

The University of Sydney

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD

The Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship is a postgraduate scholarship established in 2009 by a bequest from Dr Albert S McKern for investigations into the cause, prevention and treatment of mental and physical pain and distress during pregnancy, labour and puerperium.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be a graduate of the University of Sydney, Australia or the University of Edinburgh, Scotland or Yale University, USA.
2. To take up the award, a student must be enrolled for a full-time postgraduate research degree in the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology, Faculty of Medicine, undertaking research into the cause, prevention and treatment of mental and physical pain and distress during pregnancy, labour and puerperium

Tenure

3. An award shall be tenable for up to two years in the case of a master's degree and up to three years for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, with a possible extension of 6 months in the case of a PhD. Periods of study undertaken towards a research degree prior to the commencement of the award will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the award.
4. The scholarship may be awarded as a full stipend or as a top-up to a student who has a scholarship that provides a stipend.
5. A Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship recipient on a full stipend may not hold another scholarship providing a living allowance.
6. A student must commence his or her scholarship by the date stipulated in the letter of offer. A request to defer commencement of the award will only be considered subject to Faculty approval to defer commencement of candidature. See also sections 15 and 16 on Suspensions.

Stipend

7. Each award shall provide a tax-exempt stipend of \$45,000 per annum or, in the case of a student holding an existing scholarship, the award shall provide for a top-up tax-exempt stipend of \$10,000 or the maximum allowed by the primary scholarship whichever is the lesser amount. Students who are approved to hold a part-time scholarship will receive a top-up at a pro-rata amount.
8. Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship holders who are Australian or New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents will be granted a HECS-exempt place under the Research Training Scheme for the tenure of their award. International students will be responsible for their fees for the duration of their candidature.

Leave Arrangements

9. Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship holders receive up to 20 days recreation leave each year of the award and this may be accrued. However, the student will forfeit any unused leave remaining when an award is terminated or completed. Recreation leave does not attract a leave loading and the supervisor's agreement must be obtained before leave is taken.
10. Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship holders may take up to ten days sick leave each year of the award and this may be accrued over the tenure of the award. Students with family responsibilities caring for sick children or relatives may convert up to five days of their annual sick leave entitlement to carer's leave on presentation of medical certificate/s. Students taking sick leave must inform their supervisor as soon as practicable.
11. Once Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship 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. Students applying for paid maternity leave must do so at least four weeks prior to the expected date of birth. Periods of paid maternity leave are added to the normal duration of the award. Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship holders who have not completed twelve months of their award may access unpaid maternity leave through the suspension provisions.

Employment

12. Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship holders may undertake part-time work up to a maximum of twenty hours per week, evening, weekend and holiday work included. If employed by the University, the appointment must not exceed half time or 50% of a full time position. However, work undertaken must not interfere with the student's study programme and progress. There is no limit on how much income an award holder can receive from part-time work but this income will not be tax-exempt.

Research overseas

13. PhD students must complete a minimum of two semesters at the University and master's students must complete a minimum of one semester at the University. Approval to conduct research outside Australia must be sought from the student's supervisor, head of department and the Faculty, and will only be granted if the research is essential for completion of the degree. All periods of overseas research are cumulative and will be credited to a student's candidature. Students must remain enrolled at the University and submit a Candidature Variation form through the Faculty Office in order to obtain permission to count the time at the overseas institution.

Transfer

14. Scholarship holders may convert from a research master's degree to a research doctorate degree or vice-versa provided such change in candidature is approved by the Faculty of Medicine and the Research Office is notified. The maximum duration of a converted Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship becomes that for the new candidature.

Suspension

15. Students may not apply for a suspension within the first 6 months of the tenure of their award.
16. Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship holders may apply for up to 12 months suspension for any reason during the tenure of their award. Periods of suspension are cumulative and failure to resume study after suspension will result in the award being terminated. Approval to suspend must be given both by the faculty and by the head of the department concerned. Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the award.

Changes in Enrolment

17. Scholarship holders must notify the faculty and the Research Office promptly of any changes to their enrolment including but not limited to: attendance pattern, suspension, leave of absence, withdrawal and course transfer. If the award holder does not provide notice of the changes identified above, then the University may require repayment of any overpaid stipend.

Termination

18. The award will be terminated on resignation or withdrawal of the student, upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award, whichever is earlier. Awards will be terminated before this time if after due enquiry the University concludes that a student has not carried out the course of study with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of the Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship, or fails to maintain satisfactory progress, or has committed serious misconduct.

Annual Report

19. All students must complete an Annual Progress Report form towards the end of each year. Renewal of awards will be dependent on the report being considered satisfactory by the Chair of the Combined Board of Postgraduate Studies for the Faculties of Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy.

General

20. Dr Albert S McKern Research Scholarship recipients must acknowledge the support of their scholarship in any publications arising from the work undertaken whilst on this scholarship.
21. Scholarship holders must make themselves available to present their work to the Discipline of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology as requested, and/or, from time to time, to attend functions at which donors will be present. Mandatory attendance is limited to twice a year.
22. Any media coverage arising from the research supported by the grant must refer to the scholarship's support of the project. Copies of media articles must be sent to the Head of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology.
23. Failure to satisfy any of these conditions may (at the absolute discretion of the Faculty of Medicine) result in termination of the Scholarship.

