



The Watervale Graduate Award: Support for Higher Degree Research at NCIS

GUIDELINES

Background and Purpose

The Watervale Award has been generously endowed to NCIS by Ian and Laurel Fisher and is valued at \$10,000. The purpose of the Award is to support Higher Degree by Research (HDR) scholars enrolled at NCIS to achieve the successful completion of their thesis within an identified timeframe.

Guidelines

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 The Watervale Award will provide support for MPhil and PhD scholars at NCIS.
- 1.2 Priority will go to scholars in write-up / final stages of completion.

2. Timing and Reporting

- 2.1 Awards will be made on a competitive basis upon application, and as far as possible at the same time each year. Initially, \$10,000 will be available per annum.
- 2.2 The award period will be six months and must commence within six months of the application deadline.
- 2.3 The recipient must provide a report to the Director and Donors at the end of the award period. That report may also include presentation of a seminar.

3. Alignment with areas of interest of Donors' stipulation

- 3.1 Awards will be directed to support HDR scholars engaged in research on the following Australian Indigenous themes:
 - a) Public Health
 - b) Indigenous Identity
 - c) Indigenous Language
 - d) Water and Environment
 - e) Education and Social Cohesion
 - f) Studies involving Indigenous Language with any other theme will be given priority.

4. Application and Assessment

- 4.1 Applications will be submitted to the Research Manager at ncis.research@anu.edu.au. Assessment will be made by a Grant Panel which will normally comprise four members: two members of academic staff from NCIS, the Research Manager and one external representative. The application should address the Conditions and Criteria stipulated

below, and must include a statement of support from the scholar's supervisor. Applicants should consult the NCIS website for further details as to application requirements.

- 4.2 Applications must be submitted by the advertised closing date.
- 4.3 The Grant Panel will assess applications in the month proceeding the award and, in doing so, consider any recommendation made by the Program Manager.
- 4.4 The Grant Panel will make a recommendation to the NCIS Delegate/Director, who will have final discretion.
- 4.5 The Grant Panel may recommend splitting the award between a maximum of two scholars if the circumstances warrant.
- 4.6 When a final decision is made, NCIS will inform the Donors at the time that the recipient/s are informed.
- 4.7 The value of each scholarship shall be set out in the letter of offer.

5. Financial Arrangements and Oversight

- 5.1 Financial arrangements will be made through the ANU Finance Office as per all other NCIS grants and subject to the University's usual conditions of probity and audit.
- 5.2 The Award will be subject to all ANU policy and procedures including Intellectual Property arrangements.
- 5.3 The Award will be paid in two instalments of \$5000: the first at the start of the award period and the second after three months, subject to formal review of progress by the HDR Committee. In the event of late start of the award period, confirmation of continued progress may be required.

Conditions and Criteria

6. Need and Circumstances of Scholar

- 6.1 There are very few discretionary funds available for HDR scholars in situations of financial hardship during their MPhil or PhD. The Watervale Graduate Award will explicitly take financial need into consideration.

7. Academic progress towards completion

- 7.1 This criterion will consider the HDR scholar's progress towards completion, including realistic timeline for submission.
- 7.2 This criterion will consider the HDR scholar's intellectual contribution to their chosen area of study and to the Centre.
- 7.3 This criterion will include academic outputs and activities as assessed against Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence.
- 7.4 Normally, the scholar will be expected to have completed a full draft of the thesis by the time of application.

8. Referee reports from supervisors

- 8.1 In addition to a written statement of support, the Grant Panel may seek oral reports from primary supervisors of the candidate.