

Scientia PhD Scholarship Scheme 2016/2017

Never Stand Still

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Timeline

Timeline	Date
Call for applications	14 October 2016
Information Session for Supervisors/Faculties	18 and 21 Oct 2016
Deadline for prospective applicants to contact supervisors regarding support	11 Nov 2016
Deadline for Supervisors to shortlist a maximum of 2 applicants	14 Nov 2016
Deadline for selected applicants to submit application online	12 Dec 2016
Deadline for SHARP-est administrator to allocate applications for Faculty ranking	6 Jan 2017
Information Session for Faculties (ranking criteria)	Week of 9 Jan 2017
Rankings to SHARP-est	3 Feb 2017
SHARP-est Meeting to allocate	20 Feb 2017
First round of Scientia PhD Scholarship (including Admission) Offers	Mar 2017
First group enrolls S1	From Mar 2017
Second group enrolls S2	From Jun 2017

The UNSW Scientia PhD Scholarship Scheme

The Scientia PhD Scholarship Scheme aims to attract the best and brightest people into strategic research areas and provide them with an enhanced culture of research excellence, mentoring, career development, leadership and community. The Scheme provides 4 years of funding for the candidate to complete a PhD at UNSW. The awards will be made across all Faculties in areas of identified research strengths and the scheme will ensure that candidates reflect the disciplinary, gender and cultural diversity of UNSW.

In contrast to our other prestigious UNSW scholarship schemes, the UNSW Scientia scheme is targeted and applicants must apply to a specific research area with an identified supervisory team.

There are four core principles of the scheme:

1. **Excellence** - all candidates will demonstrate this through their combination of qualifications, experience and outputs.
2. **Outstanding supervision combined with exceptional research environments** - all successful candidates will be supervised by teams of UNSW's best researchers aligned with UNSW research strengths, who will be selected on the basis of their demonstrated capacity in excellence in research and high quality supervision, plus their commitment to developing and mentoring PhD scholars.
3. **Engagement** – all successful candidates will have a strong commitment to making a difference in the world with demonstrated potential for contributing to the learning and teaching excellence, social engagement and/or global impact pillars of the 2025 strategy.
4. **Career and Development** - all successful candidates will be provided with career coaching and development throughout the 4 years of candidature, and encouraged to engage with knowledge exchange activities.

Eligibility

- Candidates must be able to meet all of the selection criteria (listed below) at the highest level.
- The scheme is open to domestic and international candidates.
- Only new PhD candidates qualifying for direct entry to the PhD will be eligible for entry into the scheme.
- The minimum requirement for admission to the Scheme is:
 - an appropriate four year degree of Bachelor with at least upper second class Honours, or
 - a completed Masters by Research including a substantial research component, or
 - qualifications at a level considered equivalent to either of the above.
- All successful applicants must be located on a UNSW campus for a minimum of 2 years and this must include the first year of the program.

- To be able to apply to the scheme, potential applicants must be nominated by a team of approved UNSW supervisors.

Selection Criteria

The criteria for selection of candidates will be aligned with the core principles. These will rely on matching candidates with our best researchers in targeted areas of research strength and with demonstrated capacity and excellence in supervision.

1. **Excellence** – candidates must demonstrate their capability to carry out high quality research, using a combination of qualifications, experience and outputs.
2. **Research Area** – the proposed research must be of the highest quality and be closely aligned with the nominated research areas in the round. It should also align with the goals of the UNSW 2025 Strategy.
3. **Global impact and Social engagement** – candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to making a difference in the world with evidence of potential for contributing to the learning and teaching excellence, social engagement and/or global impact pillars of the 2025 Strategy. This may encompass such themes as knowledge exchange, equity and diversity or specific initiatives relating to indigenous communities, global development and disability.
4. **Career and Development** – candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to how they will use the resources provided to develop their careers and to engage with knowledge exchange activities.

Scholarship and Support Package

- Scientia PhD candidates will be awarded a \$40,000 per annum stipend for 4 years (full-time). If enrolment is full-time, this stipend will be tax free.
- International scholars will be awarded a tuition fee scholarship for 4 years (full-time) in addition to the stipend.
- Each successful candidate will be provided with a travel/support package of up to \$10,000 per annum. In addition to any strategic initiatives, career development, and travel expenditure, the following items can be covered using this package:
 - relocation allowance for costs associated with relocating themselves, their spouse and dependents to Sydney when this is necessary to undertake the study
 - thesis allowance for costs associated with the production of the PhD thesis
 - reimbursement of four years of Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) (for international candidates and their dependants)
 - payment of Visa Charges at the time of Visa application
- A development plan and budget will be produced annually.

NOTE: no scholarship extensions for overtime study (over 4 years full-time equivalent) will be provided.

Professional Development

- *Mentoring and career development* – a significant part of the Scholarship scheme is that each awardee will be provided with professional and career development. UNSW Scientia PhD Scholarship holders will be supported through personalised development plans and activities. They will be expected to lead by example and contribute directly to a culture at UNSW of improving and transforming lives through excellence in research, outstanding education and a commitment to advancing a just society.
 - One of the nominated secondary supervisors will act as a mentor with primary responsibility for working with the candidate on refining their development plan.
 - Development opportunities selected from formal courses, development modules in areas such as mentoring and knowledge exchange, teaching, industry internships or other identified development opportunities can be incorporated into the 4 year plan.
- *Research excellence and outputs* - Engagement in at least one national and one international opportunity for presentation of research is required and participation in Three Minute thesis development and competition at Faculty level is also expected. Candidates will be expected to provide a plan for publication and presentation in the first year of their candidature.

Application Process

Selection of Research Areas and Supervisors

- The Strategic Hires and Retention Pathways educational stipend Committee (SHARP-est) supports the UNSW Scientia PhD Scholarship scheme and will call for nominations of research areas and supervisors from each Faculty in each round of the scheme. SHARP-est will approve research areas and identify supervisors who will be eligible to nominate applicants for the scheme.
- The selection of research areas will be carried out in two ways:
 - Faculties will select target research areas to be pursued for each round. It is expected that the research areas will align with the Faculty and University's strategic plans.
 - The SHARP-est committee will reserve scholarships to assign to priority research areas and themes (as determined by the UNSW 2025 Strategy) and to contribute to UNSW diversity goals.
- Faculties will identify supervisors on the basis of their demonstrated capacity in excellence in research and high quality supervision, plus their commitment to developing and mentoring PhD scholars. A supervisor can only be listed as the primary supervisor for one research area.
- SHARP-est will produce a final list of approved research areas and supervisors for the call for applications.

Recruitment

- UNSW will disseminate a call for applications in the approved research areas with the supervisor contacts for prospective candidates to approach. Individual supervisors and Faculties may wish to advertise their available research areas.
- The final list will be posted on the Scientia PhD Scholarship scheme website, with a short description of the project.
- Potential applicants will contact the primary supervisor to discuss the research area and determine whether the supervisor is willing to support the candidate's application. It is expected that the supervisor will have further material on the research area, which they can distribute to interested applicants.
- Supervisors can only select a **maximum** of 2 nominated applicants that they wish to support.

Application

- Nominated applicants will be provided with a UNSW Scientia PhD Scholarship Application Form which must be completed by the candidate in consultation with the supervisors.
- Once complete, the applicant will be invited to apply through UNSW [Apply Online](#) and will be required to upload their completed UNSW Scientia PhD Scholarship Application Form as part of the admission process.
- If an application is received that has not been approved by the SHARP-est committee, it will be declared ineligible and not assessed.

Ranking and Allocation

- Scoring guidelines will be provided to Faculties.
- Applications will be ranked by Faculties, with the final allocation of scholarships being conducted by the SHARP-est Committee.
- Successful candidates will be informed and given instructions on how to enrol.
- A reserve list will be generated, based on order-of-merit and ranking of the research area. Reserve applicants will be informed that they are on the reserve list and will be offered places if there are any offers declined.

Enquiries

For further information or assistance, please contact: scientia.research@unsw.edu.au