

NDARC Higher Degree Research Scholarship

Conditions of Award

1. Eligibility

To obtain an NDARC scholarship, applicants must meet the eligibility [requirements](#) 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.

Candidates are ordinarily expected to be enrolled as NDARC HDR Candidates however any variations to candidature can be discussed with the Director of NDARC on a case by case basis.

1.1. 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:

- i) 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.
- ii) 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 Pathways Guideline](#) outlines the procedure for the assessment of the equivalence of academic qualifications.
- iii) 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.

1.2. Residency

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

- i) applicants must be an Australian citizen, Australian Permanent Resident, or New Zealand citizen.

- ii) 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.
- iii) 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.

1.3. 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.

1.4. Previous study and other scholarships

Applicants who have already completed a higher research degree, or a component of a higher research degree, will not ordinarily be eligible for an NDARC scholarship. 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.

2. Conditions of Scholarship

2.1. Other sources of Scholarship Funding

All recipients of an NDARC HDR scholarship are ordinarily expected to have applied for an HDR Scholarship from another funding source prior to, or concurrent with, their NDARC HDR scholarship application. At the time of their NDARC scholarship application, applicants will be required to provide evidence of all scholarship applications that are under consideration. Furthermore, only in-principle or conditional decisions will be made regarding any outcome from an NDARC HDR application prior to any other offers being released.

Given scholarships are funded for variable lengths of time, NDARC will consider providing full funding for remaining periods of candidature up to 3.5 years, once a primary external scholarship has ceased. Please note that such requests will be considered on a case by case basis and take into account a candidate's individual circumstance.

2.2. Stipend

From 2023, successful applicants will be paid an income tax-free stipend of \$37,684 (AUD) 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, the candidate will be

eligible for a top-up payment up to a stipend amount of \$35,000 per annum. The stipend and timeframes are pro-rata for part-time and Masters candidates.

2.3. 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. Part-time HDR candidates are expected to spend a minimum of 15 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.

2.4. 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). All funds must be spent in accordance with set conditions and requests to spend allocated Professional Development or Capacity Building funds require prior approval from the Primary Supervisor and the Director of NDARC or Centre Manager.

2.5. Leave Entitlements

Paid leave entitlements are only applicable for scholarship holders while they are enrolled. Unpaid entitlements are available for all candidates. Given unanticipated events can happen, however, applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their particular needs and circumstances at any time with their supervisors and/or the Director of NDARC.

For the purposes of leave, a 'working day' is a weekday (Monday to Friday). International candidates must check the conditions of their visa before applying for leave. Unless otherwise specified in the scholarship letter of offer, scholarship holders are entitled to the following types of leave.

i) Annual leave

- a) Scholarship holders are entitled up to 20 working days per annum of paid leave for recreational purposes, pro-rated for part-time candidates. This leave is to be taken during the scholarship.
- b) Candidates should discuss with their supervisors the timing of any leave to be undertaken.
- c) Leave cannot be accrued during the scholarship and the candidature and the scholarship will not be extended by periods of paid annual leave taken.

ii) Standard sick leave up to 10 working days

- a) Scholarship holders are entitled up to 10 working days per annum of standard paid sick leave. This is within the regular award duration. Standard sick leave may also be used for candidates with family caring responsibilities where there are compassionate and compelling circumstances.
- b) Candidates should inform their supervisors when they take this leave.
- c) The scholarship will not be extended by periods of paid standard sick leave taken.

iii) Extended sick leave

- a) Scholarship holders who have completed 12 months (full time equivalent) of their candidature are entitled to receive extended paid sick leave of up to a total of 60 working days where the candidate has insufficient sick leave entitlements available in Section 9.2.
- b) Extended sick leave may also be used for candidates with family caring responsibilities where there are compassionate and compelling circumstances.
- c) Applications for extended paid sick leave must be submitted to the GRS with an accompanying medical certificate and/or other appropriate documentation. Candidates will need endorsement from their supervisor.
- d) If extended sick leave is required for the majority of a Term, the candidate must take program leave for that Term. In such cases, the candidate will be paid the extended sick leave benefit while on leave. Candidature time will be extended by the number of terms of program leave taken.
- e) If a whole term of leave is not required, the duration of the scholarship and fees offset will be extended by the duration of the extended sick leave.

iv) Parental leave

- a) Scholarship holders who have completed 12 months (full time equivalent) of their candidature are entitled to receive paid parental leave for a birth or adoption.
- b) Parental leave must be claimed in the first 12 months of child's life. In cases where candidates are not eligible for parental leave, they can apply for extended sick leave, which is to be approved at the discretion of the Director, GRS.
- c) If the scholarship holder is the primary carer of the child, the holder is entitled to a maximum of 60 working days paid parental leave during the scholarship.
- d) If the scholarship holder is the partner of the primary carer of the child, the holder is entitled to a maximum of five working days parental leave during the scholarship.
- e) Applications for parental leave must be submitted to the GRS with an accompanying medical certificate and/or other appropriate documentation. Candidates will need acknowledgement of the leave period from their supervisor.
- f) If parental leave is required for the majority of a Term, the candidate must take program leave for that Term. In such cases, the candidate will be paid the parental leave benefit while on leave. Candidature time will be extended by the number of terms of program leave taken.

g) If a whole term of leave is not required, the duration of the scholarship and fees offset will be extended by the duration of the parental leave.

v) Program Leave

a) Scholarship holders may apply for unpaid program leave in accordance with the Variation of Candidature Procedure. Refer to the [HDR Academic Calendar](#) for applicable Term and Census dates.

b) Any periods of approved unpaid program leave will not impact the total duration of the scholarship although the candidature time will be extended by the number of terms of program leave taken.