

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE
RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (IPRS)
2011 SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS**



1.0 INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 In these conditions, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:
- "DIISR" means the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research;
 - "IPRS" means International Postgraduate Research Scholarship;
 - "AusAID" means Australian Agency for International Development;
 - "DIAC" means the Department of Immigration and Citizenship;
 - "Committee" means the Research Training Sub Committee of the Research Committee;
 - "Program" means the course of study undertaken by the scholar;
 - "Scholarship" means the IPRS awarded to the scholar
 - "Scholar" means the recipient of the scholarship;
 - "the University" means the University of Newcastle.
- 1.2 The Dean of Graduate Studies makes determinations on behalf of the University in respect of most research scholarship matters.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for an IPRS, an applicant:

- 2.1 Must be a citizen of an overseas country, except New Zealand;
- 2.2 Must meet international student visa requirements as specified by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), including the requirement to maintain a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing;
- 2.3 Must be commencing full-time enrolment in a research higher degree program for the first time at an Australian institution in areas of research concentration as identified by the University, including having met the University's English proficiency level.
- Scholars who commenced their research higher degree in the previous year but who, due to the timing of their application and subsequent enrolment were unable to apply for an IPRS in that year; or
scholars who commenced a higher degree by research at an Australian institution in a previous year and terminated that enrolment within six months of commencement will also be considered.
- 2.4 Must have completed a Bachelor Degree with First Class Honours or equivalent. (In determining an equivalent level of academic attainment, consideration may be given to previous study, relevant work experience, research publications and other research experience);
- 2.5 Must not hold a Doctorate by research degree deemed the equivalent of an Australian Doctorate by research degree;
- 2.6 Must not hold an Australian-equivalent Masters by research degree if seeking an IPRS to undertake a Masters program;

- 2.7 Must not have held an AusAID scholarship within the two years prior to the commencement of the award of the scholarship;
- 2.8 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;
- 2.9 Must not previously have received an IPRS for a Research Doctorate degree, unless converting to a Research Masters degree;
- 2.10 Must normally be commencing a research higher degree on campus in Australia and remain enrolled on campus for the majority of the degree. Candidates may study at other locations for periods of less than one semester to undertake activities such as fieldwork.

3.0 SELECTION

- 3.1 Selection shall be undertaken by the Committee or its nominee.
- 3.2 Selection shall be on the basis of academic merit, in accordance with Guidelines for Commonwealth Scholarships issued by DIISR.

4.0 BENEFITS

- 4.1 The scholarship shall provide payment of the annual course cost, as specified in the CRICOS, for the research higher degree program being undertaken by the scholar.
- 4.2 The scholarship shall provide payment of the cost of a standard Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) policy approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing and which covers the scholar and their spouse and dependants (if any) for the period of the scholarship.
- 4.3 As an international student sponsored by the Australian Government, the scholar is not required to pay for the issue of their visas and those of their dependants. Scholars must identify themselves as an IPRS recipient when applying for their visa to receive the exemption as the University of Newcastle is unable to reimburse student visa costs.
 - 4.3.1 The scholarship does not cover any medical costs associated with the issue or renewal of a student visa.
- 4.4 The scholar may not be required to pay the education costs for any of his or her 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. The scholar should contact the school where they propose to send his or her dependants to determine what costs may apply.
- 4.5 The scholar may be eligible to claim Child Care Benefits (CCB) which assists families with the cost of child care. CCB is a means tested payment and is paid through the Family Assistance Office in Centrelink. Any payment received will depend on the scholar's family income. Although the payment is usually restricted to Australian residents, people who are receiving direct financial assistance from the Australian Government (such as IPRS holders) are also eligible. Further information on how to apply for CCB can be obtained by contacting the Family Assistance Office on the Centrelink free call number 13 61 50.

5.0 TENURE

- 5.1 The duration of the scholarship is three years for a PhD program and two years for a Masters program.
- 5.2 The duration of the scholarship will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken:

- 5.2.1 towards the course of study prior to the commencement of the scholarship;
and
 - 5.2.2 during suspension of the scholarship if approved leave of absence is not also taken.
- 5.3 It is the responsibility of scholars to ensure they hold a valid visa while in Australia. If a scholar's visa is due to expire before the program is completed, the scholar should approach the nearest office of DIAC to lodge an application for renewal **before** the visa expires. Scholarship benefits will be terminated if the scholar does not hold a valid student visa.

6.0 COMMENCEMENT

- 6.1 A scholarship **may not** be deferred to a subsequent year.
- 6.2 The scholar shall normally take up the scholarship by the commencement of semester one in the year for which the scholarship is granted.
- 6.3 The scholar may apply for approval from the Dean, Graduate Studies, to commence in semester two in the year of award but must commence by the agreed date in the year of the award.
- 6.4 If the scholar has not enrolled and commenced the scholarship by the agreed start date in clause 6.3, the scholarship will be forfeited.

7.0 TRANSFER OF AWARD OR PROGRAM

- 7.1 A scholarship can only be taken up at the University from which the scholar receives an offer of award and scholars are expected to complete their candidature at that University.
- 7.2 A scholarship may be transferred to another program of study at the University of Newcastle with the permission of the Dean, Graduate Studies. Approval will only be given where the new area of study is an identified area of research concentration of the University.

There will be no extension of the duration of the scholarship arising from the change of research area beyond the period of the original placement or scholarship offer.

- 7.3 A scholar may transfer their program from Masters degree to PhD during the tenure of the award, or transfer from PhD to Masters by research program, subject to the approval of the Pro Vice-Chancellor or nominee. The maximum award duration of a converted award becomes that for the new program (minus periods of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the conversion).
- 7.4 Transfer of program is not in itself sufficient grounds for the subsequent extension of scholarship.

8.0 EMPLOYMENT

- 8.1 A scholar with a student visa may not undertake employment that is inconsistent with the conditions of their visa.
- 8.2 The scholar shall not be required to undertake paid employment as a condition of award of the scholarship.
- 8.3 Scholars may undertake a limited amount of part-time paid employment up to a maximum of eight hours per week (Monday to Friday) provided it does not interfere with their studies.

9.0 SUSPENSION OF SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- 9.1 After twelve months scholar may apply to the Dean, Graduate Studies, for suspension of scholarship for a period of up to twelve months during the tenure of the scholarship.
- 9.2 Leave of absence from candidature and scholarship suspension may only be approved where the scholar can demonstrate exceptional circumstances, beyond the scholar's control. The University is required to report to DIAC in all such cases. .
- 9.3 Periods of approved suspension will not be deducted from the overall scholarship tenure if the scholar takes approved leave of absence from candidature for the duration of the suspension. Where a scholars does not take such approved leave of absence from candidature, the suspended period shall be deducted from the tenure.
- 9.4 The Dean of Graduate Studies may suspend a scholarship if he or she believes on reasonable grounds that the scholar's study is affected by circumstances which prevent the scholar from pursuing the program.
- 9.5 The Dean of Graduate Studies will not suspend a scholarship without inviting the scholar to show cause why the scholarship should not be suspended.

10.0 TERMINATION

- 10.1 A scholarship shall terminate:
 - 10.1.1 if the scholar ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in Section 2 of these conditions other than during a period in which the scholarship has been suspended; or
 - 10.1.2 on the expiry of the period for which the scholarship was granted; or
 - 10.1.3 fourteen days after the submission of the first soft-bound copies of the thesis for examination; or
 - 10.1.4 if , in the opinion of the Committee, the scholar has failed to observe any condition of the Rules of the RHD Code of Practice in which event any monies paid to the scholar subsequent to that breach shall immediately become repayable to the University; or
 - 10.1.5 If, in the opinion of the Committee, the scholar has failed to maintain satisfactory academic progress and candidature is terminated; or
 - 10.1.6 upon the death or incapacity of the scholar, or written resignation or withdrawal from enrolment is received from the scholar by the Office of Graduate Studies; or
 - 10.1.7 if the scholar accepts another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake the program providing a benefit greater than 75% of the stipend rate and the scholar does not suspend the scholarship for the period of the concurrent award, scholarship or salary.
- 10.2 If a scholarship is terminated, it cannot be re-activated.

11.0 APPEAL

- 11.1 Students and scholars may appeal to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) against decisions taken by the Dean, Graduate Studies or the Committee on the grounds that the procedures followed were deficient. Written appeals shall be submitted to the Manager, Graduate Studies, within twenty one days of notification of a decision of the Dean, Graduate Studies. The determination by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) is final.

12.0 RELAXATION CLAUSE

- 12.1 To provide for exceptional circumstances arising in a particular case, the Dean, Graduate Studies, may relax any provision of these conditions, except those specifically expressed as conditions as advised by DIISR.
