**July 2020**

# NDARC Higher Degree Research Scholarship

**Conditions of Award**

## Eligibility

To obtain an NDARC scholarship, applicants must meet the eligibility [requirements](https://research.unsw.edu.au/submit-application) for entry to a research higher degree program at UNSW, including the English language, qualifications and residency requirements. NDARC scholarships are available to both Masters and PhD level applicants.

### Qualifications and qualification equivalence

Eligibility for entry to a research higher degree program at UNSW, and therefore an NDARC scholarship, can be met in three ways:

1. Applicants hold a four year Bachelor’s degree with Honours class 1 from an Australian institution or equivalent research qualification/experience. This qualification must be in a field relevant to the proposed area of research.
2. Equivalence to UNSW Bachelor with Honours or Masters Degree (Research) (MRes) qualifications, which needs to be demonstrated on the basis of discipline expectations of academic achievement at this level. Section 5 of the [Higher Degree Research Admissions and](https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/hdradmissionsguideline.pdf) [Pathways Guideline](https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/hdradmissionsguideline.pdf) outlines the procedure for the assessment of the equivalence of academic qualifications.
3. Equivalence to UNSW Bachelor with Honours or Masters Degree (Research) (MRes) qualifications on the basis of the applicant’s knowledge and skills, as demonstrated by her/his experience and outputs.

### Residency

To obtain an NDARC scholarship, applicants must meet the residency requirements relevant to UNSW scholarships. Specifically:

1. applicants must be an Australian citizen, Australian Permanent Resident, or New Zealand citizen.
2. applicants who have Australian permanent residency pending are eligible to apply for an NDARC scholarship and may be awarded a conditional scholarship. In this case, residency must be confirmed by no later than the census date of the commencing term.
3. international applicants must meet international student visa requirements as specified by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), including the requirement to purchase and maintain a standard Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health.

### Part-time scholarships

Part-time scholarships are only approved in exceptional circumstances, such as significant carer or familial commitments or where medical conditions limit capacity to undertake full-time study. Part-time scholarships are not available if a candidate is seeking the part-time status to undertake employment. If you wish to be considered for a part-time scholarship, please email the Director of NDARC in the first instance to arrange a meeting to discuss your circumstances. Also note that part-time stipends are taxable, and it is the applicant’s responsibility to organise their own taxation arrangements.

### Previous study and other scholarships

Applicants who have already completed a higher degree, or a component of a higher degree, will not ordinarily be eligible for an NDARC scholarship, nor will applicants who already receive a primary scholarship stipend or tuition fee scholarship from any source, including UNSW, to support their candidature in an HDR Program at NDARC/UNSW. Nevertheless, these conditions may be waived in some circumstances. If you wish to be considered for an NDARC scholarship under these conditions, please email the Director of NDARC in the first instance to arrange a meeting to discuss your situation.

## Conditions of Scholarship

### Stipend

Successful applicants will be paid an income tax-free stipend of $30,000 per annum for 3 years. A 6-month extension may be possible depending on progress. This stipend will be paid fortnightly in accordance with the UNSW pay cycle. If a candidate is successful in obtaining another scholarship, and that scholarship is of a lesser amount, s/he will be eligible for a top-up payment to ensure that they receive a stipend of $30,000 per annum. The stipend and timeframes are pro-rata for part-time and Masters candidates.

### Work and other income

It is UNSW's expectation that full-time HDR candidates will spend a minimum of 35 hours per week on their research. While candidates may choose to undertake employment during their candidature, it must not interfere with their research or their ability to undertake full-time study and cannot be accepted as grounds for an extension of the scholarship. With the exception of work that is specified as a program requirement, an award holder with a student visa or some other visa type may undertake work unrelated to their program requirements consistent with the conditions of their visa.

### Leave Entitlements

Paid leave entitlements are only applicable for scholarship holders while they are enrolled. Unpaid entitlements are available for all candidates. Typical leave types are summarised in [Appendix A.](#_bookmark0) Given unanticipated events can happen, however, applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their particular needs and circumstances at any time with their supervisors or the Director of NDARC.

### Professional Development and Capacity Building Funds

Subject to availability successful applicants may also be eligible for up to $10,000 for professional development and up to $5,000 for associated research costs over the period of the higher degree candidature (pro-rata for part-time and Masters candidates).

# Appendix A – Scholarship leave types and entitlements

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Leave type** | **Time required to be completed for eligibility** | **Application required?** | **Duration** | **Supporting documentation required** | **Scholarship and thesis submission date extended?** |
| Paid Annual Leave | N/A | No. This is managed directly with supervisor. | Max. of 20 working days per year. Days may be accrued over the life of the award but will be forfeited when the scholarship is terminated. | No | No |
| Program leave in term blocks\* | N/A | Yes – see [Variation to](https://research.unsw.edu.au/candidature-variation) [Candidature.](https://research.unsw.edu.au/candidature-variation) | 3 months | Yes – please see [Variation to](https://research.unsw.edu.au/candidature-variation) [Candidature.](https://research.unsw.edu.au/candidature-variation) | Yes |
| Paid Sick Leave/Carer’s leave <10 days | N/A | No. This is managed directly with supervisor. | Max. of 10 working days per year. Days may be accrued over the life of the award but will be forfeited when the scholarship is terminated. | No | No |
| Paid Sick Leave/Carer’s leave >10 working days | After completion of 12 months FTE of the award. | Yes – email request to [Candidature](https://research.unsw.edu.au/graduate-research-school-contacts) [Management](https://research.unsw.edu.au/graduate-research-school-contacts) [Officer](https://research.unsw.edu.au/graduate-research-school-contacts) if remaining enrolled, or [Variation to](https://research.unsw.edu.au/candidature-variation) [Candidature](https://research.unsw.edu.au/candidature-variation) if taking leave. | 60 working days combined total over the duration of the award. Can apply for further unpaid leave – see above. | Yes - medical certificate, and any other supporting documentation. | Yes.Scholarship extended in all cases, candidature only extended if candidate takes program leave. |
| Paid Parental Leave | After completion of 12 months FTE of the award. | Yes – email request to [Candidature](https://research.unsw.edu.au/graduate-research-school-contacts) [Management](https://research.unsw.edu.au/graduate-research-school-contacts) [Officer](https://research.unsw.edu.au/graduate-research-school-contacts) if remaining enrolled, or [Variation to](https://research.unsw.edu.au/candidature-variation) [Candidature](https://research.unsw.edu.au/candidature-variation) if taking leave. | 60 working days combined total over the duration of the award. Can apply for further unpaid leave – see above. | Yes - medical certificate, and any other supporting documentation. | Yes.Scholarship extended in all cases, candidature only extended if candidate takes program leave. |

Note - Please check visa requirements before applying.