



EVOLUTION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY INITIATIVE PHD SCHOLARSHIP

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. INTRODUCTION

Each year the School of Culture History and Language (“School”) in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific may offer an award known as the Evolution of Cultural Diversity Initiative PhD Scholarship (“Award”).

Funding for this Award has been provided by the Commonwealth of Australia’s National Institutes Grant.

The ANU’s Evolution of Cultural Diversity Initiative (“Initiative”) has been established with support from the Commonwealth of Australia’s National Institutes Grant as a hub for trans-disciplinary research. The Initiative will adapt and apply methodological and theoretical advances from a range of disciplinary fields in the sciences and humanities and apply these to a wide range of case studies in order to understand the evolution of cultural diversity – primarily in northern Australia and its immediate Melanesian neighbours, but with global application. The central aim of the Initiative is to understand the drivers and processes underpinning the full span of human history in the Asia-Pacific, from initial human settlement through to the contemporary present.

The objective of this Award is to provide funding for an outstanding international¹ student to enable them to pursue a PhD program in any field relevant to the interests of the Initiative (including but not restricted to Anthropology, Archaeology, Ecology and Evolution, Genetics, History, Linguistics, and Philosophy), based in the School.

2. BENEFITS

Value: The value of the Award will be stated in the letter of offer. The Award will be paid in fortnightly instalments unless otherwise stated in the letter of offer.

The Award may contain any or all of the following benefits:

- A. **Stipend Scholarship:** A recipient may be awarded a stipend scholarship equivalent to the value of the [Australian Government Research Training Program \(AG RTP\) stipend scholarship](#). The Award is indexed each year on 1 January; and/or
- B. **Higher Degree Research (HDR) Fee Remission Merit Scholarship:** An International recipient may be recommended for an HDR Fee Remission Merit Scholarship to cover the International Student Fees for the standard duration of the Higher Degree Research (HDR) program subject to the recipient being ranked as competitive in a merit-based selection process; and/or

¹ A student who is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen or the holder of Australian permanent resident status, and is required to hold a visa to study in Australia and liable for international student fees (ISF) payable to the University either by the student or a sponsor

- C. **Overseas Student Health Care Cover:** An international recipient of the Award may be eligible for reimbursement of Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the standard program duration, including cover for the recipient's spouse and dependents (where applicable); and/or
- D. **Dependent Child² Allowance:** An International recipient may apply to receive an allowance for dependent child/ren, where the dependent child/ren reside with the recipient. This allowance is up to \$3,000 per annum for each dependent child (to a maximum of \$9,000 per annum) and is paid in fortnightly instalments at the same time as the Award payments; and/or
- E. **Relocation Reimbursement:** A recipient may be eligible to claim a reimbursement as a one-off payment to assist with relocation costs, including those in respect of the recipient's spouse, de facto partner, and dependent child or children, incurred in commencing their HDR program. Where a claim for a relocation reimbursement is in respect of a recipient's spouse, de facto partner, or dependent child or children, they must accompany the recipient to take up his/her program, or join the recipient within 12 months of the recipient commencing their HDR program.

Recipients who are resident outside the Australian Capital Territory, or who are permanently resident outside Australia at the time of application, may be eligible to receive a one-off relocation reimbursement capped at a maximum of \$1,000 for Domestic students, or \$2,500 for International students, towards the costs of moving to take up their HDR program, on production of original tax invoice/receipts.

Insurance, accommodation and meal costs related to relocation cannot be claimed. Applications for relocation reimbursement must be submitted within 12 months of the recipient commencing their HDR program. No relocation reimbursement is payable after this time or after the Award ceases; and/or

- F. **Thesis Allowance:** A recipient may be eligible to claim a reimbursement of up to \$500 for services associated with the production of their thesis, in accordance with the [thesis allowance requirements](#); and/or

3. DURATION

The duration of the full-time Award will be:

- a) **Three and half years** for the Stipend Scholarship; less
 - i. periods of enrolment already undertaken for the PhD degree; and/or
 - ii. such shorter period as is stated in the letter of offer.

- b) Extension

A recipient may apply for an extension of the stipend scholarship by completing the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form. The maximum period of extension is for a PhD, 6

² A dependent child is a child under the age of 16 wholly dependent on the recipient or, if aged between 16 and 24, is a full-time student and wholly dependent on the recipient. A recipient who pays maintenance in respect of a child or children may be eligible for the Dependent Child Allowance, or the amount of the maintenance payable, whichever is less.

months and an extension may be sought only where the program has been delayed by circumstances beyond the recipient's control.

4. PROGRAM LEAVE

Periods of program leave must be taken in accordance with the Research Awards Rule.

a) Unpaid Program Leave

A recipient may apply for unpaid program leave on personal grounds. If the leave does not exceed a total period of 12 months during the duration of the Award, the recipient may resume the Award at the completion of the leave.

Program leave exceeding a total of 12 months will only be considered where there are exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the recipient and must be approved by the Delegated Authority in the College.

Unpaid program leave is aggregated and awarded only in one-week blocks for a full-time recipient and two-week blocks for a part-time recipient.

A recipient must apply for unpaid program and scholarship leave by completing the relevant section of the Manage my Degree - HDR form in ISIS.

b) Paid Recreation Leave

A recipient is entitled to a maximum of 20 working days paid recreation leave for each year of the Award. Leave entitlements may be accrued over the life of the Award but are forfeited when the Award ceases.

A recipient must apply in writing to their Chair of Panel.

Paid recreation leave does not extend the duration of the Award.

c) Paid Medical Leave

A recipient is entitled to a maximum of 10 working days paid medical leave for each year of the Award. Leave entitlements may be accrued over the life of the Award but are forfeited when the Award ceases.

A recipient must apply in writing to their Chair of Panel.

Paid medical leave does not extend the duration of the Award.

d) Additional Paid Leave

A recipient is entitled to additional paid medical or carer's leave to a maximum of 60 working days on provision of a medical certificate. Medical certificates must:

- i. be signed by a registered medical practitioner;
- ii. state the likely duration of the required leave; and
- iii. certify that the recipient requires the leave for medical/caring reasons.

Additional paid medical leave is aggregated and awarded only in one-week blocks for a full-time recipients and two-week blocks for a part-time recipients.

A recipient may apply for additional paid medical leave by completing the relevant section of the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form in ISIS.

Additional paid leave extends the duration of the Award.

e) Paid Parental Leave

Recipients who have completed 12 months of their Award and are the primary caregiver of a new child (by birth or legal adoption) are entitled to a maximum of 60 working days paid parental leave.

Paid parental leave is aggregated and awarded only in one-week blocks for a full-time recipients and two-week blocks for a part-time recipient.

Recipients may apply for paid parental leave by completing the relevant section of the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form in ISIS.

Paid parental leave extends the period of duration of the Award.

f) Paid Partner Parental Leave

Recipients who have completed 12 months of their Award and who are the partner of a person who is the primary caregiver of a new child (by birth or legal adoption) may be entitled to five days paid partner parental leave. The University may require the recipient to provide evidence of the date of birth or adoption.

Paid partner parental leave is aggregated and awarded only in one-week blocks for a full-time recipients and two-week blocks for a part-time recipient.

Recipients may apply for paid partner parental leave by completing the relevant section of the [Manage my Degree - HDR](#) form in ISIS.

Paid partner parental leave extends the duration of the Award.

5. ELIGIBILITY

The Award will be available each year to a prospective or continuing international student of Pacific Islander heritage who:

- a) is enrolled or enrolling full-time in a program of study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at The Australian National University in any field relevant to the goals of the Institute including but not restricted to Anthropology, Archaeology, Ecology and Evolution, Genetics, History, Linguistics, and Philosophy, and
- b) holds an Honours or Masters degree by research in a relevant discipline.

6. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applications shall be called for with a closing date as set by School. The closing date and application instructions will be advertised on the University scholarship webpage.

7. SELECTION

Selection will be made on the basis of the application, taking into account:

- a) academic merit and research potential, based on their academic record, referee reports and other evidence; and
- b) demonstrated intention to meet the objectives and goals; and
- c) discipline research interests; and
- d) effective use of funds.

Preference will be given to candidates who are citizens of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, or Vanuatu.

The selection committee will be chaired by the Director ECDI and will include at least three other senior academic staff from across the University.

The selection committee may make no Award if it considers there is no student of sufficient merit. Where funds permit, the selection committee may also:

- a) vary the number of Awards; and/or
- b) offer the Award at other times.

8. CONCURRENT HOLDING OF AWARDS

A recipient is permitted to hold other scholarships, awards, grants and bursaries concurrently with this Award, provided the terms of the other scholarship permits this also.

However a recipient may not receive another allowance, award, grant or bursary to undertake the proposed program, which exceeds the value of 75 per cent of the Award stipend.

9. DEFERMENT

The Award must be taken up no later than the date specified in the letter of offer, unless otherwise approved.

10. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

A recipient is required to remain enrolled full-time in an eligible program of study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Australian National University.

11. SUSPENSION OF AWARD

A recipient may apply to the College for suspension of their Award. A suspension may be appropriate if a recipient is studying at another institution and receives an award for that study. In these circumstances the duration of the Award will be reduced by the periods of study undertaken towards the degree during suspension of the Award (unless the study was undertaken overseas as part of a Commonwealth Government financially supported international postgraduate research scholarship or award).

The University may suspend the Award where a recipient has:

- a) outstanding fees; or
- b) an outstanding debt with the University; or
- c) outstanding HDR program milestone/s; or
- d) been found to be in breach of a statute, rule or policy or procedure of the University.

The Award will be suspended when at least 5 working days have passed since the University advised the recipient in writing that the milestones, debt and/or fees are outstanding, until the milestones have been met or the outstanding fees and/or debt have been paid. Under these circumstances, the recipient will forfeit payment of the Award for the period of time that their Award is suspended.

12. END OF AWARD

The Award ends:

- a) at the conclusion of the period outlined in section 3; or
 - b) on submission of the thesis for examination; or
 - c) on the date on which the recipient withdraws or ceases to attend the University other than for approved absences; or
- may be terminated if a recipient is found to be in breach of a statute, rule, policy or procedure of the University.

13. REPAYMENT OF FUNDS

A recipient who is taking leave from their program, or changing their enrolment intensity from full-time to part-time, must submit the prescribed [Manage My Degree - HDR](#) form in a timely manner and, where possible in advance, in order to avoid receiving an overpayment of their Award. In circumstances where an overpayment does occur, these will be recovered in accordance with the ANU Procedure - Overpayments.

14. PROVIDING FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

The offer of the Award is based on the information provided by the student to the University. An Award may be withdrawn at any stage if incorrect, false or misleading information is provided or relevant information is withheld. This includes circumstances where the false information is unrelated to the assessment of the Award.

15. VARIATION TO CONDITIONS OF AWARD

In exceptional circumstances, these Conditions of Award may be varied by the Dean on the recommendation of the Chair of the selection committee.

16. TAXATION AND CENTRELINK

Recipients are responsible for seeking taxation and Centrelink advice regarding their own individual circumstances. Scholarships, grants or awards may be regarded as taxable income in some circumstances.

For information on how the Award may affect Centrelink benefits, please refer to:
<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/income/>

17. ACCOMMODATION

It is the recipient's responsibility to obtain residential accommodation. Information on student accommodation and application forms are available from the University Accommodation Services. Information may be found at:
<http://www.anu.edu.au/students/services/accommodation>

18. PUBLICITY

A recipient may be invited to participate in publicity for the Award from time to time, including an interview and photograph.

19. CONTACT WITH THE COLLEGE

All enquiries regarding the Award should be made to:

Evolution of Cultural Diversity Initiative (ECDI)
Australian National University
9 Fellows Road
ACTON ACT 2601
ecdi@anu.edu.au

20. NOTE

A recipient of this Award is subject to *The Australian National University Act 1991* and to the Statutes, Rules, policies and procedures of the University as amended from time to time.

Receipt of this Award does not indicate any commitment by the University for conferral of the recipient's award, or of future employment.

21. IMPORTANT POLICIES, PROCEDURES, RULES & RESOURCES

HDR legislation, policies and procedures

<https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/hdr-policies-procedures>

Research Scholarship Information (including reimbursement and claim forms) -

<http://www.anu.edu.au/students/scholarships-support/research-scholarship-information>