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**UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC STIPEND SCHOLARSHIP  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

*Eligibilities*

1. Applicants must be an international student at the time of award.
2. University of Sydney International Scholarship - Strategic ('the Scholarship') holders are expected to enrol in a full-time postgraduate research degree. The University may approve a part-time Scholarship where a student is able to demonstrate significant carer commitments or a medical condition which limits the capacity to undertake full-time study, provided the student's visa conditions permit the part-time study mode.

*Tenure*

3. The Scholarship may be held for 3.5 years (full time) for Research Doctorate studies, or for two years for Research Masters studies if commenced prior 1 January 2019, or 1.75 years if commences on or after 1 January 2019. Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the award.
4. No extensions are possible.
5. A student is expected to commence the Scholarship by the census date of their commencing intake, and during the year the Scholarship is awarded. If a student has commenced their studies, the scholarship may commence no earlier than the day it is awarded. Deferment of scholarship to next calendar year is not allowed.

*Stipend and Allowances*

6. Holders of the Scholarship who enrol full time will receive a stipend of \$35,000 per annum, indexed annually on 1 January.
7. A student who relocates from countries outside Australia to take up the Scholarship may claim a relocation allowance. The value of the allowance is up to \$1,250 travel from their home country to Sydney at the commencement of studies and up to \$1,250 for travel to return to their home country after successful completion of studies.
8. Students who had commenced their postgraduate research degree studies in Australia prior to the scholarship being awarded are not entitled to claim relocation allowance for travel to Australia. Students who become a permanent resident of Australia are not entitled to claim travel allowance to return to their home country.
9. Reimbursement of up to \$420 for Masters candidates and up to \$840 for Doctoral candidates will be made for eligible claims for direct costs of producing a thesis in accordance with the University's thesis allowance claim information. The claim must be lodged with the Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre (HDRAC - [hdrac.scholarships@sydney.edu.au](mailto:hdrac.scholarships@sydney.edu.au)) within one year of submission of the thesis and no more than two years after termination of the award. Costs associated with printing a thesis are not eligible as printed thesis is no longer required for submission and examination.
10. Holders of the Scholarship may receive a concurrent award, scholarship or salary to undertake their research degree provided such award, scholarship or salary provides a benefit less than 75% of the Scholarship. The Scholarship will be terminated if this limit is exceeded. Salary for work unrelated to the student's research is not subject to this limit.

*Leave Arrangements*

11. Holders of the Scholarship receive up to 20 working days recreation leave every 12 months of the Scholarship and this may be accrued. Any unused leave when the Scholarship is terminated or

completed will be forfeited. Recreation leave does not attract a leave loading. The supervisor's agreement must be obtained before leave is taken.

12. Holders of the Scholarship may take up to 10 working days sick leave every 12 months of the Scholarship and this may be accrued over the tenure of the Scholarship. Students with carer responsibility 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.
13. Holders of the Scholarship may receive additional paid sick leave of up to a total of twelve weeks during their scholarship for medically substantiated periods of illness where the student has insufficient sick leave entitlements available under Clause 12 above. Students applying for additional paid sick leave must do so at the start of absence or as soon as practicable. Periods of additional paid sick leave are added to the duration of the Scholarship.
14. Subject to relevant VISA conditions, female holders of the Scholarship have completed twelve months of their award, are entitled to a maximum of twelve weeks paid maternity leave during the tenure of the Scholarship if she is the person who gives birth. Students applying for paid maternity leave should do so at least four weeks prior to the expected date of confinement. Periods of paid maternity leave are added to the duration of the Scholarship. Holders of the Scholarship who have not completed twelve months of their award may access unpaid maternity leave through the suspension provisions.
15. For non-birth giving scholarship holders, upon completed twelve months of their award, they are entitled to a maximum of 5 days paid paternity leave. Periods of paid paternity leave are added to the duration of the Scholarship. Holders of the Scholarship who have not completed twelve months of their award may access unpaid maternity leave through the suspension provisions.

#### *Research Overseas*

16. Holders of the Scholarship may not normally conduct research overseas within the first 6 months of an award.
17. Holders of the Scholarship may conduct up to 12 months (18 months for students of Anthropology and other special cases) of their research outside Australia. Approval must be sought from the student's supervisor, and Head of department/School, 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 at the University and receive approval to Count Time Away.

#### *Conversion between Research Masters and Research Doctorate degrees*

18. Holders of the Scholarship may convert from a Research Masters degree to a Research Doctorate degree or vice-versa provided such change in candidature is approved by the Faculty/University School. The conversion from Research Doctorate degree to Research Masters degree may result a termination of the scholarship. Should the Scholarship holder be approved to retain the scholarship, the maximum duration of a converted Scholarship becomes that for the new candidature.

#### *Transfer*

19. The Scholarships are not transferrable to another university. Should the holder of scholarship transfer to another faculty, school, or supervisor within the University of Sydney, the duration of the scholarship will not be extended.

#### *Suspension*

20. Subject to relevant VISA conditions, holders of the Scholarship cannot suspend their award within the first six months.

21. Subject to relevant VISA conditions, holders of the Scholarship may apply for up to 4 research periods suspension for any reason during the tenure of their award. Periods of suspension are cumulative and failure to resume study after suspension will result in the award being terminated. Approval to suspend must be given by the Head of the Department/School concerned. Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the Scholarship.
22. Subject to relevant VISA conditions, female holders of the Scholarship are entitled to up to an additional 4 research periods suspension (less any period of paid maternity leave) following each birth. The Scholarship holder should apply for the suspension within four weeks of the expected date of confinement.
23. Whenever a student suspends his/her studies the university must report the suspension to immigration authorities and the student may be obliged to return to their home country for the duration of the suspension. Therefore, if a student wishes to remain in Australia during a period of suspension of studies, they must contact the closest Australian immigration office within 28 days of the approval notice to seek approval to remain in Australia during the suspension.

#### *Changes in Enrolment*

24. Holders of the Scholarship must notify Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre (HDRAC) 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.
25. Students who obtain Australian Permanent Residence status during the course of their enrolment at the University of Sydney (or prior to enrolment at the University) must notify the HDRAC immediately when their Australian Permanent Resident visa is issued. In this case, students must bring their passport to the Student Centre as soon as possible so that the University can adjust their residency status. Subject to satisfactory progress, students will be eligible to continue with the Scholarship.

#### *Termination*

26. The Scholarships will be terminated on resignation or withdrawal of the student, upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award, whichever occurs first. The Scholarships will be terminated before this time if after due enquiry the University concludes that a student has not carried out the course of study with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of the Scholarship, or fails to maintain satisfactory progress, or has committed serious misconduct. Stipend payment will be suspended throughout the duration of the enquiry/appeal process.

#### *Appeal*

27. The University recognises the right of any student to appeal to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) against any decision affecting the award or tenure of the Scholarship.