Faculty of Science Dean’s International Postgraduate Research Scholarship

Conditions of Award for 2015 (from 1 January 2015)


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1 Introduction

1.1 General information

Faculty of Science Dean’s International Postgraduate Research Scholarships are offered to international students for full-time postgraduate research studies within the Faculty of Science at Monash University. The scholarship is provided to cover the tuition fees set by Monash and payable by the awardee for each year of the course. The scholarship also meets the cost of standard Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the awardee, their spouse and any dependants.

Persons intending to undertake a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Master’s of Science (MSc) by research or Master’s of Philosophy (MPhil) by research are eligible to be nominated by schools for this award.

The Faculty of Science Research Degrees Committee (RDC) administers the scholarship scheme on behalf of the Senior Science Management Committee.

There are no age restrictions relating to these awards.

Awardees must meet international student visa requirements as specified by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

1.2 Definitions

- **Student**: a person enrolled in a higher degree by research (HDR) program.
- **Code of practice for supervision of doctoral and research Master’s candidates**: part of chapter 5 of the *Handbook for Doctoral Degrees* and the *Handbook for Research Master’s Degrees* produced by the Monash Institute of Graduate Research (MIGR) that details the responsibilities of Monash University, the school, supervisor(s), and student with respect to research candidature.
- **Faculty of Science Research Office**: the Faculty of Science Research Office located on the Clayton campus. Contact details are given in Part 20: Further information of this document.
- **Monash Graduate Scholarship (MGS)**: a postgraduate research scholarship administered by the Monash Institute of Graduate Research (MIGR).
- **Monash Institute of Graduate Research (MIGR)**: an administrative centre of the university responsible for admission to doctoral and Master’s of Philosophy (MPhil) programs. The MIGR also administers a range of centrally allocated scholarships and coordinates annual progress reporting for doctoral students and Master’s by research students.
- **Research Degrees Committee (RDC)**: a committee of the Faculty of Science that meets to review matters relating to postgraduate coursework and higher degrees by research (HDR) management and policy. The committee was formerly known as the Committee on Graduate Matters (CGM) until 2004.
- **Graduate Research Committee (GRC)**: a committee of the university responsible for administering the university’s doctoral and research award programs.
- **School**: a school of the Faculty of Science.
2 Eligibility

The Faculty of Science Dean’s International Postgraduate Research Scholarship is offered for full-time research at a HDR level (MSc, MPhil and PhD).

Students who are jointly supervised, on a 50:50 basis, by an MIGR accredited, Clayton-based HDR supervisor/s and another/others based at another academic unit of another faculty within Monash University, may also be eligible for this award.

In addition, awards will only be available to international students (including those holding a New Zealand permanent residence visa) who:

- are commencing their postgraduate research studies in the Faculty of Science at Monash University;
- have enrolled in a higher degree by research program (MSc, MPhil and PhD) after 1 July 2008;
- hold H1 or H1 equivalent (H1E) academic qualifications; and
- meet Monash University’s minimum English language proficiency requirements for entry into a higher degree by research program.

Faculty of Science Dean’s International Postgraduate Research Scholarships are not available to those who:

- are not also supported by a Monash University funded Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), Monash Graduate Scholarship (MGS) or a Faculty of Science Dean’s Postgraduate Research Scholarship (DPRS); or where a stipend-paying scholarship (at a minimum stipend rate equivalent to an APA or MGS and covering the same period of candidature) is paid from a recognised external scholarship granting body or research grant held by the supervisor/s;
- are reliant on the use of private funds to support living expenses;
- have already completed a doctoral degree or equivalent;
- have already completed a research master’s degree or equivalent unless intending to undertake a doctoral degree;
- are already enrolled in a higher degree by research (MSc, MPhil, PhD) and are in receipt of tuition scholarship support from other funding sources;
- have already been enrolled for more than two and a half years in a PhD or one year in a research Master’s (MPhil or MSc) program;
- are unable to secure both a Monash University accredited main and associate supervisor willing to accept them for supervision in their research team (for reasons that may pertain to student load restrictions on the supervisor/s, unavailability of required facilities, lack of appropriate expertise to provide supervision, etc.);
- are unable to secure supervision from an approved Monash supervision team who hold adequate research funds to support the project-related costs for the entire candidature.

Additional criteria for award of scholarship

- Scholarships are only available to those who are nominated by the School in which they will be enrolled into undertake the approved HDR program.
• Each nominee must be supervised for the duration of candidature by at least two supervisors.

• If the applicant has been a deemed eligible and ranked by the Faculty in either the mid-year or end-of-year Monash University Postgraduate Research Scholarship scheme rounds the applicant will automatically be eligible for consideration for nomination by the School, so long as they are also supported by a Monash University funded Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), Monash Graduate Scholarship (MGS) or a Faculty of Science Dean’s Postgraduate Research Scholarship (DPRS); or where a stipend-paying scholarship (at a minimum stipend rate equivalent to an APA or MGS and covering the same period of candidature) is paid from a recognised external scholarship granting body or research grant held by the supervisor(s).

• The applicant can be nominated outside of the mid-year and end-of-year Monash University Postgraduate Research Scholarship scheme rounds, however, the applicant will need to demonstrate that their academic merit and research potential is at least equivalent to those awarded a Faculty scholarship, having applied in the Monash University scholarship rounds.

• The supervisor(s)/research team must demonstrate that sufficient external funding is available to support the project related costs of the nominee. (Note: Heads of Schools or their nominees are already required to sign-off on PhD candidature applications, stating that sufficient resources are available to support any PhD candidate accepted into their School.)

2.1 Receipt of a stipend / living allowance

Awardees must concurrently receive a stipend or living allowance at a minimum stipend rate equivalent to an APA or MGS and covering the same period of candidature.

3 Duration and conversion of award

3.1 Duration of award

The award may be held for up to three (3) years for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidate and up to two (2) years for a Master’s of Science (MSc) by research candidate.

The duration of an award will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award or taken during the suspension of the award.

3.2 Extension to scholarship – Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidates

A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidate making satisfactory progress may apply for an extension to scholarship of up to six (6) months. Extensions beyond this, which bring the total length of the course to a maximum of four (4) years, will be at the discretion of the Research Degrees Committee. An extension will normally only be approved where research has been delayed by circumstances beyond the candidate’s control and where such delays could not have been reasonably anticipated at the commencement of candidature. The grounds for an extension must be related to study and not of a personal nature. An application for extension should be made to the Research Degrees Committee via the Faculty of Science Research Office.

3.3 Extension to scholarship – Master’s of Science (MSc) Master’s of Philosophy (MPhil) candidates

Awardees undertaking a Master’s of Science (MSc) by research degree are not entitled to an extension of scholarship.
3.4 Taking up of award

The award should be taken up within three (3) months of the formal offer having been made by the Faculty of Science Research Office. Where business or employment commitments or circumstances beyond the awardee’s control (such as an illness or the late grant of a scholarship which prevents an awardee from taking up the scholarship by this date), the awardee may be permitted to commence the course/scholarship at a later date with the formal permission of the Research Degrees Committee via the Faculty of Science Research Office.

3.5 Transfer between research degrees

If a Master’s of Science (MSc)/Master’s of Philosophy (MPhil) candidate is permitted to transfer candidature to a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program, the award, upon application by the holder (and prior to its termination) will be extended to the maximum duration for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program. Similarly, a doctorate award may be converted to a Master’s by research award in circumstances deemed appropriate by the Research Degrees Committee. The maximum duration then becomes that for the new degree.

4 Tuition fees

The scholarship covers the course tuition fees set by Monash University and payable by the awardee for each year of the course, up to the maximum length of three (3) years for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidate and up to two (2) years for a Master’s of Science (MSc) by research candidate (see Part 3: Duration and conversion of award of this document).

The scholarship also meets the cost of basic Overseas Student Health Cover (see Part 6: Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) of this document).

5 Living and other allowances

The scholarship does not provide for living allowances, travel, thesis expenses, the cost of English language testing or tuition fees for bridging or English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) courses, costs associated with overseas fieldwork, or medical costs associated with the issue or renewal of a student visa (see Part 7: Student visa requirements of this document).

6 Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

International candidates are required to hold visa length Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while enrolled and conducting their research in Australia.

There are three types of OSHC cover:

- **Single** policy covers the holder of a student visa only;
- **Dual family** policy covers the holder of a student visa, and either one adult spouse or recognised de facto partner or one or more children or step-children under the age of 18 years who are not married; and
- **Multi Family** policy covers the holder of a student visa and more than one Dependent, which can only include one adult spouse or recognised de facto partner and one or more Dependent children.

Students accompanied by their spouse and dependants under the age of 18 must ensure that they are also covered by OSHC whilst in Australia.

The Faculty of Science Research Office arranges payment of the standard OSHC policy through the Monash preferred provider, Worldcare, for new commencing Faculty of Science Dean’s International Postgraduate Research Scholarship awardees for the duration of their student visa.
7 Student visa requirements

It is the responsibility of awardees to ensure that they hold a valid visa while in Australia.

8 Residency

Awardees are required to reside within daily commuting distance to a Victorian campus to allow frequent and systematic use of the University’s facilities, including use of physical resources, formal research training and daily face-to-face contact with supervisors if required. An awardee may be permitted to pursue part of their research at institutions or locations outside their approved campus location as per candidature entitlements outlined in the relevant handbook.

9 Study away from Monash University

Written permission must be obtained from the head of school (or nominee), the Faculty Associate Dean of Research Training and the Graduate Research Committee to pursue research overseas for any period of time, or to pursue research at a site other than a candidate's approved study location for periods greater than six weeks duration.

Study away will only be approved where the proposed travel is an integral part of the research program. In the case of doctoral candidates a maximum period of 12 months study away may be approved, although in exceptional circumstances this may be extended to 18 months. In the case of master’s candidates a maximum period of six months study away may be approved. At all other times, awardees are expected to reside at a location that will allow daily attendance on-campus. Students will not generally be allowed to undertake study away in the first six months of candidature.

10 Penalties for non-compliance with scholarship conditions

The Research Degrees Committee will impose penalties for non-compliance with scholarship conditions. This may include for example, suspension of award and/or a reduction in the maximum tenure of the award.

11 Termination of scholarship

Awards will be terminated before this time:

- if, in the opinion of the Research Degrees Committee, the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of the award, and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the degree;
- if the awardee fails to apply for an Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) in any of the mid-year or end-of-year rounds for which they are eligible for an IPRS, if asked to do so by their School;
- if it is determined that the awardee has not fulfilled his/her obligations, has not met the eligibility criteria or is not making satisfactory progress;
- when the awardee ceases to be a full-time student engaged in full-time research;
- on completion of the course, or the death, incapacity, resignation or withdrawal of the student;
- if the awardee’s candidature is terminated, the awardee has been found guilty of academic misconduct or the awardee fails to maintain their enrolment;
- if the awardee does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave (for example suspension, personal leave etc), or does not make arrangements to extend the period of approved leave;
- if the awardee accepts another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake their research degree;
- if the awardee’s probationary candidature is not confirmed;
- on the granting of permanent resident status to the student. Awardees will be required to meet the tuition fees owing, where they fail to advise the Faculty of Science Research Office of any change in visa status;
• if the awardee converts to external candidature or writing up away;

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

12 Award holder's obligation to the Faculty of Science

The awardee may be asked by their School Postgraduate Co-ordinator to apply for an Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) through the Monash University online scholarship system, at each round for which they are eligible and are considered competitive for an IPRS award.

13 Transfer

Awards won in competition at one institution cannot be taken up at another.

14 Further information

Please contact the following should you have any queries. It is important that you are fully aware of your obligations under these Conditions of Award.

Faculty of Science Research Office
Building 26
Clayton campus
MONASH UNIVERSITY VIC 3800

Telephone: +61 3 9905 9052
Email: sci-pgrad-enquiries@monash.edu
Internet: http://monash.edu/science/current/postgraduate-research/

15 Acceptance of scholarship conditions

I, __________________________________________ have read these conditions carefully and agree to abide by them and any subsequent amendments which may be made during the tenure of my award.

I understand that there are penalties for non-compliance with these conditions and that there are severe penalties for providing false or misleading information.

I acknowledge that the university may terminate any scholarship if I have misrepresented my past and / or present circumstances and that this termination may take place at any stage during the course I undertake. I am aware that I must not accept and take up a concurrent scholarship from more than one institution.

I am aware that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the criminal code (Commonwealth) and that there are penalties for providing false or misleading information.

Signature: _______________________________ Date:_____/_____/______

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