



WCH FOUNDATION

POPULATION HEALTH PhD SCHOLARSHIP

RESEARCH COMMENCING IN 2012

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Established in 1989, the WCH Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation governed by a Committee of Trustees and incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act 1985. The Foundation supports research by providing funding for research projects on an annual basis.

The Population Health PhD Scholarships were established in 2007 to reflect the strategic directions of the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN). Population Health is described as the study of health in defined populations that has a focus on identifying and managing health problems in populations rather than individuals. With respect to this scholarship, this can include maternal or child and youth health, involving but not limited to, Aboriginal health issues or areas that have a national priority e.g. asthma, mental health, depression, cancer or diabetes.

The WCH Foundation will fund up to **two** PhD Scholarships at the WCHN (at any one time), for a period of up to three years, commencing in 2012. The Population Health PhD Scholarships are offered for doctoral research to WCHN or Women's and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI) staff who wish to undertake such a program. The stipend for the Award will be \$25,000 per annum plus \$5,000 paid to the relevant department as a maintenance allowance.

This Scholarship will be open to University graduates with an appropriate Honours or Masters degree or is currently undertaking a Masters Degree and eligible to upgrade to a PhD. The scholar will undertake a supervised doctoral research project in conjunction with one of the Departments of WCHN or WCHRI and a South Australian university. The Lead Supervisor should be a member of staff of WCHN.

CONDITIONS

1. *Eligibility*

In order to be eligible to be awarded a PhD scholarship, an applicant must:

- have completed an Honours (or equivalent) or Masters degree as a minimum qualification, and/or be currently enrolled in a Masters program and eligible to upgrade to a PhD
- be eligible to enrol for a higher degree in population health at a South Australian university
- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residence status in Australia by the closing date for applications.

Applicants normally will have obtained their primary qualification not more than 10 years previously.

2. *Selection*

The selection and ranking of applicants will be undertaken by a Selection Panel. Criteria for the evaluation of applications will be based on scientific merit of the project, academic merit, abilities and skills of the applicant, feasibility of the project to be successfully completed in the department(s) of choice, potential to improve the population health of Australians and the referees' reports.

Interviews with applicants may be held at the discretion of the selection panel.

Award of scholarships will be subject to acceptance for doctoral candidature of the University concerned.

The Selection Panel/Foundation Trustees reserve the right not to grant an Award.

3. Tenure

A scholar will undertake a supervised research project in conjunction with a Department(s) of WCHN or WCHRI and a South Australian university. The Lead Supervisor should be a member of staff of WCHN.

The research program must be approved by the Head of the WCHN Department in which the work will be carried out or the Executive Director of WCHRI and must fulfil the requirements for the degree of PhD in the nominated University.

The scholarship will be approved on an annual basis but is normally tenable, subject to satisfactory academic progress, for up to three years. An extension for up to six months may be considered—i.e. to a total of three and a half years. Such an extension would only be granted where it can be demonstrated that inability to complete the degree within three years was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the student and related to his or her studies rather than of a personal nature. All extensions are subject to the consideration and approval of the WCH Foundation's Directors, in discussion with the university.

While there is an obligation on the part of the scholar to complete the tenure of their scholarship, scholars are also encouraged to apply for and take up other awards. No other scholarship or fellowship may be held concurrently.

Where a scholar has enrolled for the higher degree candidature prior to taking up the award or later suspends the award without intermitting the candidature, the maximum period for which the award is tenable will be reduced accordingly.

An applicant enrolled for a Masters degree must be eligible to upgrade to PhD studies, and there must be no interval between Masters and Doctoral candidature, unless such an interval is covered by suspension of the award. Because a scholarship normally expires on completion of a degree, the student must ensure that the progression to PhD or suspension of the award is arranged before the Masters studies are completed.

The maximum period of the award for a student progressing from Masters to PhD study is less than three years depending on the date the students enrolled as a Masters student.

Scholarships are renewable annually, subject to satisfactory progress. Applications for renewal and extension are generally made in September each year in conjunction with application for the renewal of candidature on the prescribed form which is returned to the university's scholarships branch, with a copy to the WCHN Research Secretariat. In the event that progress is deemed unsatisfactory, and the situation is not resolved, the final option will be to terminate the scholarship.

If the work of the recipient of the Award is interrupted for a period of time the Trustees of the WCH Foundation may grant an intermission to tenure of the Award.

4. Remuneration

The stipend is \$25,000 per annum plus \$5,000 paid to the relevant WCHN or WCHRI department for maintenance allowance.

The level of the stipend does not depend on the award-holder's personal circumstances.

This stipend is inclusive of the Thesis Allowance, Relocation Allowance, Maintenance Allowance and Leave Entitlements.

5. Commencement

A scholarship may be taken up from 1 January in the year of offer and commencement is usually required by 31 March in the year for which the award is granted. Documentary evidence must be provided to verify the scholar's full-time enrolment in their chosen course.

Under special circumstances, a scholar may be permitted to commence study after 31 March but not later than 30 June. A letter is to be submitted to the Chair, WCH Foundation, (via the WCHN Research Secretariat) for this to be considered.

The WCH Foundation may withdraw the scholarship and allocate it to another applicant if an applicant does not commence by the agreed date, fails to provide documentation required after a provisional offer, or provides false or misleading documentation.

6. Leave

Leave entitlements are included in the stipend. Award holders are entitled to 20 days recreation leave per year, calculated on a pro-rata basis.

- no more than 20 days recreation leave may be accrued
- leave must be taken during the tenure of the award (intermission of candidature is not necessary)
- recreation leave which is not taken is forfeited
- the supervisor's agreement must be obtained before leave is taken
- an award holder may take up to two weeks paid sick leave within the tenure of their award each year. For periods of illness lasting longer than two weeks, where medical certificates are provided, students may receive up to a total of three months paid sick leave which is in addition to the normal duration of the award.

7. Employment

A scholar may undertake other paid duties for a maximum of eight hours per week, providing the scholar's supervisor is satisfied that this will not interfere with the progress of the research project and the approval of the WCH Foundation has been obtained.

8. Termination

A scholarship will be terminated upon submission of the thesis or when the award expires, whichever is the earlier. It will also be terminated before this time if the WCHN, WCHRI, and/or the University concludes that a student has not fulfilled the obligations of the scholarship, has not met or continued to meet eligibility criteria or has not made satisfactory progress, in accordance with the University's Scholarship Conditions of Award.

9. Supervision

Candidates will be subject to the relevant university's code of practice for maintaining and monitoring academic quality and standards in higher degrees. The Award must be undertaken in a Department of the WCHN or WCHRI, under the supervision of individuals approved by the University for the purposes of PhD candidature.

10. Grievance procedures

The appropriate appeal procedures for higher degree candidates are those defined in the relevant university's policy and procedures for resolution of grievances by postgraduate students and/or the WCHN Code of Conduct for Research and the NH&MRC Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.

11. Student obligations

A scholar must abide by the NH&MRC codes on human and animal experimentation, guidelines established by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and rulings of the safety and ethics committees of the WCHN (WCH campus) and the university.

The WCH Foundation will require a copy of the annual progress report required by the University to be forwarded to them c/o Research Secretariat, WCHN, within one month of the report being completed. The WCH Foundation will require an annual report from the applicant detailing their progress, and will require annual certification from their supervisor of satisfactory progress.

At the conclusion of the PhD Scholarship, the holder of the Award will be required to provide a final report to the WCH Foundation outlining the research carried out by the recipient during the period of the Award.

Award holders are required to notify the WCH Foundation, c/o Research Secretariat, WCHN in writing in the event that they:

- discontinue their studies
- cease to study or cease to be enrolled on a full-time basis
- intermit higher degree candidature
- propose to study overseas
- change from PhD to Masters candidature
- change address or bank account
- change department
- submit a thesis.

A scholar is requested to give advice of any such change of circumstances at least ten working days in advance of the event in order to implement the necessary changes before payment is made. If a student receives benefits in excess of his or her entitlement as a result of a change in circumstances the WCH Foundation will take action to recover the amount overpaid.

The recipient of the Award will be required to give his/her full time to the program of research and fulfil all other requirements of the University for the award of the degree of PhD.

12. Acknowledgement

All publication and/or presentations emanating from this scholarship must acknowledge the WCH Foundation and copies must be forwarded C/- WCHN Research Secretariat

13. University Fees

Each scholar is required to pay the prescribed statutory fees (including Student Union Fee) set by the University. Scholars may be exempt from payment of the Higher Education Contribution. However, this is the decision of the University in which the student is enrolled and applicants are advised to discuss this with the University's scholarship office. The WCHN or WCHRI is unable to accept responsibility for HECS payment.

14. Intellectual Property/Commercialisation

The University's Intellectual Policy shall apply to any intellectual property created during the project, except in relation to any intellectual property created which is included within the scope of any existing commercial arrangement either the University or WCHN or WCHRI may have, in which case the recipient will be required to assign the intellectual property to the relevant institution with such existing commercial arrangement and the following clause shall apply.

"Subject to the above clause, as modified from time to time, or to any arrangements to the contrary in a particular case, Schedule 3 of the Government of South Australia Intellectual Property Policy shall apply as if the recipient of the award is an employee of SA Health"

15. WCH Foundation Representation

In all matters the representation of the WCH Foundation is a function of the Directors of the Foundation. Accordingly, while an applicant for the Award or a staff member of WCHN or WCHRI may have occasion to discuss aspects of the granting of the Award with other staff, no undertaking or assurance is authorised, or can be binding on the WCH Foundation or its Directors, unless it is set out in a formal letter from the Directors of the WCH Foundation.

16. Enquiries and information

Applicants should identify a suitable research project with the Head(s) of the relevant WCHN Department(s) or the Executive Director of WCHRI and seek the co-operation, support and availability of supervision of the Department(s).

Further information may be obtained from:

Ms Katherine McPhail
Research Grants Officer
C/- Research Secretariat
Level 2, Samuel Way Building
72 King William Road
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006
tel: 08 8161 8175 fax: 08 8161 8177
Email: katherine.mcphail@health.sa.gov.au

Applications must be lodged with the Research Secretariat by:

4.00 pm, Monday 24 October 2011