Unit For Medication Outcomes Research And Education (UMORE) Pharmacy Research Scholarships

The UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholarships are provided by Pharmacy as part of its ongoing work to improve the quality use of medicines through clinical pharmacy/pharmacology research and practice.

1. Eligibility
Successful applicants must have completed at least four years of tertiary education studies and have achieved an upper second class honours degree or equivalent from a recognised tertiary institution and or relevant and substantial sector based experience. Otherwise, they must meet the requirements for enrolment into a PhD at the University of Tasmania. Scholarships are only available those who will be undertaking a full-time PhD program in Pharmacy at the University of Tasmania in a priority research topic as determined by the Selection Committee.

The priority topics for 2014 are translational/clinical research related to medication use in:

- Prevention and management of chronic disease, and
- Health care services research.

Scholarships are open to domestic and international students.

The UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholarships are specifically for undertaking a research higher degree on the topic listed in the offer or a related topic. A change to a related topic must be approved by the Dean of Graduate Research before the scholarship can commence or continue.

2. Stipend and allowances

Stipend
The successful recipient will be awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award equivalent stipend of $25,392 p.a. The level of stipend will not be reduced during the tenure of the scholarship.

Other allowances
Scholars may also receive minor awards, allowances or other earnings which are supplementary to the UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholarship, or income derived from part-time work undertaken within the guidelines set by the University.
3. Tenure
The normal period of the Scholarship is three years. An extension of up to six months may be granted for PhD candidates where the research has been delayed due to circumstances which are beyond the candidate's control and related to the conduct of the research rather than of a personal nature.
Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award or during suspension of the award will be deducted from the maximum period of tenure.

The duration of the UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholarship will be reduced by any periods of study undertaken:
(a) towards the degree prior to the commencement of the scholarship; or
(b) towards the degree during suspension of the scholarship.

Scholarship awardees are required to commence by 31 March 2014. Under exceptional circumstances, if an awardee wishes to delay commencement, formal application must be made to the Dean of Graduate Research stating the reasons for the delay. If the awardee does not commence by 31 March 2014 and permission to delay commencement is not granted, then the offer of the Award lapses.

Tenure is always subject to satisfactory progress and terminates on the expiry of the Award or on submission of the thesis for examination, whichever is the sooner.

4. Transfer
The UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholarship cannot be taken up at or transferred to another institution.

5. Suspension
The total period of suspension from the Award during its tenure generally may not exceed twelve (12) months. However, in exceptional circumstances where the awardee can demonstrate reasons outside their control, additional periods of suspension may be granted. No suspension is possible beyond two years in total.
Periods of study undertaken towards the degree during suspension of the award, will be deducted from the maximum period of tenure.

Applications for suspension, endorsed by the supervisor and Head of School or his/her nominee in Pharmacy, should be lodged with the Graduate Research Office.

6. Termination
The Scholarship will be terminated on submission of the thesis for examination or at the end of the Scholarship, whichever is earlier. The scholarship will be terminated before this time:
(a) if, after due inquiry, the University concludes that the Award holder has not fulfilled obligations, met the eligibility criteria or has not made satisfactory progress;
(b) if, in the opinion of the institution, the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of award, and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the postgraduate degree;
(c) when the candidate ceases to be a full-time and when approval has not been obtained to hold the award on a part-time basis;
(d) on the death or incapacity of the candidate, or withdrawal from the program;
7. Employment
A Scholar is permitted to undertake a limited amount of part-time employment, provided the work does not interfere with the progress of the research program. Approval must be sought for periods of part-time work amounting to more than eight hours per week. The Head of School must certify that the work does not interfere with the progress of the research and the statement must be lodged with the Graduate Research Office.

8. Leave entitlements

(i) Annual leave
Candidates are entitled to 20 days' paid recreation leave each year calculated on a pro-rata basis. No more than 20 days' recreation leave may be accumulated and paid leave must be taken during the tenure of the Award. The agreement of the supervisor and Head of Pharmacy must be obtained before leave is taken.

(ii) Sick leave and maternity leave
Research Masters and Doctoral candidates may take up to ten working days' paid sick leave a year and this may be accrued over the tenure of the award.

For medically substantiated periods of illness lasting longer than ten working days, research candidates may receive up to a total of 12 weeks' paid sick leave which is additional to the normal duration of the award.

Award holders may take up to a maximum of twelve weeks' paid maternity leave during the award. Paid maternity leave may only be taken once and may not be taken within the first twelve months of an award. However, unpaid maternity leave may be accessed through the suspension provisions. Periods of paid maternity leave are in additional to the normal duration of the Award.

(iii) Parental Leave
Candidates who are partners of women giving birth and who have completed 12 months of their award, may take up to a maximum of 5 days' paid leave during a period through 1 week before the expected birth and 5 weeks after the birth of the child. This leave can be taken only once during the tenure of the award but additional parental leave may be accessed as unpaid leave through the suspension provisions. Note paid parental leave is not in addition to the normal duration of the award.

Applications endorsed by the supervisor and Head of Pharmacy should be lodged with the Graduate Research Office.

(c) when the candidate ceases to be a full-time and when approval has not been obtained to hold the award on a part-time basis;
(d) on the death or incapacity of the candidate, or withdrawal from the program;
(c) if the award holder does not resume study following a period of suspension or make arrangements to extend that suspension.

9. Appeals
The appeal mechanism for resolution of disputes which may arise during candidature is available at http://www.utas.edu.au/university-council/university-governance/ordinances

10. Research overseas
The candidate may be permitted to undertake fieldwork or research overseas when this is considered necessary by the supervisor and Head of Pharmacy. In such cases the Award may be tenable overseas for up to 12 months, or in special cases for up to 18 months. Approval of paid
overseas study will only be granted if adequate supervision can be maintained and the candidate remains enrolled. Applications for overseas study should be lodged with the Graduate Research Office prior to commencement of the overseas work.

The Award holder will not generally be allowed to undertake overseas study in the first six months of scholarship tenure. Candidature undertaken prior to the taking up of the scholarship will be taken into account in determining the earliest date on which the award holder may pursue paid overseas study.

11. Research at other organisations

The University may permit a candidate to conduct part of the research at other organisations provided that there is adequate support and supervision for the Award holder.

12. Other courses

An Award holder may not engage in any academic course of study leading to a qualification which is not an essential part of the Award holder's higher degree by research.

13. Specific obligations of Award holders

(i) Award holders shall diligently and to the best of their ability apply themselves to the successful completion of the degree.

(ii) The Award holder shall abide by the international and Australian codes on human and animal experimentation, the guidelines by the Australian Government's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and the rulings of the Safety, Ethics and Institutional Biosafety Committees of the University.

(iii) An Award holder is required to conform to the regulations and statutes (including disciplinary provisions) of the University and to the rules and procedures of higher degree by research.

(iv) Award holders must provide all reports required by the University including an annual review of progress submitted through the supervisor and Head of School. If the University does not consider that progress is satisfactory, the Award may be terminated or the holder placed on probation.

Research at other organisations

The University may permit a candidate to conduct part of the research at other organisations provided that there is adequate support and supervision for the Scholar.

15. Other courses

A Scholar may not engage in any academic course of study leading to a qualification which is not an essential part of the Scholar's research higher degree.

16. Specific obligations of Scholars

UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholars shall diligently, and to the best of their ability, apply themselves to the successful completion of the degree.

UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholars shall abide by the international and Australian codes on human and animal experimentation, the guidelines by the Australian Government's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and the rulings of the Safety, Ethics and Institutional Biosafety Committees of the University.
A UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholar is required to conform to the regulations and statutes (including disciplinary provisions) of the University and to the rules and procedures of research higher degrees.

The University conducts an annual review of the progress of research higher degree candidates. If the progress of the Scholar is unsatisfactory, the Scholarship may be terminated.

17. Selection process

The Graduate Research Office will coordinate candidate selection of the UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholarship through a selection committee with membership comprising:

- Head of Pharmacy or nominee;
- Dean of Graduate Research or nominee; and
- Academic staff member with relevant academic experience.

The principal criterion for selecting scholars from eligible applicants is academic merit, however the selection criteria will include other personal qualities and achievements which are consistent with the successful candidate making a significant contribution to society.

18. Administration

UMORE Pharmacy Research Scholarships are administered by the Graduate Research Office.