
3. HDR Experience Coordinator;

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4. Research Manager or nominee.

A quorum will be achieved with a minimum of 3 (three) Committee members.

The Selection Committee will consider:

1. Assessment Criteria
2. Demonstrated need for funding
3. Quality of the applicant and track record relative to opportunity
4. Stage of candidature and previously awarded funding
5. Priorities, if any, placed on the expenditure categories by the School

Assessment Criteria

1. Eligibility requirements are met.
2. Supporting statement from the supervisor/s for the application, including:
     a. Value and importance of funding to PhD research, candidate's research development, and disciplinary relevance
     b. Quality of the applicant and quality of the conference and/or research activity
     c. Details of what other sources of funding have been secured toward these activities, as requested in their support document
3. Justification of expenses, including relevant documentation associated with the requested budget (e.g. invoice or screenshot of the registration fee) and a brief statement about the need and proposed use of funds.
4. Any achievements pertaining to the applicant's research. A track record of achievement relative to opportunity and stage of candidature provides some indication of satisfactory progress.
5. Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible. Where inadequate information has been provided by the applicant, these applications will be disqualified for consideration.

What is not included or supported by PRSS funding

1. Costs incurred in previous calendar year(s).
2. Direct research costs normally provided by the School, such as printing and photocopying.
3. Infrastructure costs normally provided by the School.
4. Costs associated with lockdowns and hotel quarantine. For candidates who hold scholarship(s), these will be considered annual leave.
5. Computers. Research candidates will have access to screens and desks, and will be given a laptop by the School for use during their candidature.
6. Thesis editing costs will not be covered if the candidate is a holder of a scholarship that provides a portion of funding towards thesis production.
7. Expenses for use of transcription services.
8. Journal open-access fees.

Application Rounds

Subject to the availability of funding and quality of applications, the School will endeavour to hold two rounds each year.

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