INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Conditions of Award 2014

Please retain these Conditions of Award as this document forms part of your agreement with the University.

1 INTRODUCTION

The International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) pays the full international student tuition fees charged by Flinders University for a research higher degree. The IPRS also provides the recipient and dependents with student health cover.

In addition, Flinders University may provide, to students with outstanding prior studies, a Flinders stipend to accompany the IPRS. The Flinders stipend provides the recipient with a generous living allowance, which is tax exempt and indexed annually. The University reserves the right not to award a Flinders stipend.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the scholarship is to enable a suitably qualified graduate to carry out, under the supervision of a member of staff appointed by the Faculty, a program of study leading to a research higher degree.

3 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 To be eligible for consideration for the award of an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship, a student must:

- be a citizen of any overseas country except New Zealand, and not hold Australian citizenship, Australian permanent resident status or New Zealand citizenship; and
- intend to commence full-time study for a higher degree by research in Australia for the first time, in the year for which the award is to be allocated. Students who commenced their higher degree by research in the previous year but who, due to the timing of their application for admission and subsequent enrolment, were unable to apply for an IPRS in that year, or, commenced a higher degree by research and terminated that enrolment within six months of commencement, may be considered; and
- intend to enrol in an area of research concentration. These are areas in which the University has particular strength, has concentrated its research resources and has attracted external funding; and
- satisfy all entry requirements for a research higher degree, including the English proficiency levels for international students; and
- not hold a qualification deemed the equivalent of an Australian Research Doctorate degree or, if undertaking a Research Masters
degree, not hold a qualification deemed the equivalent of or higher than an Australian Research Masters degree; and
• not have held an Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) scholarship within the two years prior to commencing the IPRS.

3.2 An International Postgraduate Research Scholarship will not be awarded to a student who:
• is in receipt of a scholarship for which course tuition is a component under any other scholarship to which the Australian Government makes a substantial contribution;
• has previously received an IPRS for a Research Doctorate degree, or for a Research Masters degree unless the Research Masters degree was completed and the students is undertaking a Research Doctorate degree;
• is on paid study leave;
• holds a fractional academic appointment greater than 0.2FTE.

4 APPLICATION
Applications for International Postgraduate Research Scholarships will be called for in June of each year, with a closing date at the mid of August. Application forms will be available from the Flinders University scholarships website.

5 SELECTION
Selection of award holders will be undertaken by the Scholarships Committee on the basis of academic merit and research potential. Preference will be given to students from regions identified as priorities under the Australian Government’s Endeavour Program.

6 TENURE
6.1 An International Postgraduate Research Scholarship is tenable for:
• three years full-time in the case of Research Doctorate degree students; or
• two years full-time in the case of Research Masters degree students.
6.2 An extension to the duration of an IPRS for a Research Doctorate student of up to six months may be approved by the Scholarships Committee provided the student is making satisfactory progress and the grounds for the extension relate to the study and are beyond the control of the student. Under exceptional circumstances, award holders undertaking a Research Doctorate degree may apply for one additional six-month extension of the tenure of their award. Approval cannot be given for a second (additional) semester extension before work has commenced in the first. Research Masters students are not eligible for an extension.
6.3 The tenure of the award will be adjusted for
- Research Masters degree students who upgrade their candidature to a Research Doctorate degree during the tenure of the award;
- Research Doctorate degree students who downgrade their candidature to a Research Masters degree during the tenure of the award;
- Award holders who have completed periods of study towards the degree for which the scholarship was awarded before accepting their International Postgraduate Research Scholarship;
- Award holders who undertake periods of study towards their degree whilst on intermission from their International Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

7 FEES
The IPRS pays the full international student tuition fees charged by Flinders University for a research higher degree. The IPRS also provides the recipient and dependents with student health cover.

8 STIPEND
Flinders University may provide, to students with outstanding prior studies, an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or a Flinders stipend to accompany the IPRS. The University reserves the right not to award an APA or a Flinders stipend. In 2013, the stipend was $24,653 per annum tax-free.

9 ALLOWANCES
9.1 Relocation Allowance
An award holder who moves to Australia from overseas in order to take up his/her award is eligible for a relocation allowance (after arrival at Flinders University) of up to $1,485 to assist with relocation costs and airfares, provided receipts can be produced by the award holder.

9.2 Dependent Child Allowance
The award holder may be eligible to receive a Dependent Child Allowance in respect of a child (or children), up to 18 years of age, who reside with the award holder in Adelaide, and who are dependent on the award holder's income.

This allowance will be paid at a rate equivalent to the Family Tax Benefit Part A payable by Centrelink.

An award holder who wishes to claim this allowance will be required to submit a Statutory Declaration certifying that his or her child is a dependant. Payment of the allowance will be subject to annual review, and will be at the discretion of the University. An award holder whose child ceases to be a dependant must advise Student Finance, and the allowance will be terminated.

IPRS holders may be eligible to claim Child Care Benefits (CCB) which assist families with the cost of their 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 recipient’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.

9.3 Thesis Allowance

International Postgraduate Research Scholarship holders may be eligible to apply for a thesis allowance to assist with thesis production costs. Students claiming a thesis allowance must produce original receipts showing the amount paid by the student, the date it was paid and the service for which the payment was made. Claims for the thesis allowance must be lodged within six months of the date of Faculty approval that all requirements for the degree have been completed, and within two years of the termination date of the scholarship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis Allowance</th>
<th>Rate for 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>$420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>$840</td>
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</tbody>
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10 REGISTRATION & ESTABLISHMENT

10.1 Award holders will be asked to nominate a commencement date, which is normally not later than 31 March in the year in which the scholarship was awarded.

10.2 In exceptional circumstances, award holders may apply to the Scholarships Committee for permission to commence their award after 31 March, but no later than 30 June.

10.3 Following acceptance of an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship, an award holder must register in person at Student Finance in the Student Centre, Flinders University. Award holders must be enrolled full-time to commence the award, and must remain enrolled on a full-time basis whilst they hold an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

11 EMPLOYMENT

11.1 Award holders who hold a student visa with permission to work attached as a condition of that visa may undertake a strictly limited amount of part-time paid employment, provided it does not interfere with their study program. Students are normally only permitted to work up to 8 hours in any one week. Employment will be monitored by a student’s supervisor. Award holders must apply to the Scholarships Committee for approval to undertake more than 8 hours work a week.

11.2 The assessment of hours for award holders who undertake part-time teaching will be defined in accordance with the awards and rates of pay for part-time teaching at Flinders University as follows:

- an initial tutorial involves a total time of three hours, normally requiring one hour each of preparation, contact and marking time;
- a repeat tutorial is designated as two hours.

12 LEAVE

12.1 Award holders in receipt of a stipend are entitled to 20 days paid recreation leave for each year of scholarship tenure, in addition to all public holidays.
Recreation leave may be accrued over the tenure of the award, but will be forfeited when the award is terminated.

12.2 Award holders in receipt of a stipend are entitled to up to 10 days of paid sick leave per year. Sick leave may be accrued over the tenure of the award, but will be forfeited when the award is terminated. Award holders are entitled to receive additional paid sick leave of up to a total of 12 weeks during the duration of the IPRS for periods of illness lasting longer than ten working days for which a medical certificate has been provided.

12.3 Award holders in receipt of a stipend are entitled to up to 12 weeks of paid maternity leave, which is in addition to the normal tenure of the award. Maternity leave may not be taken in the first twelve months of the award.

13 INTERMISSION

13.1 Award holders who wish to intermit or suspend their studies must apply in writing to the Scholarships Committee. Except in the case of illness, applications must be made at least three weeks in advance of the proposed period of intermission. The Scholarships Committee will normally approve a period or periods totalling up to 12 months. However, in exceptional circumstances (circumstances beyond the student’s control), the Committee may approve periods of suspension up to 24 months in total. Award holders must also apply separately to the relevant Faculty Higher Degrees Committee for intermission of their candidature.

13.2 The Scholarships Committee will not approve intermission of scholarships in the first six months of scholarship tenure except in exceptional circumstances.

13.3 Award holders must notify the Student Finance at least three weeks prior to resuming study following a period of intermission.

13.4 Award holders who suspend their studies without the approval of the Scholarships Committee will be required to repay any award payments to which they were not entitled.

14 OTHER AWARDS

Award holders may not normally hold other awards concurrent with the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship, with the exception of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or a Flinders stipend. Award holders must immediately advise Student Finance if they are offered a stipend top-up or other stipend supplement. The Scholarships Committee may give approval for an award holder to accept a stipend top-up or other stipend supplement.
15 TERMINATION OF AWARD

The award will be terminated:

15.1 if the award holder ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in 3 above, other than during a period of intermission; or
15.2 up to two weeks after the award holder’s thesis is submitted or when the award expires, whichever is earlier; or
15.3 if at any time, under the provisions Clause 18 of the University’s Research Higher Degree Policies and Procedures, the Academic Senate terminates the award holder’s candidature; or
15.4 if the award holder ceases to be a full-time student; or
15.5 upon the granting of Australian permanent resident status to the award holder. Award holders who are granted permanent resident status must advise the Student Finance immediately. An IPRS holder with a Flinders stipend who becomes a permanent resident will have his/her Flinders stipend converted to a Flinders University Research Scholarship (FURS) for the remaining period of scholarship tenure. In such cases, the award will be administered according to the FURS conditions of award. FURS holders undertaking a Research Doctorate degree are eligible to apply for one six-month extension to their scholarship tenure only; or
15.6 if the award holder does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of intermission and approval has not been obtained from the Scholarships Committee to extend that period of intermission; or
15.7 if the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of scholarship, and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the postgraduate degree.
15.8 if the award holder has committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information in relation to the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship. In the event of an award holder providing false or misleading information, the University is required to report the matter to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

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

16 TRANSFER OF AWARD

An IPRS won in competition at Flinders University cannot be taken up at another institution and students will lose their award if they transfer in the first six months. A student may transfer their IPRS to another institution in exceptional circumstances only and with the approval of the Scholarships Committee and the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee of both institutions. The Flinders stipend cannot be transferred to another institution.

17 ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS REPORT

17.1 Each award holder is required to complete an Annual Review of Progress Report in each year of tenure. An award may be terminated if an award holder fails at any time to make satisfactory progress.
17.2 The Scholarships Committee may at its discretion, require an award holder to submit additional progress reports.

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The conditions contained in this document comply with the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education conditions of award and must be adhered to by award holders. Scholarships are renewed on an annual basis and Conditions of Award may be amended from time to time to comply with the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate change, Research and Tertiary Education’s conditions of award.

Queries about the Conditions of Award should be directed in the first instance to:

Student Finance
Flinders University
Ph: (08) 8201 3143
Fax: (08) 8201 5175
Email: scholarships@flinders.edu.au

The conditions of award and guidelines for this award can be obtained from:

IPRS Conditions of Award
06/2013