Faculty of Medicine International Postgraduate Scholarship (MIPS)

Conditions of Award 2013

1 Nature of Award
The award will cover two-thirds of the tuition fees set by Monash and payable by the awardee for each year of the course (1/3 funded by the Faculty, 1/3 funded by the academic unit). The awardee is required to pay 1/3 of the annual international course tuition fee. The MIPS scholarship also meets two-thirds of the cost of standard Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the awardee, their spouse and any dependants for the duration of the scholarship (see section 4 below). The awardee is required to pay 1/3 of the Overseas Student Health Cover.

2 Eligibility
2.1 General
Awards are offered for full-time research at postgraduate level for study at one of Monash University’s Australian campuses.

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.

Awardees must meet international student visa requirements as specified by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), including the requirement to purchase and maintain a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing.

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

An awardee must not be receiving a scholarship for which course tuition is a component under any other scholarship scheme to Australian Government makes a substantial contribution.

Awards will not be available to those who:
- are in receipt of another equivalent award/scholarship/salary offering similar benefits;
  Note: “Salary” refers to time release for full-time candidature on salary
- are enrolled or are intending to enrol as a research candidate under Monash’s external mode regulations.

2.2 Faculty of Medicine International Postgraduate Scholarship (MIPS)
Candidates who are citizens of all overseas countries, except New Zealand, and who are commencing a full-time research master’s degree, PhD or research professional doctorate are eligible for this award.

The Award will not be available to those who:
- have already completed a PhD or research professional doctorate deemed the equivalent of an Australian PhD or research professional doctorate by the University, unless the proposed research area for the second PhD or professional doctorate is significantly different to the prior PhD or professional doctorate;
- have already completed a research master’s degree deemed the equivalent of an Australian research master’s degree by the University, unless intending to undertake a PhD or research professional doctorate;
- have previously held an IPRS, MIPRS, VMIPRS, MFRS or MIPRS (CSC-sponsored student). An exception may be made in the case of a PhD or research professional doctorate candidate where the prior award was for a research master’s degree.
have held an Australian Agency for International Development scholarship within the two years prior to commencement of their award, unless an exemption is granted by AusAid (Canberra).

3  Duration and conversion of award

3.1  Duration of award
The maximum duration is three years for PhD or research professional doctorate studies and two years for master’s studies.

The duration of an award will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award or taken during the suspension of the award.

A doctoral candidate making satisfactory progress may apply for an extension of up to 12 months where research has been delayed by circumstances beyond the candidate’s control and where such delays could not have been reasonably anticipated at the commencement of candidature (e.g. where a change of research direction has occurred that was outside the control of the student and Monash University).

MIPS awardees undertaking a master’s degree are not entitled to an extension.

The award should be taken up by 31 March (end of year round) or 30 September (mid-year round) 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 holder may be permitted to commence later, but must begin by 30 June (end of year round) or 31 December (mid-year round), or the offer will be withdrawn. Formal approval for a late start must be sought from the Monash Institute of Graduate Research (MIGR).

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

Tenure is always subject to satisfactory progress and terminates upon withdrawal from the course of study, completion of the prescribed course of study, or on the submission of a thesis for examination

3.2  Conversion between master’s and doctoral studies
If a master’s candidate is permitted to upgrade candidature to a PhD or research professional doctorate, the award, upon application by the holder (and prior to its termination) will be extended to the maximum duration for a doctoral degree. Similarly, a PhD or research professional doctorate award may be converted to a master’s research award in circumstances deemed appropriate by the Graduate Research Committee. The maximum duration then becomes that for the new degree.

An awardee who completes a research master’s while on a MIPS may continue on his/her scholarship for doctoral studies (for the total maximum period allowed i.e. 4 years including the period of support while a master’s candidate) provided there is no interval between master’s and doctoral candidature, or that such interval is covered by suspension of the scholarship. As a scholarship normally expires on submission of a thesis for examination, the awardee must ensure that the progression to a doctorate, or suspension of the scholarship is arranged before the master’s studies are completed.

4  Overseas Student Health Cover
International candidates are required to hold visa length Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while enrolled and conducting their research in Australia.

There are three types of OSHC cover:
- Single policy covers the holder of a student visa only
- Dual policy covers the holder of a student visa plus either one adult spouse or recognised de-facto partner or one or more dependent children
- Multi-family covers the holder of a student visa plus more than one dependant which can only include one adult spouse or recognised de-facto partner and one or more dependent children.

Candidates accompanied by their spouse and dependants under the age of 18 must ensure that they are also covered by OSHC whilst in Australia.
The Faculty of MNHS arranges payment of the standard OSHC through the Monash preferred provider, Worldcare, for new commencing MIPS awardees for the duration of their visa.

As the duration of a student visa is longer than the period over which a scholarship is provided candidates are liable to cover the cost of the difference. Candidates commencing anytime between 1 January and 30 September must purchase an additional eight months of OSHC. Candidates commencing anytime between 1 October to 31 December must purchase an additional 10 months of OSHC. Further information on changes to student visas is available from the DIAC website www.immi.gov.au/students/_pdf/2011-higher-degree-by-research.pdf. Awardees will be sent an invoice for this additional 8/10 months. Awardees will also be invoiced for 1/3 of the Overseas Student Health Cover.

5 Employment
An award holder is permitted, with the approval of their main supervisor, to undertake a strictly limited amount of paid employment throughout the year, being 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 (9 am – 5 pm Monday to Friday). However, this may be extended to a maximum of eight hours if the employment is limited to one weekday.

The candidate’s supervisor/s must be satisfied that any part-time work undertaken does not interfere with the candidate’s study program and progress.

International awardees need to be aware that the employment restrictions outlined above apply even though a student visa may permit awardees to work additional hours.

There is no limit on how much income an awardee can receive from part-time work.

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. If the research program requires study away from the University for protracted lengths of time, the same conditions as Study away from Monash will apply.

7 Studying away from the University
Written permission must be obtained from the Faculty of MNHS Research Degrees Committee to pursue research overseas for any period of time, or to pursue research at a site other than a candidate’s approved study location for periods greater than six weeks duration.

Study away will only be approved where the proposed travel is an integral part of the research program. In the case of doctoral candidates a maximum period of 12 months study away may be approved, although in exceptional circumstances this may be extended to 18 months. In the case of master’s candidates a maximum period of six months study away may be approved. At all other times, awardees are expected to reside at a location that will allow daily attendance on campus. Candidates will not generally be allowed to undertake study away in the first six months of candidature.

8 Other courses
Since the award is made for full-time study an award holder may not engage concurrently in any academic course of study leading to a qualification which is not an essential part of the award holder’s postgraduate program.

9 Suspension
An awardee may normally apply for suspension or suspensions of scholarship for up to 12 months. Suspensions in the first six months of scholarship tenure will not normally be approved.

The maximum period of intermission that will be approved at any one time is 12 months. In special circumstances, an awardee may apply to the Faculty of MNHS Research Degrees Committee for suspension beyond an accumulated total of 12 months.

The total period of suspension is normally added to the original scholarship tenure, however periods of study undertaken towards the degree during suspension of the award will be deducted from the maximum period of tenure.
An award will be terminated if the awardee does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of suspension or fails to make arrangements to extend that period of suspension.

Awardees must seek advice from Health Wellbeing and Development as to the effect that a period of suspension may have on visa regulations. OSHC will not continue during a period of suspension.

10 Penalties
The Faculty of MNHS Research Degrees Committee will impose penalties for non-compliance with scholarship conditions. This may include for example, suspension of award and/or a reduction in the maximum tenure of the award.

11 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. It is the awardee’s responsibility to advise the Faculty of MNHS if the thesis is submitted for examination prior to the expiration of the award.

Awards will be terminated before this time:
- if, in the opinion of the institution, the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of the award, and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the degree;
- if it is determined that the awardee has not fulfilled his/her obligations, has not met the eligibility criteria or is not making satisfactory progress;
- when the awardee ceases to be a full-time student engaged in full-time research;
- on completion of the course, or the death, incapacity, resignation or withdrawal of the student;
- if the awardee has been found guilty of academic misconduct;
- if the awardee does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave (for example suspension, personal leave etc), or does not make arrangements to extend the period of approved leave;
- if the awardee does not resume study at Monash at the end of a period of study away from the University, or does not make arrangements to extend that period of study away;
- if the awardee accepts another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake their research degree;
- if the awardee’s probationary candidature is not confirmed;
- on the granting of permanent resident status to the student. Awardees will be required to meet the tuition fees owing, where they fail to advise the Faculty of MNHS of any change in visa status;
- if the awardee converts to external candidature or writing up away;
- if the awardee fails to maintain their enrolment or fails to re-enrol.

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

12 Monash’s obligations to awardee

12.1 Supervision
A code of practice for supervision of doctoral and research master’s candidates has been drawn up by the Graduate Research Committee in consultation with the Monash Postgraduate Association (refer to Chapter 5.2 of the Handbook for Doctoral Degrees and Handbook for Research Master’s Degrees available from www.monash.edu.au/migr/research-degrees/handbook/).

12.2 Right of appeal
Awardees have the right of appeal against decisions made in relation to the tenure of the award. Such mechanisms are in place and an awardee should consult with the supervisor or head of academic unit in the first instance.

12.3 Code of ethical practice
Monash University endorses the Code of Ethical Practice in the Provision of Full Fee Courses to Overseas Students by Australian Higher Education Institutions.
12.4 Facilities  
Awardees have adequate facilities to undertake the proposed research program.

13 Award holder’s contract with the University

13.1 Pursuit of research program  
The awardee shall diligently and to the best of his/her ability apply himself/herself to the successful completion of the degree.

13.2 Ethics and Occupational Health and Safety guidelines  
The awardee shall abide by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) codes on human and animal experimentation, the Australian Government’s Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee, and rulings of the relevant university safety and ethics committees.

13.3 Regulations and statutes  
With specific reference to the postgraduate award the awardee must notify the Faculty of MNHS of:
- an intention to leave Australia for reasons other than approved annual leave;
- discontinuance of full-time studies in the approved postgraduate course;
- submission of a thesis for examination;
- absence for any reason for a period of 14 days or longer from study, except on approved annual leave;
- a change in visa status;
- the award of another Commonwealth or other Government award/or other award offering similar benefits.

13.4 Research evaluation project  
The University is required to ensure that candidates and their supervisors are available to contribute to and participate in, any Australian Government Research Evaluation Program (REP) exercise relating to their projects during, and for a reasonable period after the conclusion of their project.

13.5 Acknowledgments, publications and publicity  
Subject to commercial sensitivities or intellectual property considerations, the outcomes of research projects are expected to be communicated to the research community and, where appropriate and possible, to the community at large.

14 Transfer of MIPS  
A MIPS award cannot be transferred to another faculty or institution.

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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:  
Signature: _______________________________ Date: __________________