2017 Scholarship Conditions of Award

Faculty Postgraduate Excellence Award

1 Nature of Award
The award is offered as a top-up scholarship to Research Training Program stipend (RTP, formerly APA) (or equivalent) scholarship recipient of outstanding academic merit to pursue full-time graduate research in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University.

2 Eligibility

2.1 General
Scholarships are offered for full-time research at postgraduate level for study at one of Monash University’s Australian campuses. Awards are available to students intending to undertake, or who are currently enrolled for a research masters or doctoral degree (ie. PhD or research professional doctorate).

Awardees must hold an Australian or New Zealand bachelor’s degree with first class honours, or qualifications and/or research experience deemed equivalent by the University. Applicants must also satisfy the English language proficiency levels set by the University.

Awards will not be available to those who, as a result of prior studies would be entitled to a maximum tenure of less than 12 months.

2.2 Faculty Postgraduate Excellence Award
Students who are citizens of all countries, and who are commencing a full-time research master’s degree or doctoral degree (ie. PhD or research professional doctorate), are eligible for this award. Students must be undertaking study in a subject area identified by the University as one of its areas of research concentration.

The Award will not be available to students who:
- already completed a doctoral degree or equivalent;
- already completed a research master’s degree or equivalent unless intending to undertake a doctoral degree;
- are enrolled or intending to enrol as a graduate research student under Monash’s external mode regulations.

3 Duration and conversion of award

3.1 Duration of award
The maximum duration of the award is three years.

Awardees who are yet to commence their degree are required to enrol and take up their award by the preferred commencement date of their program. The preferred commencement dates are available from [http://www.monash.edu/graduate-research/future-students/apply/accept/scholarship/commencement-date](http://www.monash.edu/graduate-research/future-students/apply/accept/scholarship/commencement-date). In general, the dates are 31 March (Round 1) or 30 September (Round 2) of the year for which the offer is made.
Where employment commitments or circumstances beyond the awardee’s control prevent an awardee from taking up the scholarship by this date, the awardee may be permitted to commence later, but must begin by 30 June (Round 1) or 31 December (Round 2), or the offer will be withdrawn. Formal approval for a late candidature commencement must be sought from Monash Graduate Education (MGE).

The earliest date a scholarship can be taken up is 1 January (Round 1) and 1 August (Round 2) of the year for which the offer is made.

3.2 Extension provisions

A doctoral student making satisfactory progress may apply for a maximum extension of up to 6 months. An extension will only be approved where research has been delayed by circumstances beyond the student’s control and where such delays could not have been reasonably anticipated at the commencement of the degree. The grounds for an extension must be related to study and not of a personal nature. A request for an extension must be submitted prior to the end date of the scholarship. An extension will not be approved after the scholarship has ended. Master’s students are not entitled to an extension.

3.3 Transfers between research degrees

If an awardee is permitted to transfer from a research master’s to a doctoral degree or from a doctoral degree to a research master’s degree, the maximum duration of the award will be adjusted accordingly. The maximum duration of a transferred stipend becomes that for the new research degree minus periods of study undertaken towards the related degree prior to the conversion.

4 Stipend

The Faculty Postgraduate Excellence Award provides a three-year, full-time, top-up stipend of $A3,000. Payments are made in fortnightly instalments into an Australian bank account in the awardee’s name.

Under Australian Taxation Law, full-time awards are presently considered to be non-taxable by the Australian Government. The University cannot give advice regarding taxation and it is the responsibility of the individual awardee to seek their own taxation advice.

Scholarship holders are permitted to:

- obtain funds for fieldwork, equipment or other expenses not covered by the award;
- obtain funding for overseas travel from Australian Government awards or another source;
- receive income derived from part-time employment (see 5 below);
- receive a concurrent award to undertake their research provided that the total concurrent awards (including this one) provide a benefit less than 75% of the Research Training Program Stipend (RTP) (formerly APA)/MGS stipend rate.

5 Employment

Awardees are permitted to undertake part-time, paid employment throughout the year. Employment is restricted to no more than 15 hours of work on average in any one week. Up to a maximum of six hours only on average of this employment may be undertaken during normal working hours (9am -5pm Monday to Friday). However, this may be extended to a maximum of eight hours if the employment is limited to one weekday.

International awardees need to be aware that the employment restrictions outlined above apply even though a student visa permits students to work more hours per week.
6 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 the entitlements outlined in the relevant handbook.

7 Termination
The award will be terminated on the day the thesis is submitted for examination or at the end of the award, whichever is earlier.

Awards will be terminated before this time:
- if it is determined that the awardee has not fulfilled his/her obligations, has not meet the eligibility criteria or fails to maintain satisfactory progress;
- if the awardee’s enrolment is terminated, the awardee is found guilty of academic misconduct or if the awardee fails to maintain their enrolment;
- if the awardee relinquishes the scholarship or withdraws from the course;
- when the awardee ceases to be a full-time student engaged in full-time research and when approval has not been obtained to hold the award on a part-time basis;
- if the awardee does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave or does not make arrangements to extend the period of approved leave;
- if the awardee converts to writing up away;
- if the awardee ceases to be an internal student.

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

8 Transfer of Faculty Postgraduate Excellence Award
A Faculty Postgraduate Excellence Award can be transferred to another academic unit within the Faculty however, cannot be transferred to another faculty or institution.

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**FACULTY POSTGRADUATE EXCELLENCE AWARD STUDENT AGREEMENT**

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.

Name (Please print): ____________________________________________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________

Please return a scanned copy of this page only to med-research.degrees@monash.edu