

## The University of Western Australia

### COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FEES

#### CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Completion Scholarships for International Research Fees (SIRFs) are available to international postgraduate research students to encourage the timely completion of Higher Degree by Research theses and they are governed by the following conditions:

##### **(a) Eligibility**

(i) To be eligible for SIRF Completion Scholarships international students must be enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research on a Full-Time basis, and have made substantial progress towards submission of the thesis for examination.

(ii) Applicants for SIRF Completion Scholarships must have either personally paid international tuition fees for at least 3.5 years; or have been in receipt of a tuition fee scholarship which cannot be extended beyond 3.5 years for a PhD, and at least 2 years for a Masters degree.

##### **(b) Extension of Time Limit**

Applicants who have been enrolled for more than four years for a PhD degree, and two years for a Masters degree, must also submit an application for an Extension Of Time Limit in conjunction with the SIRF Completion Scholarship application.

##### **(c) Nominations**

(i) Nominations for SIRF Completion Scholarships are to be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate Research School by Heads of School, on the recommendation of Supervisors.

(ii) The nomination consists of a summary of the student's thesis progress to date, list of publications and conference presentations (if applicable) and a copy of the latest Annual Progress Report.

(iii) A detailed time plan and milestones for completion of the thesis must be attached to the nomination.

(iv) Heads of School or Deans of Faculties and Supervisors are required to certify that in their judgement, nominated candidates will submit their Higher Degree by Research theses by the expiry date.

##### **(d) Selection Criteria**

(i) Selection will be based on thesis progress to date, the likelihood of completion within the specified tenure of the scholarship, and publications record (if applicable).

**(e) Tenure/Support**

(i) SIRF Completion Scholarships will cover the full-fee cost of enrolment only.

(ii) Payment of the Overseas Student Health Charge (OSHC) is **not** covered by the scholarship, and students must ensure that their health insurance cover is maintained for the duration of their enrolment.

(iii) The tenure of the scholarship will be determined by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training), up to a maximum of 6 months.

(iv) The scholarship will cease upon submission of the thesis, or at the expiry date of the scholarship as specified in the letter of offer, whichever occurs first – subject to receipt of a satisfactory 8 week progress report (see below).

(v) No extensions of SIRF Completion Scholarships beyond six months will be approved.

**(f) Liability for payment of full-fees**

If the thesis is not submitted by the expiry date of the SIRF Completion Scholarship, the student will be liable for payment of the full international tuition fees for the remainder of their enrolment.

**(g) 8 Week Progress Report and Completion Plan**

(i) 8 weeks after commencement of SIRF Completion Scholarships students are required to submit a progress report to the Dean of the Graduate Research School with details of milestones reached, and remaining steps to completion of the thesis. A template of the Completion Plan is attached to these conditions.

(ii) Continuation of the scholarship beyond 8 weeks will be subject to submission of a satisfactory progress report and confirmation by the supervisor/s and Head of School that the candidate is on track to submit the thesis by the specified deadline.

**(h) Nomination of Thesis Examiners**

Recipients of Completion Scholarships who are enrolled in Masters by Research and PhD degrees are required to submit a Nomination of Thesis Examiners form and a copy of the thesis abstract to the Graduate Research and Scholarships Office at least three weeks prior to the intended thesis submission date. The Nomination of Examiners form can be downloaded from the Graduate School Website:  
<http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/page/53900>

**(i) Financial arrangements**

Funding for SIRF Completion Scholarships is provided in the first instance by the University Scholarships Committee. The full amount of each scholarship will be reimbursed to the SIRF Scholarships budget from the Higher Degree Completion funds distribution to the Faculty, according to the Faculty Funding Model.