



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

2009/2010 CONDITIONS OF AWARD

### GENERAL

The Australian National University offers a number of Summer Research Scholarships in most research schools, centres, faculties and colleges during the summer vacation period (usually from mid-November to early-February). Offers are made subject to the availability of funding, appropriate supervision and accommodation. Summer Research Scholars are subject to The Australian National University Act 1991 and to the Statutes and Rules of the University.

### ELIGIBILITY

Summer Research Scholarships are intended for currently enrolled undergraduate students in universities in Australia and New Zealand completing the third or fourth year of a full-time program leading to an honours degree (including current honours students). The University may also consider accepting outstanding second year students who are intending to complete an honours degree or undergraduate students enrolled at overseas universities.

### TENURE

The period of tenure of a Summer Research Scholarship will be specified in the letter of offer. The minimum period is normally eight weeks (although some areas may be prepared to consider applications for scholarships for shorter periods), and the maximum is normally eleven weeks. The period of tenure may be broken into two parts to allow for the Christmas period when the University is closed. Summer Research Scholarships may commence between mid-November and early December and normally conclude in early February. A starting date earlier in November may be arranged if mutually convenient to the School/Centre/Faculty/College, the Summer Research Scholar and to the approved, on-campus accommodation provider. Tenure beyond mid-February is usually not practicable.

## TERMINATION

The University reserves the right to terminate a scholarship at any time and at the University's sole discretion if the conduct of the Summer Research Scholar is deemed to be unsatisfactory. If a scholarship is terminated for any reason prior to the commencement of the scholarship period, the University will not be liable for any costs, and if terminated during the scholarship period the University will at its sole discretion determine if any reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

## ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Summer Research Scholars whose homes are not in Canberra will have their accommodation and all meals provided and paid for by the University. They will be offered accommodation on campus in an approved College or Hall of residence. Summer Research Scholars with special dietary needs are required to provide this information when accepting their Summer Research Scholarship. Summer Research Scholars normally resident in Canberra may elect to live in the approved College or Hall of residence and have their accommodation and meal costs met for the duration of the Summer Research Scholarship. Approval may be given for the payment of an *ad hoc* allowance in lieu of accommodation in special cases. Summer Research Scholars resident in the approved College or Hall of residence are expected to conform to the normal standards of social behaviour required by the College/Hall. The decision whether to meet the cost of accommodation is entirely at the discretion of the University.

*Note: The University is closed over the Christmas/New Year period from Christmas Day to New Year's Day inclusive; accommodation and meals may not be covered during this time. Summer Research Scholars who nominate to stay on campus during this time may need to cover the cost of their accommodation and meals.*

## TRAVEL

The School/Centre/Faculty/College will contribute towards the expenses incurred by a Summer Research Scholar in coming from within Australia or from New Zealand to, and returning from, Canberra subject to the following conditions:

- (i) the contribution towards return fares will be based upon economy rail fares, at student concession rates, but the contribution for Summer Research Scholars making the return trip from Darwin, Perth, Tasmania, Townsville or New Zealand may be based upon the cost of an economy-class air fare by the most direct route at student or other concessional rates as available;
- (ii) any additional costs incurred through amending a booking, or missing a flight are to be met by the Summer Research Scholar;
- (iii) the contribution for the return journey will be in respect of fares to the place from which the Summer Research Scholar came or to the immediate destination on leaving Canberra on the expiry of the scholarship period, whichever is the less costly;
- (iv) if a scholarship is terminated for any reason prior to the commencement of the scholarship period, the University will not be liable for any costs, and if terminated during the scholarship period the University will at its sole discretion determine if any reasonable expenses will be reimbursed;

- (v) the decision whether to meet travel costs is entirely at the discretion of the University.

*Note: Summer Research Scholars travelling from countries other than New Zealand will not receive any reimbursement of external fares. They may, however, be reimbursed for the return domestic flight component to and from Canberra.*

## WEEKLY ALLOWANCE

Summer Research Scholars will receive a weekly allowance of \$135.00. This allowance commences from the date on which the scholarship is taken up in Canberra and is paid fortnightly in arrears. On occasion, the first payment may be up to three weeks after the Summer Research Scholar arrives to take up the scholarship.

*Note: The University is closed over the Christmas/New Year period from Christmas Day to New Year's Day inclusive. Weekly allowances are not normally paid for this period, although Summer Research Scholars who have approval to undertake supervised work during this time may receive a pro rata allowance.*

## INCOME TAX AND AUSTUDY BENEFITS

The University has been notified that scholarship benefits are not regarded as income from another award in determining the level of AUSTUDY benefits. However, the weekly allowance should be notified as a form of income if it causes an AUSTUDY grantee's total income to exceed the current means test level.

Table Item 2A in S.51-10 *ITAA 1997* provides that payments are exempt from income tax if they are made:

- To a full-time student at a school, college or university
- By way of a scholarship, bursary, educational allowance or educational assistance

However, where the exceptions in S.51-35 *ITAA 1997* apply, then the scholarship will not be exempt from income tax:

- (c) payment on the condition that the student will become/continue to be an employee of the entity
- (d) payment by an entity on the condition that the student will enter into a contract with the entity that is wholly or principally for the labour of the student
- (e) payment under a scholarship that is not provided principally for educational purposes

*Note: It is the responsibility of all scholars to make their own enquiries and seek independent advice regarding any tax liability or impact on Austudy payments arising from receipt of this Award.*

## INSURANCE

Summer Research Scholars from New Zealand or any other overseas country are required to take out a travel insurance policy with Medical Expenses coverage prior to arriving in Australia, for the duration of their scholarship *and* travelling dates. Such Summer Research Scholars will be required to show proof of insurance cover on arrival to the University.

Australian Summer Research Scholars are advised to take out an appropriate travel insurance policy if they wish to be covered against any travel risks. Australian Summer Research Scholars should note that they will only be covered by the University's public liability insurance to the extent that an accident occurs at the University for which the University is at fault.

Summer Research Scholars may approach their own institution for insurance under their home institution's insurance policy. If cover is granted by their institution, they will need to provide an official letter stating that they have relevant insurance for the dates they will be travelling and resident in Canberra.

*Note: The ANU will not cover the cost of any policy taken out by Summer Research Scholars.*

## **FIELD AND RESEARCH EXPENSES**

Unless special arrangements are made, Summer Research Scholars will not be required to undertake, nor be given additional allowances for, field or research work away from Canberra.

## **REPORT**

Summer Research Scholars must write a short report (1 or 2 pages) on their scholarship activities and submit it a few days before the end of the scholarship period through their supervisor(s) to the School/Centre/Faculty/College Administrator for submission to the Director or Dean. Some areas may require an additional, more detailed research report.