

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (UNIPRS)



2011 SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

1.0 INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 In these conditions, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:
- "UNIPRS" means University of Newcastle 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 UNIPRS scholarship awarded to the scholar
 - "Scholar" means the recipient of the scholarship;
 - "Provider" means the organisation which funds the scholarship;
 - "The Rules" means the *Rules Governing Post Graduate Research Scholarships – Rule 000307*;
 - "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 UNIPRS, an applicant:

- 2.1 Must be a citizen of an overseas country other than New Zealand;
- 2.2 Must meet international student visa requirements as specified by 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 have commenced a research higher degree program at the University in or after Semester 2, 2006 in an area of research concentration as identified by the University, including having met the University's English proficiency requirements.
- 2.4 Must have completed a Bachelors 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 a UNIPRS to undertake a Masters program;
- 2.7 Must not have held an AusAID scholarship within the two years prior to the commencement of the UNIPRS;
- 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 normally be commencing a research higher degree on campus 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. In exceptional circumstances, and on the recommendation of the Head of School, approval may be granted by the Dean of Graduate Studies for a scholar to undertake their studies as an 'off campus' candidate.

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.

4.0 BENEFITS

- 4.1 The scholarship shall provide payment of the annual course cost, as specified in the CRICOS, for the program being undertaken by the student.

5.0 TENURE

- 5.1 The duration of an UNIPRS is three years for a PhD and two years for a Masters.
- 5.2 The duration of an UNIPRS will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken:
 - 5.2.1 towards the course of study prior to the commencement of the UNIPRS; and
 - 5.2.2 during suspension of the UNIPRS 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 visa.

6.0 COMMENCEMENT

- 6.1 The scholar shall normally take up the scholarship in the year for which the scholarship is granted.
- 6.2 In exceptional circumstances, the Dean of Graduate Studies may approve commencement of the scholarship in the subsequent year.
- 6.3 If the scholar has not commenced the scholarship by the agreed start date, the scholarship will be forfeited.

7.0 TRANSFERS OF AWARD

- 7.1 A scholar may transfer their program from a Masters degree to a PhD during the tenure of the award, or transfer from a PhD to a 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 (less any periods of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the conversion).
- 7.2 A UNIPRS may not be transferred to another University.

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 - Friday) provided it does not interfere with their studies.

9.0 SUSPENSION OF SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- 9.1 After twelve months, a scholar may apply to the Dean of Graduate Studies for suspension of scholarship for a period of up to twelve months.
- 9.2 Leave of absence from candidature and scholarship 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 scholar does not take such approved leave of absence from candidature, the suspended period shall be deducted from the scholarship 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 UNIPRS 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 or 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 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 against decisions taken by the Dean of Graduate Studies or the Committee on the grounds that the procedures followed were deficient. Written appeals should be submitted to the Manager, Graduate Studies, within twenty one days of notification of a decision of the Dean of Graduate Studies. Appeals will be considered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and 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 of Graduate Studies may relax any provision of these conditions.
