

# UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT SCHEME

### **New Postgraduate Research Support (PRS) Scheme**

For the period 2001-2011, \$1 million will be made available each year as part of the University's Sesquicentenary Research Funding to support postgraduate research students under a new Postgraduate Research Support scheme.

It is also proposed that all students holding an APA, UPA, IPA or APAI as at 31 March 2001 who commenced their award in 2000 or earlier, will continue to receive an allowance of \$600 p.a. (full-time rate) or \$300 (part-time rate) until the completion of their awards. The allowance will be paid in full with the students' fortnightly stipend in May and will be based on enrolment information as at 31 March.

#### **1. Eligibility – Applicant**

Enrolled PhD students, full-time or part-time, are eligible to apply for funds under the PRS scheme if candidature is less than 4 full-time years (8 full-time semesters) or equivalent at the time of application. Although a PhD student may apply during any PRS application round, only three\* successful applications during candidature (four-year full-time, or equivalent) are permitted. That is, a PhD student can be awarded funds under the PRS scheme only three\* times.

\* The following limit on the number of successful applications will apply to PhD students who commenced their degrees prior to January 2001:

students who have completed $\leq 1$ full-time or equivalent semester	: three
students who have completed 2-4 full-time or equivalent semesters	: two
students who have completed 5 or more full-time or equivalent semesters	: one

Enrolled Masters by research students, full-time or part-time, are eligible to apply for funds under the PRS scheme if candidature is less than 2 full-time years (4 full-time semesters) or equivalent at the time of application. Although a Masters student may apply during any PRS application round, only one successful application during candidature (two-year full time, or equivalent) is permitted. That is, a Masters by research student can only be awarded funds under the PRS scheme once. If a Masters student converts to a PhD, the total number of successful PRS applications permitted will be three (including any successful application as a Masters student).

Each eligible student can lodge only one application in any PRS application round conducted by his/her Faculty.

#### **2. Eligibility – Expenditure**

Eligible students may apply for a minimum amount of \$200 and a maximum amount of \$1,200 in each application round under the following categories:

- Conference expenses – for the purpose of presenting a paper or poster in connection with the students’ research. Students who attend a conference without presenting are not eligible to apply under this category.
- Expenses in connection with the use of, or a visit to use specialist facilities or to learn specialist technique/s directly related to the students’ research. The Head of Department/School must demonstrate that the use of such facilities or infrastructure could not reasonably have been anticipated at the beginning of the students’ candidature or was beyond those normally provided by the Department/School.
- Purchase of specialist books, periodicals, software that are essential to the students’ research, but are not normally available in the Faculty or the University’s Library.
- Purchase of minor computer equipment that is essential to the students’ research and is above and beyond the infrastructure provided by the Department/School as certified by the Head of Department/School.
- Thesis production expenses to a maximum amount of \$600 for a PhD thesis or \$300 for a Masters thesis. Only students who do not hold a scholarship which provides such expenses and who expect to submit their theses in the current semester/year can apply under this category.

Direct research costs will not be supported. Thus, expenditure related to the purchase of consumables (such as chemicals, stationery, questionnaires and disks) normally provided by a Department/School, or photocopying will not be supported under the PRS scheme.

### **3. Eligibility – Existing Award Holders**

Students holding an APA, UPA, IPA or APAI and who continue to receive the \$600 maintenance allowance (or \$300 for part-time award holders) may also apply for support under the PRS scheme and if successful, the amount awarded will be reduced by the amount of the maintenance allowance they are entitled to receive in that year irrespective of how that allowance has been spent.

### **4. Criteria for award of funds**

- Satisfactory progress towards timely completion of the degree: 4 years FTE for PhD or 2 years FTE for Masters. Applications for funding will not be considered if the period of candidature has exceeded these timeframes.
- Evidence of achievement related to the research such as publications (published, in press or submitted).
- Justification for the use of funds, including a statement outlining the benefits to the applicant’s candidature.
- Statement of support by the applicant’s supervisor.
- If applicable, certification by the Head of Department/School that the use of specialist facilities or infrastructure could not have been anticipated at the beginning of the students’ candidature and is above and beyond those normally provided by the Department/School.

### **5. Application process**

Applications will be called for twice a year, funding permitting .