



School of Medical and Health Sciences Research Scholarship

Scholarship Conditions

Effective from July 2017

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These conditions are subject to change.

1. SCHOOL OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (SMHSRS)

The School of Medical and Health Sciences Research Scholarship provides scholarships for financial support to postgraduate students of outstanding research promise undertaking a Doctor of Philosophy within the School of Medical and Health Sciences at ECU.

Domestic scholarship holders receive an annual stipend and may also be eligible for other allowances as outlined below under Payments to Awardee.

International scholarship holders receive a stipend/living allowance and tuition fee sponsorship for the period of the scholarship

The costs of study-related field trips are not covered by the SMHSRS, however, the School may be able to assist with some costs associated with research and travel once formal confirmation of candidature has been obtained

2. MINIMUM AWARDEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS¹

Applicants must have obtained entry plus, normally at least one of the following;

- **must** have completed a four year Australian First Class Bachelor Honours Degree², or be regarded by ECU as having an equivalent level of attainment in accordance with these guidelines; **OR**
- a completed Master degree with the equivalent of at least 6 months full time research³ and a course weighted average of 70% or higher; **OR**
- a current research Doctoral enrolment at ECU with a timely Confirmation of Candidature⁴; **OR**
- at least one sole or first authored:
 - refereed⁵ article in a scholarly journal (HERDC C1); **OR**
 - refereed⁵ full written conference publication (HERDC E1); **OR**
 - scholarly research book or book chapter (HERDC A1, A2 or B); **OR**
 - commissioned or peer reviewed⁵ creative work, or refereed exhibition of creative work, or referred exhibition of creative artifacts (HERDC J1 or J2); **OR**
 - creative or design work that has received respected public/industry reviews in state or national/international media; **OR**
 - creative or design work that is the recipient of a grant from authorised philanthropic trusts and/or state or federal arts funding body.

Note: For applicants currently enrolled in a higher degree by research, a continued record of good standing and a timely Confirmation of Candidature may be taken into consideration as part of the minimum eligibility requirements.

¹ Qualifications obtained more than 5 years from the date of application require approval from the Dean of the School.

² At least 25% of the honours assessment must be determined by the project/thesis component that was formally examined.

³ The six months may include research, research training and independent study. At a minimum, research must involve a research output which includes the conception and design of the project, and analysis and interpretation of findings.

⁴ A 'timely' doctoral confirmation of candidature is one that is completed not more than 12 months FTE after commencement of the degree.

⁵ An acceptable peer review process is "one that involves impartial and independent assessment or review of the research publication in its entirety before publication, conducted by independent, qualified experts. Independent in this context means independent of the author" (2015 Higher Education Research Data Collection Specifications, <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/36749>).

Awardees must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- **must** be undertaking a *research doctoral* program at ECU
- **must** be enrolled as a full-time student at ECU upon commencement of scholarship
- **must** have their application for study in the *research doctoral* program approved by ECU before being considered for an offer of a scholarship. Where an offer of a place in the course is conditional, an applicant is normally not eligible for scholarship consideration until that condition has been met;
- **must not** reduce their study load to part-time
- **must not** hold a *research doctorate* degree or equivalent if they are seeking a research scholarship to undertake a *research doctorate*;
- **must not** previously have held an APA, HDRS, an APA (Industry) or an Australian Government-funded Postgraduate Research Award (excluding an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship), unless it was terminated within six months of the commencement of benefits. This condition may be relaxed at the School's discretion;
- whilst on an a School of Medical and Health Sciences Research Scholarship (SMHSRS), awardees **must not** be receiving another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake the research higher degree (an equivalent award, scholarship or salary would be regarded as income greater than 75% of the **base** SMHSRS stipend rate);
- scholarship applications are limited to two previous unsuccessful applications, unless a case is made for significant changes to circumstances.

Additional Awardee Eligibility for International Students

In addition to the above eligibility criteria for International students must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- **must** be a citizen of any country other than Australia or New Zealand at the commencement of the *Higher Degree by Research (HDR)*;
- **must** meet international student visa requirements as specified by the *Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)* including the requirement to purchase and maintain an *Overseas Student Health Cover* policy approved by the *Commonwealth Government Department of Health* <http://www.health.gov.au/> ;
- **must not** have held an *Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)* or an Australia Award scholarship within the two years prior to commencing the SMHSRS;
- **must not** be receiving a scholarship for which course tuition is a component under any other scholarship scheme to which the Australian Government makes a substantial contribution;
- **must** meet all University admission requirements, including English proficiency, and be made an unconditional offer of a place in the *Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)* before a scholarship can be considered/offered.

An applicant will not be considered for or awarded a research scholarship unless the School is satisfied that the applicant meets the conditions above. Where an applicant is expected to meet these conditions in good time then no payments will be made until the conditions are met.

3. PROVISION OF DOCUMENTATION TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING (AGDOET)

Application documentation may be provided to AGDOET, if requested by the Department.

4. COMMENCEMENT

Applicants must notify the Scholarships Office within 14 days (unless otherwise stated) whether they will accept the offer of scholarship. Acceptance includes a declaration that the recipient accepts the *Scholarship Conditions* (stated in this document). If an applicant does not contact the Scholarships Office by the date specified the scholarship offer will lapse. If an applicant does not expect to be at their nominated correspondence address at the time of notification, it is recommended that alternative arrangements be made.

Doctor of Philosophy students may commence their study program at any time but must have commenced full-time study within the year of offer. Scholarship awardees should normally start their study program as soon as possible after the date of offer.

Deferral of Commencement

A scholarship cannot be deferred to a later year.

Should an awardee, having already commenced the scholarship, decide to discontinue study and commence again in a later year, the awardee must formally apply to terminate the award and notify the Scholarships Office immediately.

Future admission to a course and scholarship will be subject to the standard application process at the time of that application. There is no guarantee of course placement or scholarship availability.

5. DURATION OF AWARD

The duration of a full-time SMHSRS is three years from the commencement date verified by the Principal Supervisor. No extensions will be granted and scholarship awardees are not permitted to reduce their study load to part-time. The SMHSRS duration is separate and is not linked to the duration of candidature¹.

The duration of a scholarship will be reduced by any period of study undertaken:

- (a) towards the degree prior to the commencement of the scholarship; OR
- (b) towards the degree during suspension of the scholarship.

6. VISA REQUIREMENTS (INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS)

It is the responsibility of the awardees to ensure that their student visa is valid. For further information awardees should contact Student Connect at enquiries@ecu.edu.au.

Awardees planning to depart and return to Australia during their course should ensure that they hold a valid visa for re-entry into Australia.

If an SMHSRS holder is granted Permanent Residency or Citizenship status in Australia, the awardee must notify ECU Research Admissions (hdr.enquiries@ecu.edu.au) and the Scholarships Office (scholarships@ecu.edu.au) immediately.

¹ Duration of candidature refers to the length of time available for completing a higher degree by research including any periods of provisional candidature, which is defined in the Admission, Enrolment and Academic Progress Rules

7. PAYMENTS TO AWARDEE

Stipend

The amount of the stipend for an SMHSRS will be a total of \$28,000 per annum. This will be paid in equal fortnightly instalments.

Domestic Tuition

A Research Training Program (RTP) place is normally offered to domestic Australian *PhD* scholarship awardees. This effectively means that these awardees will not be subject to tuition fees for the duration of the course to a maximum length (see course offer to clarify).

International Tuition

The School of Medical and Health Sciences will provide full tuition fee sponsorship for the duration of the SMHSRS.

School Education for Dependants

International SMHSRS awardees may not be required to pay the education costs for any of their dependants attending government primary and secondary schools in Australia. However, exemption from education costs for dependants at government schools will vary according to the state/territory. SMHSRS awardees should contact the school where they propose to send their dependants to determine what costs may apply, particularly in relation to *English as a Second Language (ESL)* tuition, which is not funded by the *Australian Government*.

NB: Eligibility will be determined by the Australian Government.

English Language Testing or Tuition Fees

An SMHSRS does not cover costs associated with English Language testing or tuition fees for bridging or English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS).

Health Cover

All international students studying in Australia are required to purchase and maintain Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of their study in Australia. It is the personal responsibility of awardees to ensure that their health cover is current. The School of Medical and Health Sciences Scholarship does not cover OSHC.

Relocation Expenses

An SMHSRS does not cover visa application fees or other costs associated with relocation.

8. ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Progress Report

Towards the end of each semester, a Progress Report notification is sent to the awardee and the Principal Supervisor. This report must be completed by the awardee and the Principal Supervisor online and submitted by the due date. Students who do not complete their progress report by the due date are discontinued, which will impact their scholarship. The Principal Supervisor, via the progress report will advise Research Assessments if he/she considers an awardee to be achieving Satisfactory Progress (SP) towards his/her PhD goals. Awardees who do not maintain satisfactory progress may be awarded a grade of Marginal Progress (MP) and be required to undertake a Progress Contract in the following semester in conjunction with their Principal Supervisor. In the event that the conditions in the Progress Contract are not met the scholarship will be terminated.

Confirmation of Candidature

Candidates must achieve confirmation of candidature by the deadlines prescribed in the Admission, Enrolment and Academic Progress Rules.

Progress may be regarded as unsatisfactory if the research proposal has not been approved within twelve months of full-time study or part-time equivalent. This may result in a grade of *Marginal Progress (MP)*. Where exceptional circumstances can be substantiated, a consideration of these circumstances should be requested in writing prior to the completion of 6 months of enrolment.

After formal approval of a research proposal and ethics, it is expected that progress will be compatible with the nominated research schedule.

9. EMPLOYMENT

Awardees may undertake part-time employment subject to the condition that work undertaken does not interfere with the progress of the awardee's study program.

It is expected that part-time work between Monday and Friday should not exceed an average of 8 hours per week over a 6 month period (January to June or July to December). The total number of hours worked for each 6 month period should not exceed 208 hours.

In exceptional circumstances, the Associate Dean (Research) may approve additional hours of paid employment if a case can be made that the additional employment has a direct benefit to the student's research degree (for example practicum or industry experience) and will not interfere with progress. The awardees Research Proposal and Ethics clearance should be formally approved prior to additional work being considered. In such a case, the supervisor must support the student's application, keeping in mind the possible impacts on progress. Where additional paid employment is approved, the arrangements must be reviewed each semester for approval to continue.

Working hours are to be noted on the biannual *Progress Reports* and scholarship holders should note either the average hours they worked each week or the total number of hours they worked over the previous 6 month period. Scholarship holders should also note what kind of work was undertaken.

Scholarship holders accepting employment as lecturers or tutors are reminded that when determining the average or total number of hours worked then they must use the following multiplier:

- One hour (1) of lecturing equates to three (3) hours of employment
- One hour (1) of tutoring equates to two (2) hours of employment

Therefore, eight hours of lecturing and/or tutoring is not permitted. An acceptable employment load must take account of any multiplication factor.

ECU academic staff accepting a scholarship must, with the approval of the respective Dean or Director, either take leave without pay and accept sessional employment within the above limits, or reduce their employment load to a maximum of 0.25 FTE.

Forms to calculate the number of hours worked in a week are available from: scholarships@ecu.edu.au

Application to Undertake Paid Employment

Awardees intending to undertake paid employment should complete an '*Application to Undertake Paid Employment*' form and submit it to their Principal Supervisor for approval. In considering the application the Principal Supervisor should be satisfied that the work will not interfere with the student's study program. Once completed, the form should be returned to the Scholarships Office.

Application to Undertake Paid Employment forms are available on-line at: <http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/forms/overview>

10. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Scholarship holders are permitted to:

- Obtain funds from other sources for fieldwork, equipment or other expenses not covered by the award;
- Obtain funding for overseas travel costs from other Australian Government awards or any other sources;
- Receive income derived from part-time work undertaken within the guidelines set out under the *Employment* section of these guidelines; and
- Receive another award, scholarship or salary to undertake the research higher degree as long as it is less than 75% of the RTP base stipend rate.

The University provides travel insurance cover for personal accident and sickness, hijack and detention, baggage/business property, travel documents, etc. for enrolled students travelling with authorisation from Edith Cowan University.

11. LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

Annual Recreation Leave

Scholarship holders are entitled to up to 20 working days of annual recreation leave each year of the scholarship. Recreation leave is part of the scholarship allowance and normal stipend payments will continue to be paid throughout the period of annual leave.

Annual leave days may be accrued to be used in another year, however, the awardee will forfeit any unused leave remaining once the thesis is submitted for examination or when the scholarship is terminated or expired, whichever occurs first.

No application is required for annual leave however the dates should be arranged in consultation with the Principal Supervisor.

Awardees are required to report the number of days of annual leave taken each semester on the *Progress Report*.

Sick Leave

Scholarship holders may take up to a total of 10 working days of sick leave each year of the scholarship. Sick leave is part of the scholarship allowance and normal stipend payments will continue to be paid throughout the period of leave.

Sick leave days may be accrued and used in subsequent years. However, the awardee will forfeit any unused leave remaining once the thesis is submitted for examination or when the scholarship is terminated or expired whichever occurs first.

No application is required for standard sick leave (up to 10 days per year). However, for periods exceeding 5 consecutive days, awardees must forward a medical certificate to the Scholarships Office.

Awardees are required to report the number of days of sick leave taken each semester in the *Progress Report*.

Sick leave entitlements may be used to cover scholarship holders with family responsibilities, caring for sick children or relatives, subject to the usual practice of the University.

12. SUSPENSION OF SCHOLARSHIP AND PAYMENTS

After completion of the first 6 months of scholarship, the awardee may apply to suspend their scholarship for either 6 or 12 months (one or two semesters) and intermit from their course of study. The scholarship can recommence upon reentry into the course, however the expiry date of the scholarship will not change and as a result the total scholarship amount awarded will be reduced. In exceptional circumstances, which arise from causes outside the awardee's control, and contingent upon sufficient funding being available in the competitive pool at the time of the application to extend the scholarship, an extension of up to 12 months may be considered by the School.

Awardees may suspend their scholarship for either 6 or 12 months (one or two semesters) and intermit from their course of study. Application for variation of Higher degrees by research candidature is available on-line at <http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/forms/overview>

International awardees, should note that a course intermission may have visa implications. Students considering intermission should seek guidance from Student Connect via enquiries@ecu.edu.au.

Requests for suspension should be made via the Application for Suspension form at the earliest opportunity. Application forms for scholarship suspension are available from the student intranet (<http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/forms/home>)

Any periods of study undertaken towards the degree during suspension of the scholarship will be deducted from the maximum period of scholarship duration.

13. RESEARCH OVERSEAS

The School may approve the continuation of awards during periods spent conducting research outside Australia. The School must be satisfied that:

- the research is essential for completion of the degree;
- there will be continued regular supervision;
- the awardee will remain enrolled as a full-time student complying with all scholarship and course enrolment conditions; and
- the work will be credited to the awardee's course.

Where the candidate is undertaking a Joint PhD the scholarship conditions will be determined in accordance with the Joint Doctor of Philosophy Programs Policy ac097 http://www.ecu.edu.au/GPPS/policies_db/policies_view.php?rec_id=0000000394

It is normally expected that the awardee will have their research proposal approved (Confirmation of Candidature) before an application to carry out overseas study is considered.

At least one month before departure, an awardee planning international fieldwork must submit an *Application to Continue Scholarship Whilst Travelling* form to the Scholarships Office, endorsed by the Principal Supervisor. The awardee must also personally make prior arrangements for his/her enrolment to be maintained and for his/her semester *Progress Reports* to be completed, signed and returned to Research Assessments by the due date.

Application forms to *Continue Scholarship Whilst Travelling* are available at: <http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/forms/overview>. This documentation must be lodged with the Scholarships Office at least one month prior to departure.

Whilst an awardee is abroad, the scholarship stipend will only be paid into a bank account in Australia. Any arrangements for the transfer of money overseas will be the responsibility of the awardee.

Approval to continue on scholarship whilst conducting research overseas does **not** constitute approval to travel. This must be organised separately through the School.

Travel Insurance

The University provides travel insurance cover such as personal accident and sickness, baggage/business property, travel documents etc. Enrolled students travelling must have authorisation from the University. Further information regarding travel insurance should be sought from the awardee's School.

14. SCHOLARSHIP VARIATIONS

Change of Research Area or Transfer of Course

Subject to the usual practices of the University, an awardee may change the research area or transfer course from that which was originally indicated at the time of being awarded an SMHSRS, as long as the new research area is within the School of Medical and Health Sciences. This transfer must be accommodated within the original tenure of the scholarship (i.e. no extension of the scholarship will be approved for a change in research area or course alone).

There may be visa implications for a change in course. Awardees should contact a Student Connect advisor for further information and advice.

Change from International student to Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident

During the tenure of an SMHSRS, if the awardee is granted Australian Citizenship or permanent residency the awardee must notify ECU Admissions and the Scholarships Office.

15. SUBMISSION OF THESIS

Scholarship awardees will cease to be entitled to stipend payments once their thesis has been submitted for examination. This means that stipend payments will cease within two weeks of the date of thesis submission. An awardee must advise the Scholarships Office of submission within five days of the event. If an awardee fails to advise the Scholarships Office, any stipend payment received after the date of thesis submission must be repaid to the University.

16. SUSPENSION OF SMHSRS (SUBMISSION OF THESIS)

It is recommended that domestic scholarship holders apply for a period of scholarship suspension upon submission of the thesis for examination. This period is up to twelve months, depending on previous suspensions. This provision may be accessed if there is a requirement to revise and resubmit the thesis for examination and therefore *enrol* in an additional one or two semesters, (approval will be one semester at a time). In these circumstances only the SMHSRS may be suspended and re-activated, any *stipend/living allowance* will not be active. Therefore an awardee would have their tuition fees covered without stipend payments.

17. TERMINATION

An SMHSRS will be terminated:

- if the awardee ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in these *Scholarship Conditions*, other than during a period in which the scholarship has been suspended or during a period of approved leave as outlined in these *Scholarship Conditions*;
- when the awardee ceases to be a full-time student;
- in death, incapacity or withdrawal of the student;
- if the University determines that:
 - the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of the scholarship; or
 - the awardee has failed to maintain Satisfactory Progress and then to meet the required conditions outlined in their progress contract; or
 - the awardee has committed serious academic misconduct including, but not limited, to the provision of false or misleading information as outlined in these *Scholarship Conditions*;
- on submission of the thesis for examination;
- if the awardee does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of suspension, or does not make arrangements to extend that period of suspension;
- if the award holder accepts another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake their research degree providing greater than 75% of the base SMHSRS stipend rate and does not comply with the requirements outlined in *Additional Funding*; and
- once the maximum duration of the scholarship tenure has been reached.

If a scholarship is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error.

Benefits will cease on the date of termination of the Scholarship. Any overpayment made must be repaid to the University.

18. PROVISION OF FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

If the University knows, or has reason to believe, that a student in receipt of a scholarship has provided false or misleading information to the University in relation to that scholarship, the University will immediately:

- re-assess the students entitlement to the scholarship; and
- notify *AGDOET* of the suspected offence and provide a copy of the student's application and any other relevant information requested by *AGDOET*.

Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the Criminal Code (Commonwealth)

19. OBLIGATIONS OF EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY

- For detailed information on the conduct of research degrees, awardees are referred to the Research Forms, Policies and Guidelines, which is available on-line at: <http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/research/for-research-students/research-journey/forms-policies-and-guidelines>
- For details of academic regulations, including grievance resolution, students are referred to *Student Information* (<http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/my-studies/home>).
- The Scholarships Office will administer the scholarship, monitor progress, and arrange payment of all entitlements to awardees.
- The School of Medical and Health Sciences has the right to vary conditions with due cause at any time. The Scholarships Office will advise applicants and awardees of such changes.
- Provision of scholarships under the above conditions, by Edith Cowan University, is subject to the continuing receipt of funding from the *AGDOET*.



EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Offer Response Form

Please complete this form and return to the Scholarships Office.

OFFER RESPONSE:

I, _____ **accept/decline** the offer of
Print full name

SCHOOL OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Other _____

I plan to commence study on approximately _____

DECLARATION: (To be completed if accepting the scholarship)

1. I have read and accept the attached School of Medical and Health Sciences Research Scholarship - Scholarship Conditions.
2. I understand that I am required to commence study as specified in the offer of the Scholarship.
3. I provide an assurance that I shall devote myself to my studies during all normal working hours throughout the year, subject to the concessions described therein.
4. I agree to my name being used by ECU in printed and online promotional materials. I would also be willing to have my photograph taken for ECU printed and online promotional materials.
5. I understand my research can be used by ECU in printed and online promotional materials.
6. I understand that my entitlement to the scholarship will terminate immediately if I cease to be enrolled in full-time study (except where a concession described therein applies), fail to maintain satisfactory progress or upon submission of my thesis.
7. I understand that if I do not meet all of the obligations listed, my scholarship may be terminated and I may be required to repay funds awarded under this scholarship.
8. I understand I am expected to complete my course within the scholarship tenure, if I do not submit within this period I may be awarded a grade of Marginal Progress (MP).
9. I agree to use my student email and check it regularly.

SIGNATURE: _____

Date ____/____/____