

**IMPORTANT: Please ensure you retain this copy of the conditions of award and continue to refer to them throughout your candidature.**

## Conditions of Award 2024

### Australian Wildlife Society (AWS) Wildlife Ecology Science Research Scholarship

Faculty of Science AWS Wildlife Ecology Science Research Scholarship	
Annual scholarship value	\$5,000
Duration	1 year
Payment frequency	1 payment each session of \$2,500

#### 1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1. To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must:

- (a) be enrolled in an accredited HDR course of study at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS); and
- (b) meet the admissions criteria for research doctorate degrees or Master by Research studies as outlined in UTS Admissions and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy; and
- (c) have completed a Stage One/Doctoral Assessment; and
- (d) not have received the AWS Wildlife Ecology Science Research Scholarship previously; and
- (e) be undertaking a research project that is of direct relevance to the conservation of Australian native wildlife – flora or fauna.

#### 2. SELECTION

2.1. The scholarship is awarded in accordance with the eligibility requirements outlined above and on the basis of the following criteria:

- (a) A research project proposal that is: (i) of direct relevance to the conservation of Australian native wildlife – fauna or flora, and (ii) of a suitably high academic standard.
- (b) Proposed use of the scholarship to support the research project.
- (c) Motivation to succeed in the course in which he/she is enrolled.
- (d) Demonstrated initiative in personal and professional life.

(e) Academic merit in previous undergraduate study (including Honours).

2.2. Eligible candidates will be presented to a Scholarships Committee, which will undertake the selection of Recipients.

The Scholarships Committee will comprise of the Head of the School of Life Sciences of the Faculty of Science (or nominee), and two further relevant members of the School of Life Sciences, one of whom will be a researcher in the field of wildlife ecology (nominated by Head of the School of Life Sciences). Other members may include representatives of the Australian Wildlife Society and the UTS Graduate Research School. The Scholarships Committee will be chaired by the Head of the School of Life Sciences (or nominee).

### 3. VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

3.1. The scholarship provided by the Australian Wildlife Society (the 'Donor') for the scholarship is at the rate specified on page 1 of this document.

3.2. Payments are made in two equal instalments each semester directly to a nominated account in the scholarship holder's name with an active Australian Authorised Deposit-taking Institution through the University's payment system. Payments will be made after the advertised Research Census date in each semester. Part-time scholarships may be adjusted to withhold tax.

3.3. Under Section 23(z) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 (as amended), full-time scholarships are presently exempt from taxation. It is the responsibility of the Scholarship holder to assess the tax liability of their scholarship. The University cannot provide advice regarding taxation. Please refer to the Australian Tax Office Website for further information: <https://www.ato.gov.au>.

### 4. DURATION

4.1. The commencement date of scholarship will be decided by the Scholarships Committee and stated in page 1 of this document. For new students, the commencement date of the scholarship cannot be earlier than the official date of enrolment with the University which is not before 1 January for the Autumn semester or 1 July for the Spring semester.

4.2. The Scholarships Committee may grant delayed commencement of the scholarship to the following semester of the same year where, due to significant prior commitments or exceptional circumstances, an awardee is not able to commence by the offered semester.

4.3. The duration of the scholarship is specified on page 1 of this document.

### 5. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

5.1. The University monitors the stipend recipient's ongoing eligibility and progress to ensure that each student continues to meet the eligibility requirements set out in section 1 and maintain satisfactory progress. Except in special circumstances as determined by the Higher Degree by Research Board, throughout the term of the stipend a student shall:

- (a) diligently pursue a course of study in the University as a candidate for the degree enrolled in; and
  - (b) maintain satisfactory progress of candidature as evidenced in the annual Review of Progress and Candidature Assessment in with the guidelines approved by the Higher Degree Research Board from time to time as per [UTS Student Rules 11.13](#); and
  - (c) comply with the [UTS Student Rules Section 11](#) and regulations of the University concerning postgraduate students.
- 5.2. A student is required to submit a project report to the Donor by the end of the year of Offer. The report must be drafted in lay English, describing in narrative fashion what has been achieved on the project with the support of AWS Scholarship funds. The report must include photographs of relevant project activities where appropriate.

## 6. SCHOLARSHIP LEAVE

### 6.1. Leave of Absence

At the time of a [Leave of Absence](#), any scheduled payments will be stopped for the full period of leave and the scholarship end date will be extended by the same number of days as the approved period of leave and any remaining payments rescheduled. Scholarship recipients will be advised, via email, of the date when the scholarship will be stopped and when it will be restarted.

## 7. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

- 7.1. Scholarships will be immediately terminated in the event of an unsatisfactory progress (as outlined in UTS Student [Rule 11.14](#)) and/or discontinuation of candidature following candidature assessment (as outlined in UTS Student [Rules 11.23 to 11.25](#)) or suspension due to student misconduct (UTS Student [Rule Section 16](#)).
- 7.2. The stipend will terminate if:
- (a) if the student ceases to meet the eligibility criteria specified in section 1.1 other than during a period in which the stipend has been suspended with approval or during a period of leave in accordance with section 6; or
  - (b) when the stipend recipient ceases to be a full-time student and approval has not been obtained from the University to hold the stipend on a part-time basis; or
  - (c) upon submission of the thesis for examination or when the stipend expires, whichever is the earlier; or
  - (d) if the student submits a request to relinquish their stipend; or
  - (e) if, after due enquiry, the University determines that:
    - i. University the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance to the offer of the stipend; or

- ii. the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic progress; or
- iii. the student has been discontinued; or
- iv. the student has committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to, the provision of false or misleading information as outlined in section 9.

7.3. If the stipend is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error.

## **8. SCHOLARSHIP OVERPAYMENT**

8.1. A stipend recipient is required to repay any scholarship overpayment within thirty calendar days of being requested to do so by the University. Scholarship overpayments are viewed as financial obligations by the University and failure to repay may result in sanctions being placed on your candidature as per UTS Student [Rule Section 4.4](#) of the Student and Related Rules at UTS.

## **9. PROVISION OF FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION**

9.1. If the University knows or has reason to believe that a student in receipt of a Faculty scholarship has provided false or misleading information to the University in relation to that scholarship, the University will immediately

- (a) reassess the student's entitlement to the scholarship; and
- (b) take action in accordance with the Student Misconduct and Appeals rules (UTS Student [Rule Section 16](#)).

## **10. INSURANCE**

10.1. Research students should be aware that the University only provides a minimal level of automatic insurance cover for personal accidents for enrolled students, only whilst the student is on campus, and subject to the limitations and exclusions of the applicable policy. Where a student's research involves high-risk activities or the student research is located off-campus, he/she should contact the Faculty Research Office to request approval so that the activity is covered by insurance.

10.2. Research students conducting fieldwork or conference presentations interstate or overseas will have insurance cover only if the activity is approved UTS business and subject to the limitations and exclusion of the applicable policy. Please contact the Faculty Research Office for further information and for approval.

## **11. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCESSES**

11.1. For information on the UTS complaints and appeals processes, refer to the UTS Handling of Student Complaints policy at:

<http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/policies/complaintspolicy.html>, as well as the UTSI Complaints and Appeals Procedure for International Students at: <https://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/international/essential-information/being-international-student-australia/your-1>.