University of Sydney Postgraduate Award

Terms and Conditions

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident at the time of application.

2. University of Sydney Postgraduate Award (UPA) ('the Scholarship') holders are expected to enrol in a full-time Higher Degree by Research (HDR) course ('the Course'). A part-time Scholarship* may be approved where the University is satisfied that there are special circumstances beyond the student's control, for example medical conditions, financial hardship, carer's responsibilities.

   *A part-time scholarship may have tax implications and student should seek tax advice from registered tax agents.

3. Applicants must apply for admission to a Course at the University of Sydney and submit all required documentations.

4. Applicants must submit a RTP scholarship application form, available on the Scholarships Office website.

Tenure

5. The Scholarship may be held for up to 14 research periods (full time) for Research Doctorate studies, or for up to 7 research periods for Research Masters studies. 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.

6. No extension is possible.

7. The Scholarship is expected to commence in a specific research period and year stated in the scholarship offer notification.

8. The Scholarship may be deferred to a later research period within the same calendar year in which it is offered subject to admission deferral is also approved.

9. The Scholarship may be provided for the duration of an approved industry placement, research internship or professional practice activity (as stated in clause 33 of this document) if:

   a. the recipient already holds, and remains eligible for, the Scholarship;
   b. no other income is received from these activities; and
   c. the maximum duration of the Scholarship has not been reached.

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Stipend and Allowances

10. Holders of the Scholarship will receive a stipend of $44,293 per annum (2027 rate). The value of this stipend will be indexed annually on 1 January each year.

11. Holder of the Scholarship who relocates their place of residence from outside the Sydney Metropolitan area to commence their Course at the University of Sydney may claim a relocation allowance for eligible expenses. Eligible expenses are published in the University's RTP relocation allowance information. The value of the allowance is up to $515 for each eligible adult and up to $255 for each eligible child. The maximum value of a relocation allowances is $1,485.

12. Scholarship recipient who has already commenced their Course prior to the Scholarship being awarded is not entitled to claim a relocation allowance.

13. 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) through the email address 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 a printed thesis is no longer required for submission and examination.

14. Holders of the Scholarship may receive a concurrent award, scholarship or salary to undertake their Course.

Selection Criteria

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

    a. academic merit,
    b. research experience,
    c. availability of a high-quality research environment and resources to support the candidature, and
    d. availability of high qualify supervisory arrangements to support the candidature.

16. Preference may be given to applicants who:

    a. intend to enrol or currently enrolled in a PhD,
    b. identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person as per University of Sydney policy,
    c. have not previously completed an HDR course at the same level of study.

17. The Scholarship is awarded by the Higher Degrees by Research Scholarships Sub-Committee (HDRSSC) on the recommendation of the Faculty.

18. The University of Sydney will notify applicants of the outcome by the email address contained in the scholarship application.

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Leave Arrangements

19. Holders of the Scholarship receive up to 20 working days recreation leave every 4 research periods 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.

20. Holders of the Scholarship may take up to 10 working days personal leave every 4 research periods of the Scholarship and this may be accrued over the tenure of the Scholarship.

21. Holders of the Scholarship may receive additional paid personal leave of up to a total of 60 working days during the life of the Scholarship for medically substantiated periods of illness or family caring responsibilities where the student has insufficient sick leave entitlements available under Clause 22 above. Students applying for additional paid personal leave must do so at the start of absence or as soon as practicable. Periods of additional paid personal leave are added to the duration of the Scholarship.

22. Once holders of the Scholarship have completed 4 research periods of their award, they are entitled to a maximum of twenty weeks paid parental leave during the tenure of the Scholarship. Students applying for paid parental leave should do so at least four weeks prior their leave commencement date. Periods of paid parental leave are added to the duration of the Scholarship. Holders of the Scholarship who have not completed 4 research periods of their award may access unpaid parental leave through the suspension provisions. When applying for parental leave, applicant must include at least one of the following documents:

    a. letter from medical professional related to pregnancy,
    b. a surrogacy agreement,
    c. birth certificate of the child,
    d. adoption documents, or
    e. documentation that substantiates the application.

23. Holders of the Scholarship may take up to 10 working days paid family and domestic violence leave every 4 research periods of the Scholarship. This does not accrue over the tenure of the Scholarship. Periods of additional paid family and domestic violence leave are added to the duration of the Scholarship.

Research Overseas

24. Holders of the Scholarship may not normally conduct research overseas within the first 2 research periods of an award.

25. Holders of the Scholarship may conduct up to 4 research periods (6 research periods for students of Anthropology and other special cases) of their research outside Australia while remaining enrolled. Approval must be sought from the supervisor, and Head of department/School, and will only be granted if the research is essential for completion of the course. Approved periods of overseas research are cumulative and are counted towards the candidature.

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Transfer between Research Masters and Research Doctorate degrees

26. 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 to Research Masters may result in termination of the Scholarship. Should the Scholarship holder be approved to retain the Scholarship, the maximum duration of a RTP Stipend Scholarship becomes that of the new candidature.

Transfer to another University, Faculty, School or Supervisor

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

Suspension

28. Holders of the Scholarship may not apply to suspend their award within the first 2 research periods unless:

    a. permitted by a legislative provision; or
    b. approved on the basis of special circumstances. Special circumstances include carer responsibilities or medical conditions and will generally be out of the recipient's control.

29. After the first 2 research periods, 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. Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the Scholarship.

30. The Scholarship will be suspended during any period of suspension of studies.

31. Holders of the Scholarship are entitled up to an additional 4 research periods suspension (less any period of paid parental leave) following holders becoming a parent. The Scholarship holder should apply for suspension within four weeks of the expected date of becoming a parent.

Changes in Enrolment

32. Holders of the Scholarship must notify the Higher Degree by Research Administration (HDRAC) of any planned changes to their enrolment including but not limited to: attendance pattern, suspension, leave of absence, withdrawal, course transfer, and candidature transfer by written notice. If the award holder does not provide notice of the changes identified above, the University may require repayment of any overpaid stipend.

Industry placements, research internships and professional practice activities

33. Holders of the Scholarship may undertake industry placements, research internships, and professional practice activities of up to six months' duration that are approved as part of their HDR course by:

a. their supervisor;
b. the relevant Associate Dean (Research Education).

Termination

34. The Scholarships will be terminated upon the recipient's:

    a. resignation or withdrawal from their degree,
    b. failure to enrol without approved leave or suspension,
    c. submission of their thesis or at the end of the award, whichever occurs first, or
    d. acceptance of another scholarship that provides a primary stipend allowance.

35. The Scholarship will also be terminated before clause 38 of this document if the University, after an enquiry, concludes that the recipient has:

    a. not carried out the course of study with competence and diligence, or in accordance with their Scholarship offer,
    b. failed to maintain satisfactory progress, or
    c. committed misconduct.

36. Stipend payments will be suspended throughout the duration of the enquiry/appeal process.

False or Misleading Information

37. The University of Sydney reserves the right to reassess a student's Scholarship entitlements if it believes the student has provided false or misleading information to the university in relation to their application for admission or the scholarship.