

AUSTRALIAN PAIN SOCIETY

PHD SCHOLARSHIP #6 (For funding in 2023)

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. PREAMBLE

The Australian Pain Society (APS) is a charitable not-for-profit, multidisciplinary, professional Society formed in 1979 as the Australasian Chapter of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). Members come from a variety of professional disciplines including many medical specialties (anaesthesia, psychiatry, rheumatology, rehabilitation medicine, neurosurgery, neurology etc.), allied health professions (psychology, dentistry, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy/pharmacology etc.) and basic scientists. Members include both investigators and clinicians who are active in the field of pain and its management.

One of the major aims of the Society is to encourage research into all aspects of pain - ranging from the mechanism of pain transmission and treatment through to the various clinical and management aspects. Pain research knowledge translation is also a high priority.

This PhD Scholarship is a very tangible way of satisfying this aim. It is expected that the successful applicant's project will encompass the research aims of the Society.

This grant will be known as the APS #6 PhD Scholarship.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the APS PhD Scholarship is to enable a suitably qualified graduate to undertake a program of study leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at any recognised Australian University. The field of study must involve some aspect of the mechanism, diagnosis, treatment or management of pain (see 6. Field of Study). It is expected that a full time member of staff will take responsibility for and supervise the student as per the promulgated guidelines of the University that will administer the Scholarship.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1. The recipient must have/be:

- 3.1.1. a 1st class Honours Degree or Masters Degree from a recognised Australian University (or equivalent as assessed by the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee of the APS)
- 3.1.2. an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- 3.1.3. a member of the Australian Pain Society
- 3.1.4. an unconditional offer of admission or be currently enrolled to undertake the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by full-time study

3.2. The award holder may not:

- 3.2.1. be a recipient of an award which directly duplicates the purpose of the APS PhD Scholarship
- 3.2.2. be undertaking a second higher degree at the PhD level
- 3.2.3. hold a fractional academic appointment

4. PERIOD OF TENURE

- 4.1. The APS PhD Scholarship will be tenable in the first instance from the date of offer of the award until the 31st December of the same year.
- 4.2. Subject to satisfactory progress, via an annual report, it will be renewed for further periods of up to a year, provided that tenure shall not exceed three years.
- 4.3. The scholarship will be available only to students who have yet to commence their PhD program or have completed the first year of a PhD program that may include other training



AUSTRALIAN PAIN SOCIETY

PHD SCHOLARSHIP #6 (For funding in 2023)

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

deemed relevant by the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee (e.g. combined PhD/Masters in Clinical Psychology program).

4.4. Only a full-time program will be considered for support.

5. SITE

The Scholarship will be tenable at any recognised University in Australia.

6. FIELD OF STUDY

The field of study includes any: theoretical, mechanistic, diagnostic and treatment or epidemiological or sociological approach to any pain complaint. It is expected that the successful candidate will come from one of the disciplines represented in the APS Membership which includes various medical specialties, allied health professions and the various basic sciences.

7. STIPEND

The stipend attached to the APS PhD scholarship will be **\$40,000** per annum (GST inclusive). In addition:

7.1. An amount of \$2,000 (GST inclusive) per annum will be available to support the research project (Research Student Maintenance to be used for disposable/consumable items but NOT travel)

7.2. An amount up to \$1,500 (paid on receipts) per annum will be available for the Scholarship holder to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Australian Pain Society (APS) each year to cover travel, accommodation and living allowance if the conference is held outside the metropolitan area in which the Scholarship recipient resides.

7.3. A *per diem* of \$75 at the APS ASM, regardless of the APS ASM location

7.4. The APS will offer complimentary membership of the APS Basic Pain Research Special Interest Group (SIG) for the duration of the PhD Scholarship

7.5. Complimentary registration at the APS ASM, terms and conditions:

7.5.1. APS will donate a complimentary registration each year for four years to enable the candidate to attend the ASM regardless of its location for the duration of the Scholarship plus the following year

7.5.2. The Scholarship holder may present a paper at the ASM in their first scholarship year

7.5.3. It is expected that the Scholarship holder will present the minimum of a paper in the poster or free communications section of the APS ASM in the second and third years of the Scholarship and give a major presentation in the Plenary Section of the APS ASM either in the third or next year

7.5.4. If prepared earlier, the Scholarship recipient may, by arrangement, present in the Plenary section of the APS ASM from their second year of research

7.5.5. Apart from the *per diem*, travel and accommodation this funding will not be available when the Annual Scientific Meeting is held in the metropolitan area in which the Scholarship recipient resides.

8. ALLOWANCES

8.1. Relocation Allowance

It is not the intention of the APS to provide relocation expenses.

8.2. Thesis Allowance

8.2.1. An allowance of up to \$800 will be available in the second half of the third year to assist with the cost of producing the PhD thesis in accordance with the administering



AUSTRALIAN PAIN SOCIETY

PHD SCHOLARSHIP #6 (For funding in 2023)

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

University's thesis allowance claim information. An award holder claiming a thesis allowance must produce original receipts or statements signed by the person providing the service showing the amount paid by the award holder, the date it was paid and the service for which the payment was made. The APS has set a one year statute of limitation from the end of the scholarship to honour these costs.

8.2.2. Costs associated with printing a thesis are not eligible as a printed thesis is no longer required for submission and examination

8.2.3. If the PhD thesis is only prepared in electronic format, the thesis allowance is forfeited.

8.2.4. In all circumstances, the APS is to be supplied with a final electronic format of the thesis completed by the candidate.

9. FEES

The APS expects that the University administering the scholarship will award an Australian Postgraduate Award (without stipend) which will provide an exemption from liability to pay the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) Charge. The award holder will be liable for any fees levied by the university (e.g. Student Services Fee) and these will not be reimbursed.

10. SELECTION

10.1. A committee will be established by the Board of the APS that will be called the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee. The functions of the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee will be to assess all applications, select the successful candidate and to administer the award on behalf of the Society.

10.2. Under normal circumstances, the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee will make its recommendation to the Board or Board Executive of the Society by **7th September 2022**.

10.3. The APS President and Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee Chair will notify the successful candidate by the **14th September 2022**.

10.4. The applicant must advise the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee within 5 working days whether they wish to accept the Scholarship under the terms and conditions attached to the Scholarship.

11. REGISTRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

11.1. Following acceptance of the scholarship, the award holder will be expected to register and enroll in the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the administering University according to the policy and protocols of that institution.

11.2. The award holder will be expected to commence studies before 31st March in the year of the award.

11.3. It is expected that the research program will be carried out in Australia.

11.4. The scholarship will not normally be transferable to another university. The APS should be notified immediately and given full and frank details if such a move is being contemplated. The APS would only agree to such a move in exceptional circumstances and would not be responsible for any relocation expenses, as per section 8.1 above.

12. EMPLOYMENT

12.1. Scholarship holders may undertake a strictly limited amount of paid employment provided that it does not interfere with their study program. In any event, scholarship holders are restricted to working a maximum of 8 hours per week, up to a maximum of 240 hours per year. The level of employment will be monitored by the candidate's supervisor and noted in the annual report of progress.



AUSTRALIAN PAIN SOCIETY

PHD SCHOLARSHIP #6 (For funding in 2023)

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

12.2. If the scholarship holder undertakes part-time teaching activities, the following definitions will apply:

- 12.2.1. An initial tutorial will be classified as involving 3 hours, one hour each of preparation, contact and marking
- 12.2.2. An initial lecture will involve 3 hours, 2 hours preparation and 1 hour contact time
- 12.2.3. Repeat tutorials and/or lectures will be classified as involving 2 hours
- 12.2.4. Practical sessions will be classified on a contact time basis

13. LEAVE

- 13.1. The scholarship holder will be entitled to four weeks recreational leave for each year of the scholarship, in addition to all public holidays.
- 13.2. A student may have up to two months of paid sick leave and up to 3 months paid maternity or paternity leave within the tenure of the award (i.e. 3 years). Parental leave may not be taken within the first year of the award. The normal monitoring provisions of the administering University will apply.
- 13.3. Pro rata extension of the duration of the award may be allowed if the normal policy of the University allows such extension. This does not involve an extension of funding.

14. SUSPENSION OF SCHOLARSHIP

- 14.1. Where a break in the scholarship is unavoidable, the scholar shall seek to have the scholarship suspended and the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee notified by email to our Secretariat within 5 working days of the date the University was notified. The onus is on the scholar to ensure said email is duly received by the APS.
 - 14.1.1. The Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee will require full details surrounding the application for suspension of the Scholarship.
 - 14.1.2. Approval for suspension may be granted for a period or periods totaling up to 12 months.
 - 14.1.3. The appropriate Higher Degrees Committee or equivalent of the administering University must also be notified.
- 14.2. When the scholar resumes the study, they may apply for the restoration of the scholarship.
 - 14.2.1. The period that the scholarship may be extended can be no longer than the approved period of suspension (to compensate for the period of suspension).
 - 14.2.2. Before benefits are restored after a period of suspension, the scholar must satisfy the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee that they are able to resume full-time study.
 - 14.2.3. If the suspension is due to an illness, a medical certificate will be required.

15. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

The award will be terminated if:

- 15.1. The university or the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee determines that the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence, or in accordance with the offer of award, and no alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the PhD
- 15.2. The Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee determines the recipient has or intends to put the Australian Pain Society at reputational risk
- 15.3. The award recipient ceases to be a full-time student
- 15.4. Two weeks after the thesis is submitted or when the award expires, whichever is the earlier
- 15.5. The award holder does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of suspension, or does not make arrangements to extend a current period of suspension provided that the



AUSTRALIAN PAIN SOCIETY

PhD SCHOLARSHIP #6 (For funding in 2023)

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

accumulated period(s) of suspension plus the proposed period of suspension does not exceed 12 months

16. REPORTS

- 16.1. The scholar will be required to furnish a report regarding progress of the research to the Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee by the 31st October in the first year of the scholarship
- 16.2. This report will be used by the APS Board as the basis for funding the second year of the project
- 16.3. This report must also include a summary of any paid employment undertaken by the award holder (i.e. actual hours worked and amount earned)
- 16.4. Similarly, a report will be required by the same deadline in the 2nd and subsequent year of the Scholarship should the Society extend necessary funding
- 16.5. The Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee may, at its discretion, insist on other reports at whatever frequency it deems appropriate to be assured of satisfactory progress.

17. OTHER AWARDS

The successful applicant will not accept any additional awards other than research student maintenance grants.

18. ETHICS COMMITTEE CLEARANCE

If the project involves experiments to be conducted in either animals or humans (or both), the recipient must ensure appropriate application(s) to and approval of an Ethics Committee constituted to conform to NHMRC guidelines is obtained. The Scholarship/Grant Selection Subcommittee must be supplied with written documentary evidence of the approval of various aspects of study by the appropriate committee(s).

19. ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance of the APS PhD Scholarship will indicate that the candidate and the administering University agree with and will abide by all of these 'Conditions of Award'.

20. PUBLICATIONS/CONFERENCE ITEMS/REPORTS

The candidate will supply a copy of any resulting publications, conference items/presentations and/or reports to the APS for their archives and/or publication (as per individual agency requirements).

Any enquires regarding these Conditions of Award should be directed via email to:

The Secretariat
Australian Pain Society

Email: aps@apsoc.org.au

PO Box 637
North Sydney NSW 2059