

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY POSTGRADUATE AWARD (UPA) funded by the Faculty of Science

CONDITIONS OF AWARD 2006

Eligibility

- 1a. For local students, applicants must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident as at the application closing date (31 October 2005) and will be commencing a postgraduate research degree in the Faculty of Science in 2006.
- 1b. International students who have applied for a 2006 EIPRS will be considered for this award. International students are eligible for this award on the condition that a full tuition fees scholarship has been awarded by the School with which they wish to undertake research.
2. Applicants must have completed a four-year bachelor degree with First Class Honours or equivalent results.
3. UPA (Science) holders must enrol in a full-time postgraduate research degree in the Faculty of Science, and is not transferable to another Faculty or institution. For local students only, the Dean of Science may approve a part-time UPA (Science) where a student is able to demonstrate heavy carer commitments or a medical condition which limits the capacity to undertake full-time study. Part-time UPA (Science) recipients are subject to the same restrictions on employment as full-time UPA (Science) holders. International students on student visas, will not be permitted to enrol on a part-time basis.

Tenure

4. A full-time UPA (Science) may be held for three years for Research Doctorate studies, or for 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, are beyond the control of the candidate and are not of a personal nature. No extensions are possible for Research Masters candidates. Periods of study undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the award.
5. A student must commence the UPA (Science) by 31 March 2006 for a scholarship offered for Semester one, or by 31 August 2006 for a scholarship offered for Semester two. No deferment of the scholarship will be allowed.

Stipend and Allowances

6. Full-time UPA (Science) holders receive a tax-exempt stipend of \$19,231 per annum. The stipend rate will be indexed on the anniversary of the commencement date of the award. If the UPA (Science) holders have suspended the award, the stipend rate will be indexed on the adjusted anniversary date taking into account periods of their suspension.
7. UPA (Science) holders may claim reimbursement of up to \$420 for costs of producing a Masters thesis and up to \$840 for a Doctorate thesis in accordance with the University's thesis allowance policy.
8. UPA (Science) holders may receive a concurrent award, scholarship or salary to undertake their research higher degree provided such award, scholarship or salary provides a benefit less than 75% of the base UPA (Science) stipend rate. The UPA (Science) will be terminated if this limit is exceeded.

HECS Exemption

9. Local UPA (Science) holders will be granted a HECS-exempt place under the Research Training Scheme for the tenure of their award. International students must hold a full tuition fees scholarship awarded by their School/Department.

Leave Arrangements

10. UPA (Science) holders will 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.
11. UPA (Science) 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 carers leave on presentation of medical certificate/s. Students taking sick leave must inform their supervisor as soon as practicable.
12. UPA (Science) holders may receive additional paid sick leave of up to a total of twelve weeks during their award for medically substantiated periods of illness lasting longer than ten days. Students applying for

additional paid sick leave must do so at the start of absence or as soon as practicable. Periods of additional paid sick leave are added to the normal duration of the award.

13. Once local UPA (Science) 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 of the child. Periods of paid maternity leave are in addition to the normal duration of the award. UPA (Science) holders who have not completed twelve months of their award may access unpaid maternity leave through the suspension provisions. Clause 13 does not apply to International students on student visas.

Part-time Work

14. UPA (Science) 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. International students must obtain a work permit from DIMIA. The application fee for a work permit in this case is not covered under the UPA (Science).

Research Overseas

15. UPA (Science) holders may not normally conduct research overseas within the first six months of an award.
17. UPA (Science) holders may conduct up to 12 months of their research outside Australia. Approval must be sought from the student's supervisor, head of department and the Research Office, 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 form requesting *Permission to Count Time Away* to the Faculty of Science office.

Conversion between Research Masters and Research Doctorate degrees

18. UPA (Science) holders may convert from a Research Masters degree to a Research Doctorate degree or vice-versa provided such change in candidature is approved by the Faculty of Science and the Research Office is notified. The maximum duration of a converted UPA (Science) becomes that for the new candidature.

Suspension

19. UPA (Science) holders cannot suspend their award within the first six months.
20. UPA (Science) 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 of Science and the Research Office. Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the UPA (Science) will be deducted from the maximum period of the award. For international students, the student visa regulations permit a period of suspension only on the grounds of illness as evidenced by a doctor's certificate, or other exceptional compassionate circumstances beyond the student's control (e.g. bereavement). If an International student suspends his/her studies on any other grounds, the University will be obliged to report the case to DIMIA, and this may lead to the cancellation of the student's visa.

Changes in Enrolment

21. UPA (Science) holders must notify the Faculty of Science 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

22. The award will be terminated on resignation or withdrawal of the student, transfer of candidature to another Faculty, upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award, whichever is earlier. The award 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 UPA (Science), or fails to maintain satisfactory progress, or is guilty of serious academic misconduct. For international students, the award will also be terminated if the student obtains permanent residency. In this case, the student may apply for an APA/UPA in the next round of applications.

Appeal

23. The University recognises the right of any student to appeal to the Dean of Science against any decision affecting the award or tenure of a University of Sydney Postgraduate Award (Science).