

Sydney School of Architecture Design and Planning

Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS)

LAST UPDATED 23.2.2024:

This document has been updated to remove domestic travel and field work as eligible options.

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

- 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>
- Virtual conference attendance to present papers (HERDC qualified which means the full paper has been peer reviewed and published)
- Use of specialist services
- Field expenses — **Only travel approved by the University will be supported.** See <https://intranet.sydney.edu.au/services/travel.html>
- Purchase of specialist books and software
- Other equipment (Computers 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.

Eligibility

- Currently enrolled HDR students 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 students 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. Research Doctorate students

- Candidature must not exceed 4 years full time (or part time equivalent).
- A maximum of 3 applications can be made during a student's candidature. Those applications must all be within the 4 year candidature limit.

2. Masters by Research (MPhil) students

- Candidature must not exceed 2 years full time (or part time equivalent)



- A maximum of 1 (one) application can be made during a student's candidature.
- If a Masters by research student converts to a Research Doctorate, the total number of successful PRSS applications permitted will be three (including any successful application as a Masters student).

Further details

- Eligible students may apply for a maximum amount of \$1,500 for all items besides conference travel.
- \$1200 for conferences in Australia or New Zealand or virtual attendance
- A maximum of \$3000 for Conferences to Europe, Africa, North and South America
- A maximum of \$2000 for conferences in other countries.
- A maximum of \$500 for virtual attendance conference registration costs.

Conferences

Conference expenses should be for the purpose of presenting a paper or poster of which the student is the author and in connection with his/her research. Eligible only if the full paper has been blind peer-reviewed and published in proceedings, unless relevant Research Director provides supporting statement as to value of conference. A maximum of \$1200 for virtual attendance conference registration costs will be considered in 2021.

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 student's research. The Research Director must demonstrate that the use of such services, facilities or infrastructure that could not reasonably have been anticipated at the beginning of the student's candidature or was beyond those normally provided by the School.

Fieldwork Expenses

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

Purchase of Equipment and Specialist Items

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

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

Thesis production costs

To assist with costs associated with thesis editing of the final draft of the thesis for examination.

Only available to student 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 consists of:

Chair – Associate Dean (Research Education)

Director or nominee from each Research Group- Architectural Theory & History,
Architectural Design, Architectural Science, Design, Urbanism

HDR Student representative or nominee

A quorum will be achieved with a minimum of 4 (four) Committee members.

The Selection Committee will consider:

1. Assessment Criteria
2. quality of the applicant and track record relative to opportunity and stage of candidature,
3. demonstrated need for funding
4. priorities, if any, placed on the expenditure categories by the School.

Assessment Criteria

1. Eligibility requirements are met
2. Support from applicant's supervisor/s for application must include:
 - a. Supporting statement from supervisor as to the value of the expenditure to the candidate's research development
 - b. Supervisor must include details of what other sources of funding have been secured toward these activities requested in their support document.
 - c. Supervisor will need to articulate the importance of funding to PhD research, Disciplinary importance.
 - d. Supervisor will need to comment on quality of applicant and quality of the journal or conference.
3. Justification for the need and proposed use of funds. A brief statement justifying the need and proposed use of funds, together with the benefits to the applicant's candidature.
4. Any achievements pertaining 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. Computers. Research students will have access to computers and desks within the School for use during their candidature, therefore funding will not be provided towards computer purchases.
2. Direct research costs will not be covered normally provided by the School such as printing and photocopying.



3. Thesis editing costs will not be covered if the student is a holder of a scholarship which provides a portion of funding towards thesis production.
4. Costs incurred in previous calendar year(s).
5. Funds should not be used to defray the infrastructure costs normally provided by the School.
6. The University does not fund the costs associated with lockdowns and hotel quarantine. For students who hold scholarship(s), these will be considered annual leave.

Application Rounds

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