



## Vice-Chancellor's Research Scholarships and University of Sydney Postgraduate Awards (UPA) Co-funded

### Information for 2008 Semester 2 Applicants

(This document is available from [http://www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/postgraduate\\_awards.shtml](http://www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/postgraduate_awards.shtml))

#### **Vice-Chancellor's Research Scholarships**

The Vice-Chancellor's Research Scholarships (VCRS) are offered to attract students with an outstanding track record in academic achievements and research potential to pursue full-time PhD studies at the University of Sydney. Up to 20 VCRS will be awarded every year.

The VCRS will be awarded by the Vice-Chancellor on recommendation by a selection committee consisting of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the Dean of Graduate Studies and a Federation Fellow nominated by the Vice-Chancellor. Academic excellence and outstanding research potential will be the selection criteria.

The value of the VCRS will be \$30,000 p.a. (tax-exempt) for up to three years for full-time PhD students. A maximum extension of up to six months is possible provided the student is making satisfactory progress, the grounds for the extension relate to the study and are beyond the control of the student. A relocation allowance of up to \$5,000 may be provided for students who need to relocate to Sydney to take up the scholarship.

The VCRS can be held at any Faculty at the University but is not transferable to other universities. All other conditions of award including leave will be the same as those offered by the Australian Postgraduate Awards.

Eligibility criteria for the VCRS will be the same as for the University of Sydney Postgraduate Awards (UPA) Co-funded (refer to Section 1.1 below) except that only PhD applicants will be considered. A separate application for the VCRS is not required and highly ranked applicants for the University of Sydney Postgraduate Award (Co-funded) will be automatically considered.

#### **University of Sydney Postgraduate Awards (UPA) Co-funded**

Up to **70** University of Sydney Postgraduate Awards (UPA) Co-funded will be offered to Australian Citizens, Australian Permanent Residents and New Zealand Citizens proposing to **commence a full-time Research Masters or Research Doctorate degree at The University of Sydney in 2008 Semester 2.**

The scholarships are co-funded by and tenable in specific Faculties and are not transferable to another Faculty. Recipients of a UPA (Co-funded) must enrol in the Research Masters or Research Doctorate degree and commence their award by **29 August 2008**. **No deferment of the scholarship will be allowed.** Candidates who intend to commence their research degree in 2009 Semester 1 should apply for a 2009 APA/UPA instead (applications will open in late August 2008).

# 1 Eligibility, tenure, conditions and benefits

## 1.1 Eligibility

To be eligible applicants must:

- (a) be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident by 13 June 2008;
- (b) have completed a Bachelor Degree (or expect to complete at the end of 2008 Semester 1) with First Class Honours or equivalent results (refer to Section 3.2 for details) or have completed a degree and also have an outstanding record of professional and/or research achievements since graduation;
- (c) be commencing\* a Research Masters or Research Doctoral degree at The University of Sydney in 2008 Semester 2;

*\*Commencing students do not include those who withdrew from a Research Masters or Research Doctorate degree at The University of Sydney and wish to apply for re-admission, or those who upgraded or intend to upgrade from a Research Masters to a Research Doctorate degree in 2008 Semester 2;*

- (d) be enrolling as a full-time student. The University of Sydney may approve a part-time UPA (Co-funded) where an applicant is able to demonstrate significant caring responsibilities or a medical condition which limits the student's capacity to undertake full-time study;
- (e) not have completed a degree at the same, or higher, level as the proposed candidature;
- (f) have not previously held an APA, APA (Industry) or a Commonwealth Government-funded postgraduate research scholarship (excluding an Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship), unless it was terminated within six months of the scholarship's payments commencing; and
- (g) not be receiving an equivalent award, scholarship or salary providing a benefit greater than 75% of the UPA (Co-funded) stipend rate, to undertake the proposed study. (Salary for work unrelated to the student's research is not subject to this limit.)

## 1.2 Tenure and Conditions

- (a) A full-time UPA (Co-funded) may be held for three years for Research Doctorate studies, or two years for Research Masters studies. A Research Doctorate candidate may apply for a maximum extension of up to six months subject to satisfactory progress, provided the grounds are related to study and are beyond the control of the student. No extensions are possible for Research Masters students.
- (b) The maximum UPA (Co-funded) tenure will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken:
  - towards the degree prior to the commencement of the UPA (Co-funded);
  - during suspension of the UPA (Co-funded); and/or
  - during the tenure of a previous Australian Postgraduate Coursework Award.
- (c) Awards will not normally be available to those who as a result of prior candidature and/or scholarship would be entitled to a maximum tenure of less than twelve months.
- (d) A part-time award holder is expected to progress at half the rate of a full-time award holder.
- (e) Each award is renewed annually on the Head of School's/Department's recommendation and is conditional on satisfactory progress.
- (f) Students may conduct up to 12 months (18 months for students of anthropology and other special cases) of their research outside Australia. The request must be approved by the Faculty concerned and the student must remain enrolled at The University of Sydney.
- (g) After the first six months of award, students may be granted up to 12 months suspension of their award. A suspension, or accumulated periods of suspension of more than 12 months, will only be considered if there are exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control.
- (h) Award holders may engage in a limited amount of paid employment (current conditions allow up to 20 hours per week, evening, weekend and holiday work included) which must not interfere with the student's study and progress. If employed by the University, the appointment must not exceed half time or 50% of a full-time position.

### 1.3 Benefits

- (a) Full-time award holders receive a stipend of \$20,007 p.a. (2008 rate) which is currently exempt from taxation. Part-time award holders receive a taxable stipend of \$10,710 p.a. (2008 rate). The stipend rate is indexed on the anniversary of the commencement date of the award.
- (b) Reimbursement of up to \$420 for Masters candidates and up to \$840 (2008 rates) for Doctoral candidates will be made for eligible claims for direct costs of producing a thesis in accordance with the University's thesis allowance policy. The allowance must be claimed within one year of submission of the thesis and no more than two years after termination of the UPA (Co-funded).
- (c) Award holders may take up to 10 working days sick leave and up to 20 working days recreation leave each year as part of the award. Recreation leave does not attract a leave loading. These leave entitlements will be forfeited on termination of the UPA (Co-funded).
- (d) Award holders may receive additional paid sick leave of up to a total of twelve weeks for medically substantiated periods of illness lasting longer than ten days. This period of leave is added to the tenure of the award.
- (e) After award holders have completed twelve months of their award, they are entitled to a maximum of twelve weeks paid maternity leave during the tenure of the award. Periods of paid maternity leave are in addition to the normal duration of the award. Unpaid maternity leave may be accessed through the suspension provisions.
- (f) Award holders will be granted a HECS-exempt place under the Research Training Scheme (see <http://www.usyd.edu.au/fstudent/postgrad/research/costs/index.shtml>) for the tenure of their award.

## 2 Other Postgraduate Research Scholarships

(Scholarship opportunities are advertised on the Research Office website:

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/index.shtml>, click on the *Current Research Scholarships* menu item and choose *Research Scholarships*. You can also subscribe to the weekly email *Scholarship Bulletin* from: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/index.shtml>).

### 2.1 Scholarship in the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

One scholarship will be available to a full-time candidate commencing a postgraduate research course in 2008 Semester 2 in the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The eligibility criteria, tenure and conditions are similar to the APA. **Application for the Faculty scholarship is automatic upon application for a UPA (Co-funded)** through the University of Sydney Research Office. Further information may be obtained from the Student Liaison and Administration Manager, Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, on (02) 9351 2940, email: [p.brass@usyd.edu.au](mailto:p.brass@usyd.edu.au).

### 2.2 Scholarships in the Faculty of Economics and Business

The Faculty of Economics and Business is offering up to five scholarships for outstanding candidates to engage in full-time PhD studies within the Faculty in 2008 Semester 2. Each scholarship is valued at \$25,000 p.a. The eligibility criteria, tenure and conditions are outlined on the Faculty website: [www.econ.usyd.edu.au/reschols](http://www.econ.usyd.edu.au/reschols). **Application for the Faculty scholarship is automatic upon application for a UPA (Co-funded)** through the University of Sydney Research Office. **Those who do not apply for a UPA (Co-funded)** may download a separate application and information package from the website mentioned above and applications **close 13 June 2008**. Further information can be obtained from Ms Maryann Van De Wetering, Research Student Administration Assistant, Faculty of Economics and Business, on (02) 9036 5372, email: [m.vandewetering@econ.usyd.edu.au](mailto:m.vandewetering@econ.usyd.edu.au).

### 2.3 Henry Bertie and Florence Mabel Gritton Research Scholarships (in Chemistry related to Industry and Agriculture)

Approximately five scholarships are funded each year by a bequest from the estates of Henry Bertie and his wife Florence Mabel Gritton. The object of the scholarships is to promote the knowledge and study of Chemistry in relation to Industry and Agriculture, including Chemistry connected with Electrical Engineering, Metallurgical Chemistry and Chemistry in its application to the Mining and the winning and treatment of minerals and natural products of the soil. The value, tenure and benefits

of the scholarship are similar to that of the APA. **A supplementary application is required by 16 July 2008** for scholarships available in 2008 Semester 2. Further information and an application form are available from <http://www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/index.shtml> (use the *Current Research Scholarships* link, choose *Research Scholarships* and type *Gritton* as Optional Keyword) or from the Research Office on (02) 9351 3250, email: [research.training@usyd.edu.au](mailto:research.training@usyd.edu.au).

#### **2.4 Richard Claude Mankin Scholarship** (in water conservation)

This scholarship is funded by a bequest comprising the residual estate of Winifred Roby Mankin to promote and encourage research at The University of Sydney related to water conservation. The value and tenure of the scholarship are similar to that of the APA. **A supplementary application is required by 16 July 2008.** Further information and an application form are available from <http://www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/index.shtml> (use the *Current Research Scholarships* link, choose *Research Scholarships* and type *Mankin* as Optional Keyword) or from the Research Office on (02) 9351 3250, email: [research.training@usyd.edu.au](mailto:research.training@usyd.edu.au).

#### **2.5 G.C. Henderson Research Scholarship** (in history of the Polynesian, Melanesian and Micronesian communities)

This scholarship is funded by a bequest from Professor G.C. Henderson to promote and encourage research into the history of the Polynesian, Melanesian and Micronesian communities. The scholarship is open to full-time postgraduate research candidates intending to enrol in the Department of Anthropology or History at The University of Sydney. The tenure and benefits of the scholarship are similar to that of the UPA. **A supplementary application is required by 16 July 2008.** Further information is available from <http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/reschols/scholarships> (use the *Current Research Scholarships* link, choose *Research Scholarships* and type *Henderson* as Optional Keyword) or from the Research Office on (02) 9351 3250, email: [research.training@usyd.edu.au](mailto:research.training@usyd.edu.au).

### **3 Selection Process**

Selection is based on academic merit and research potential. To achieve this, each Faculty shall prepare a ranked list, in order of final mark as described below, of all applicants that it wishes to support for the award of a scholarship. The Faculty lists will then be checked by one of the three 'faculty cluster' Ranking Committees: Health, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Sciences and Technology. The checked Faculty lists will be combined into a single list using the applicants' final mark. The Academic Board's Postgraduate Awards Sub-Committee will consider the combined ranking list and determine the number of offers to be made. Offer of an award will depend upon an applicant's position on the list.

The applicant's final mark is consisted of the UG WAM and/or Honours 1 (or Honours 1 equivalent) mark and Research Potential Indicator. The use of these components is based on whether the applicant has attained an Honours 1 degree, has completed his/her most recent studies (Honours 1 degree or equivalent – see 3.2 below) within the last five years by the time the scholarship is being awarded, and the extent of any relevant research/professional experience. A greater weight is given to the Honours 1 (or H1E) mark.

**UG WAM:** The undergraduate weighted average mark (average mark, weighted according to the relative credit point value of the individual units of study) is obtained by averaging the marks the applicant obtained in *all* second and third year units of study in the relevant degree. Some faculties will also calculate the WAM according to the year-levels (2 for second year, 3 for third year) of the units of study.

The UG WAM of combined degrees will normally be calculated from all units except those in the first year and the honours subjects.

**H1 (or H1E) mark:** This is the mark achieved in the Honours (or equivalent) degree. The criteria for ranking Honours 1 equivalent qualifications are detailed in Section 3.2 below.

**Research Potential Indicator (RPI) point:** RPI points are awarded for relevant research and/or professional achievements as detailed in Section 3.3 below.

### 3.1 Calculating the UG WAM and Hons Mark

It is the responsibility of applicants to provide numerical marks of their academic results wherever possible. If the mark is not available or is unobtainable, the result will be entered at the respective **mid-point** for the equivalent Pass (i.e. 57) and Credit (i.e. 69.5) grades at the University of Sydney. A mark at the **lowest one-third** (i.e. 78.33) will be entered for the equivalent Distinction and the **lowest mark** (i.e. 85) for High Distinction grades. If the results are ungraded, applicants should provide information on the overall position in the class and/or thesis examiners reports if available.

It is important to provide the grading system showing the range of marks or the minimum mark required for each grade and different levels of Honours. Discounting of marks will be made to account for a pass mark of e.g. 60 used in some overseas institutions compared to 50 in Australian universities. Scaling of Honours 1 marks will be made if the institution does not use 80 as the cut-off requirement for Honours 1. This is also applicable to University of Sydney honours marks awarded before the standardisation of Honours 1 at 80.

### 3.2 Honours 1 Equivalence

Where applicants did not have an Honours 1 degree, they can be ranked as having an Honours 1 equivalent degree on the basis of an additional qualification under the following criteria:

- a) A completed Master of Philosophy (or equivalent) by thesis. In this case, the 'Hons mark' will be 83 unless a higher thesis mark has been recorded on the transcript.
- b) A completed Masters by coursework with a weighted average mark of at least 80 and a research component (requiring the completion of a dissertation, treatise, long essay or major report) of at least 12 credit points (where 48 credit points denotes a one-year full-time course). In this case, the weighted average mark in all units of study, including the dissertation, will be the 'Hons mark'.
- c) A completed Masters by coursework with a weighted average mark of at least 80 and a research treatise of  $\geq 25,000$  words as a requirement of the course. In this case, the weighted average mark in all units of study, including the treatise, will be the 'Hons mark'.
- d) A completed Masters by coursework with a weighted average mark of at least 80 and a research component verified by the Faculty Research Committee to be academically demanding and is a relevant foundation in research training for the proposed PhD project.
- e) A completed Masters Preliminary or Graduate Diploma with a research component (as per b above) of at least 25% of the course, requirements and assessment equivalent to Fourth Year Honours at Honours 1 standard (a minimum mark of 80). In this case, the weighted average mark in all Masters Preliminary or Graduate Diploma units of study will be the 'Hons mark'.
- f) Overseas qualifications that are considered as equivalent to an Australian Honours 1 degree. In this case, the weighted average mark (after discounting/scaling if applicable) in all units of study will be the 'Hons mark'.
- g) Graduates who did not have an Honours 1 result but have attained membership or fellowship of prestigious learned professional organisations by advanced study, examination and professional practice *may* be eligible for H1E. The relevant Faculty will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of academic rigor. In all such cases, the 'Hons mark' will be 80.

In assessing whether membership or fellowship of a learned body confers the H1E status, consideration will be taken of the level of additional skills and training required for membership, the length of training required, and the academic level and pass rate of the entrance examination.

### 3.3 Research Potential Indicator (RPI)

RPI points may be awarded on the basis of demonstrable research performance, relevant professional and direct research experience as per the following criteria. **It is the responsibility of the applicants to provide evidence of such performance or experience**, e.g. copy of scholarly publications showing the names and dates of publications or proof that they have been accepted for publication and if applicable, whether the publication is refereed, ISI-listed, Ulrich-listed or DEST approved (refer to b below); evidence of being the major author/contributor; published catalogues of

exhibitions; letters detailing duration, full or part time, and level of responsibility of relevant employment or direct research experience.

- a) Relevant academic qualifications in addition to Honours 1.  
Examples are a completed Masters by research degree (with a research component of at least 2/3 of the course), a completed second Honours 1 degree (in a combined honours degree).
- b) Scholarly publications (must be published or accepted for publication by a reputable publisher) in the relevant field of research within the last five years.

Examples are:

- A published book or chapter in an edited book (not conference proceedings).
- A published research article in a refereed international journal (ISI-listed, Ulrich-listed or DEST approved – refer to: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/ro/performance/refereeing.shtml>).
- A published or refereed conference paper, a published or refereed presenting author abstract or a published research report.

- c) Output in the art or music areas in the relevant field of research within the last five years.

Examples are:

- An exhibition (with published catalogue) with multiple venues of international standard, or a series of performances of international standard, for which reviews in significant outlets are available.
- An exhibition in a Public Gallery or Museum (with published catalogue) or in a Private Gallery of standing in which the artist is asked to exhibit by invitation.
- Visual work(s) held in significant National and/or International Collections or commissioned by Government Bodies and/or the Corporate Sector.
- A significant published musical composition or a significant commercially published CD of a musical performance.
- Visual documentation of performance, installation and electronic creative works in significant National and/or International Collections.
- Participation (as presenting author or equivalent) in significant National or International Festivals or professional conventions.

- d) Relevant professional experience at a responsible level or direct research experience of at least two full-time years since graduation and not in a training situation.

- e) Other

- Participation in moots such as the Jessop International Law moot at an international level.

#### Transfer Applicants

Current APA holders from another university who have at least 12 months remaining on their maximum scholarship tenure and wish to transfer their candidature to The University of Sydney in 2008 Semester 2 can apply for a UPA (Co-funded). Their applications will be ranked with all other applications received in this round in accordance with the selection process described above.

#### **4 Application Form**

The UPA (Co-funded) application form is **NOT** an application for research Masters or Doctoral candidature. **Scholarship applicants must apply separately to the appropriate Faculty for admission to candidature by 13 June 2008** as their UPA (Co-funded) application will not be ranked unless their enrolment into the proposed research program will be accepted by the University.

Application for admission into a research degree is available from –  
[http://www.usyd.edu.au/studentcentre/admissions/app\\_forms.shtml](http://www.usyd.edu.au/studentcentre/admissions/app_forms.shtml).

The UPA (Co-funded) application form and Academic Referee's Report can be printed directly from:  
[http://www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/postgraduate\\_awards.shtml](http://www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/postgraduate_awards.shtml).

**The original plus two identical copies** (a total of **3 sets**) of the application form and supporting documentation, according to the instructions on the application form, must reach the Research Office by **Friday, 13 June 2008**. **Applications cannot be submitted by fax or electronically**. Please ensure that applications are typed or handwritten legibly using a black pen.

**Questions 1-4:** Applicants must provide their contact details from June to August 2008 and notify the Research Office in writing of any changes.

**Questions 5 & 6:** Read and complete these questions carefully. Applicants whose responses to these questions indicate that they are not eligible to apply should not lodge an application. Eligible applicants must provide certified copies of relevant documentation.

**Question 7:** Applicants who have previously or are currently enrolled at The University of Sydney must provide their student identification number.

**Question 8:** To be completed by applicants who are currently enrolled in a tertiary institution. The tenure of an award will be reduced if a candidate is currently or has been previously enrolled in the postgraduate research degree for which the scholarship is sought.

**Question 9:** Applicants must provide details of completed tertiary qualifications and enclose certified copies of official transcripts if the qualifications are not from The University of Sydney.

Note: The transcripts must provide an explanation of grading (usually found on the reverse side). It is important to provide actual marks rather than grades where these are available (see 'Calculating the UG WAM and Hons Mark' in Section 3.1 above). For transcripts in languages other than English, certified translations must be included. Current Honours year students, other than candidates from The University of Sydney, should provide certified copies of their results as soon as these become available. Please note that original documents included with your application will not be returned.

Applicants with overseas qualifications are strongly advised to provide information on their degree/s and how they compare with an Australian Honours 1 degree.

**Question 10:** Applicants must apply separately to the appropriate Faculty for admission as a Research Masters or Research Doctoral candidate. Please do so as soon as possible and **by 13 June 2008** since the Faculty has to determine that your candidature will be accepted before supporting your scholarship application.

**Question 11:** If applicable, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide a summary and attach credible evidence of relevant professional experience at a responsible level of at least two full-time years since graduation and not in a training situation. Please note that attaching a curriculum vitae only will **not** be sufficient for this purpose and supporting documents will be required, e.g. letters from your employer/s detailing duration, full or part-time, and level of responsibility that are relevant to the research degree you wish to undertake.

**Question 12:**

a) Provide a summary of direct research experience such as vacation scholarships, major Honours year research project/thesis with information on the title and length of the project/thesis completed.

b) If applicable, provide a summary and attach evidence of scholarly publications (must be published or accepted for publication by a reputable publisher) and/or output in the art or music areas in the relevant field of research within the last five years. Refer to the criteria detailed in 'Research Potential Indicator (RPI)' in Section 3.3 above.

**Question 13:** Applicants who have previously held an APA, APA (Industry) or a Commonwealth Government-funded postgraduate research scholarship are not eligible to apply unless it was terminated within six months of the scholarship's payments commencing. Current APA holders from other institutions will need to relinquish their award if they are successful in getting a UPA (Co-funded).

**Question 14:** The referees nominated should be academics who are able to provide an assessment of the applicant's most recent studies and research potential. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the nominated referees send the confidential reports by mail, fax or as a PDF file directly to the Research Office **by 13 June 2008**. Due to the large number of applications received, this Office is **not** able to follow up on outstanding Referee's Report on behalf of applicants.

**Question 15:** Before signing the application, applicants must read the contents of the form and answer all questions truthfully. If there is any Section that the applicant is unsure about, clarification should be sought from the Research Office. There are severe penalties for providing false or misleading information, including exclusion of the application.

**Checklist:** Please note that applications which are incomplete and/or without supporting documentation in accordance with these instructions will jeopardise the applicants' chance of being considered for an award and may be grounds for exclusion.

**Applications may be lodged in person at:**

**Research Office  
Room K4.01, First Floor, Lobby K, Main Quadrangle  
The University of Sydney  
between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday,**

**by Friday, 13 June 2008.**

**Mailed applications should be addressed to:**

**VCRS and UPA (Co-funded) Applications  
Research Office, A14  
The University of Sydney NSW 2006**

**and must reach the University by Friday, 13 June 2008.**

## **5 Acknowledgment**

Acknowledgment of receipt of application will only be sent to applicants who enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with their application. These letters will be sent in the last week of June 2008.

## **6 Notification of Results**

Notification of the outcome of applications will be made in writing and is expected to be mailed to applicants around **14 July 2008**.