

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

**1. PURPOSE**

The Clinician PhD Scholarship is part of a pilot program that aims to attract and support clinicians of all disciplines to undertake a higher degree by research in either the College of Medicine and Public Health (CMPH) or the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS).

A stipend is monetary assistance provided by a supervisor or an organisation to supplement a scholarship.

**2. ELIGIBILITY**

An award holder must be:

- an Australian citizen, or permanent resident of Australia, or a New Zealand citizen currently admitted, or be eligible for admission, to a PhD at Flinders University (see Admission requirements: <https://handbook.flinders.edu.au/courses/2025/phd>)
- be enrolled full-time in a Higher Degree by research at Flinders University;
- Applicants to a PhD in the College of Medicine and Public Health should be focused in fields related to medicine, biomedical sciences, or public health.
  - medical professionals must be registered to practise in Australia at the time of application, with no conditions or suspensions attached to the registration that prevent them from practising.
  - allied health professionals must be registered to practise in Australia at the time of application, with no conditions or suspensions attached to the registration that prevent them from practising.
  - For allied health professions that do not require registration, evidence of the applicant's authority to practise must be provided at time of application.
- Applicants to a PhD in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences should be focused in fields related to nursing, midwifery or allied health.
  - Allied health professionals must be registered to practise in Australia at the time of application (i.e., with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), Allied Health Professionals Australia (AHPA) or the National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions), with no conditions or suspensions attached to the registration that prevent them from practising.

- For allied health professions that do not require registration, evidence of the applicant's authority to practise must be provided at time of application.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clinicians and rural and remote clinicians are encouraged to apply.

A Clinician PhD Scholarship will not normally be awarded to an applicant who is in receipt of an award which directly duplicates the purpose of the Clinician PhD Scholarship Program. However, successful candidates are encouraged to apply for external funding support, such as NHMRC postgraduate scholarships if eligible.

### **3. SELECTION**

Selection of scholarship recipients will be undertaken by the relevant College HDR Coordinator and/or Deputy Coordinator on academic merit and research potential, in alignment with College values of equity, excellence and social vision.

Applications will be ranked (using the NHMRC criteria for postgraduate scholarships) based on:

- Academic Record and Research Achievement – Relative to Opportunity (60%),
- The research environment and supervisor (20%)
- Research project (20%)
- Principal PhD supervision must be by a member of staff in the relevant College or hold full academic status with the relevant College and be currently active on the HDR supervisor register.

### **4. PERIOD OF TENURE**

- A Clinician PhD scholarship is tenable in the first instance from the date of offer of the award until 31 December of the same year.
- Award holders should note that the normal period of scholarship tenure is 3.5 years full-time for a Research Doctorate or a maximum of 4 years including leave provisions.
- Part-time status may be approved for a limited period of time by the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Scholarships Committee only if the student has exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances relate to significant caring commitments or a medical condition which limits the student's capacity to undertake full-time study.

### **5. INTERNSHIP**

- Successful Scholarship recipients must undertake an internship with an industry partner agreed to in writing within 18 months of the student's enrolment. Details of this internship, including the learning outcomes, will be set out in the Internship Agreement.
- The internship will be a minimum of 60 days full-time equivalent and must satisfy any other Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) funding requirements for industry internships which may be prescribed from time to time.
- The format of the internship will be determined by the industry partner in negotiation with the student and their Flinders University HDR Supervisor(s) and captured in the Internship Agreement
- The scholarship recipient will record the time spent undertaking the internship on software specified by the Office of Graduate Research.
- Successful scholarship recipients completing research and development activities related to their Doctoral research area through their clinical roles, may have these activities count as the internship, provided the other clauses in this section are met.

## **6. STIPEND**

- The stipend for a Clinician PhD scholarship is \$50,000.00 per annum, full time, tax-free for 3.5 years.
- A Clinician PhD scholarship will be paid into an Australian bank account by fortnightly instalments

## **7. RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM**

Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents undertaking a Higher Degree by research students will receive a Research Training Program (RTP) fee offset. This provides an exemption from tuition fees for the normal duration of a Higher Degree by research, up to a maximum period of four years full-time equivalent study for a Research Doctorate.

## **8. REGISTRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT**

- Award holders must be enrolled to commence the award.

## **9. LEAVE**

- Award holders are entitled to 20 University business 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. Recreation leave does not extend the period of support for the Clinician PhD scholarship.

- Award holders are entitled to up to 10 University business 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. Sick leave less than 10 consecutive working days does not extend the support of the Clinician PhD scholarship.
- Award holders are entitled to receive additional paid sick leave of up to a total of 60 University business days during the duration of the award, for periods of illness lasting longer than ten University business days for which a medical certificate has been provided. Sick leave longer than University business 10 days with a medical certificate will extend the tenure of the stipend.
- Award holders are entitled to up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave, which is in addition to the normal tenure of the award. Parental leave may not be taken in the first twelve months of the award. Parental leave will extend the tenure of the stipend.

## **10. EMPLOYMENT**

- It is expected that a full-time study load is a minimum of 30-40 hours per week. Award holders may undertake additional part time employment provided it does not interfere with their study program. It is recommended that no more than 8 hours of employment during normal business hours is undertaken. Employment arrangements are to be discussed and monitored by a student's supervisor alongside HDR Progression milestones. A part-time student is subject to the same restrictions pro rata. Part-time scholarships are not available to applicants seeking to undertake paid employment.
- 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.

## **11. INTERMISSION**

- Award holders who wish to intermit or suspend their studies must submit an application in [Inspire](#) for both stipend and candidature intermission. Except in the case of illness, applications must be made at least three weeks in advance of the proposed period of intermission. The HDR Scholarships Committee may approve a period or periods totalling up to 12 months. In exceptional circumstances (circumstances beyond the student's control), the HDR Scholarships Committee may approve periods of intermission up to 24 months in total.
- The HDR Scholarships Committee will not approve intermission of scholarships in the first six months of scholarship tenure except in exceptional circumstances.
- Award holders must notify Student Finance Services at least three weeks prior

to resuming study following a period of intermission.

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

## **12. OTHER AWARDS**

Award holders may not normally hold other awards concurrent with the Clinician PhD scholarship. Award holders must immediately advise Student Finance Services 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, which will not exceed 75% of the Clinician PhD scholarship rate.

## **13. TERMINATION OF AWARD**

The award will be terminated:

- if the award holder ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in 2 above, other than during a period of intermission; or
- two weeks after the award holder's thesis is submitted or when the award expires, whichever is earlier; or
- if at any time, under the provisions of the HDR Policy and HDR Progression Procedures the award holder's candidature is terminated; or
- if the award holder ceases to be a full-time student and approval has not been obtained from the HDR Scholarships Committee to hold the award on a part-time basis; or
- if the award holder does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of intermission and approval has not been obtained from the HDR Scholarships Committee to extend that period of intermission; or
- if the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of the scholarship; or
- if the award holder has committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information in relation to the Clinician PhD Scholarship.

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

## **14. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The award holder should be familiar with the separate University policy in relation to intellectual property.

## **15. HDR MILESTONES**

- Every Higher Degree by Research student is required to complete a HDR Milestone report in each year of the Clinician PhD stipend tenure. Refer to the HDR Progressions Procedures for more information. An award may be terminated if an award holder fails at any time to make satisfactory progress as documented by the HDR Milestone process.
- The HDR Scholarships Committee may, at its discretion, require an award holder to submit additional progress reports.

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Queries about the Conditions of Award should be directed in the first instance to:  
Student Finance and Scholarship Services  
Flinders University  
Ph: (08) 8201 5511