The Faculty of Commerce and Economics (FCE)  
Research Scholarship Program

FCE scholarship policy encompasses scholarships sponsored wholly by the Faculty (the FPRS), along with generous tax-free supplements to government (APA, EIPRS) and UNSW (UPA, UIPA) scholarships. All scholarships entitle the holder to a living allowance of up to $26,837 per annum tax-free plus tuition fees.

1. Faculty Postgraduate Research Scholarship (FPRS)

The Faculty of Commerce and Economics offers the FPRS, which is open to full time PhD, MPhil, MIS and MCom(Hons) students. It is awarded on the basis of excellence and is tenable in any of the Schools in the Faculty. On average, the Faculty offers between four and six FPRSs each year.

- Up to $26,837 per annum tax-free (indexed to the APA rate plus an additional $8000)
- Local recipients will be eligible for a HECS exemption scholarship
- International recipients will also have their program fees, medical cover and visa charges paid by the Faculty
- Valid for 2 years for a Masters Research degree, 3 years for a PhD
- Closes 31 October each year

(i) Value of the Scholarship

An allowance equivalent to that of the APA will be offered plus, from 2003, an additional supplement of $8000. The FPRS cannot be held in conjunction with an APA/UPA or IPRS/UIPRS but can be held concurrently with other scholarships awarded by government, industry or other institutions so long as the combined annual allowance does not exceed A$28,000. In cases where the student is receiving other scholarship income, the FPRS will be reduced where this income takes the allowance over A$28,000. These external funds must also be awarded for full time study and research leading to a postgraduate research degree. All students are required to pay student activity fees.

(ii) Additional benefits

Limited additional support (e.g., from research assistance and casual teaching activity) may also be offered by the School in which the student is enrolled, provided the work is related to the discipline, does not compromise progress in the degree, or constitute part of the degree and the permission of the Head of School has been obtained.

(iii) Who Can Apply?

The FPRS is open to all full time MPhil, MCom (Hons), MIS and PhD candidates. Applicants for an APA or EIPRS who are unsuccessful will automatically be considered for a FPRS.

(iv) Selection Process

The award will be decided by a sub-committee comprising the Associate Dean (Research) or his nominee and the Postgraduate Coordinator from each school. The
FPRS is a prestigious award for which the normal requirement is a first class honours degree or the equivalent. Other criteria, which will be highly regarded, include demonstrated research performance, strong referee support and documented publications. No award will be made in any year in which, in the opinion of the Committee, there is no applicant of sufficient merit. Offers will be made late in the year prior to the commencement of the award. If applicable, second round offers will be made in late January.

(v) Application Procedure
Applications for a FPRS must be made on the official form which is available from the:

Faculty of Commerce and Economics Research Office
Room 235 John Goodsell Building
University of New South Wales
UNSW Sydney 2052
Telephone: +61 (2) 9385 3343/3167
Facsimile: +61 (2) 9385 3930
Email: graduatereresearch.fce@unsw.edu.au
Website: www.fce.unsw.edu.au/research/scholarships

Applications close 31 October each year.

(vi) Duration of the Scholarship
The maximum period for which a scholarship may be held is three years six months, subject to the following provisions:

• A candidate for an MPhil, MCom (Hons), or MIS degrees may hold a Faculty scholarship for a period not in excess of two years from the commencement of enrolment in the degree.

• A PhD candidate may hold a Faculty scholarship for three years from the commencement of enrolment in the degree.

• An extension of six months may be granted for an MPhil, MCom(Hons), MIS and PhD students in cases where the scholar can demonstrate that the research was delayed by circumstances beyond his/her control and was related to the research rather than being of a personal nature.

(vii) Allowances

• **Thesis Allowance** An award holder who submits his/her thesis may claim the allowance within six months of submission and not more than two years after termination of the award. The award provides up to $420 for a Masters thesis and $840 for a PhD for costs associated with the production of their thesis.

• **Relocation Expenses** Where the award holder must move between Australian cities to take up the award, a claim may be submitted for the student, his/her spouse and dependants for:

  **Travel Allowance** which covers the actual costs incurred up to the equivalent of the economy air fare or, where appropriate, the concession rate
Removal Expenses of up to $505 for each adult and $255 for each child - with a maximum claim of $1455.

Other allowances are also payable on production of original receipts:
- Eligibility for Family Payment for dependent children or other Centrelink assistance should be checked with Centrelink (eg. Rent Assistance, Guardian Allowance or Health Care Cards).

(viii) Part-time Awards

Students with heavy care commitments or with a medical condition precluding full-time study may be permitted to hold awards on a part-time basis. Applicants for part-time awards need to attach a statement of reasons to their application form, along with a supporting statement from the proposed supervisor and any relevant documentation. Part-time and full-time applicants are ranked together. Recipients wishing to transfer to part-time tenure should also forward a statement of reasons and supervisor’s supporting statement to the Scholarships, Loans and Research Students Office.

The student may convert to full-time at any stage. The student must convert to full-time if the reasons for undertaking part-time study no longer apply.

(ix) Referees' Reports

Applications need to be supported by reports from two referees. These must be forwarded, on the official forms, to the Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Commerce and Economics, by 31 October. The application will not be considered in the absence of a report from either referee. Students are responsible for providing their referees with the report forms and are strongly advised to check prior to the closing date to ensure that their referees have sent the report forms. Referees must send their reports directly to the Associate Dean (Research).

(x) Application for Admission

Students are strongly advised to contact the Head of the School in which they wish to carry out their research, to discuss the suitability of the proposed program of study. Application for an award does not constitute an application for admission. Students must also complete an application for admission and forward it to SLARSO. Applications for admission are available from Student Central, or on the Faculty website: [http://www.fce.unsw.edu.au/research/](http://www.fce.unsw.edu.au/research/)

INFORMATION FOR AWARD HOLDERS

Leave Arrangements

Leave (except sick and maternity leave), approval of overseas study and suspension of the award may only be requested after the award holder has been in receipt of the FPRS assistance for at least six months.
• **Recreation Leave** of up to 20 days a year will be approved at a time agreed to by the supervisor. No more than 20 days may be accumulated and all leave must be taken during the period of tenure.

• **Overseas Study**
  Where overseas study is essential to the student’s research, the award may be held overseas if:
  - the total periods of overseas study do not exceed 18 months
  - adequate supervision can be arranged
  - the student returns to Australia to complete the research immediately following the period of overseas study
  - the overseas study is full-time
  - the student continues to be enrolled as a full-time student of the University. Faculty Research Committee approval must be sought if the period of study will exceed 12 weeks.

• **Suspension**
  An award holder may request suspension of the award for up to 12 months. Where the student is able to demonstrate that he/she is unable to return to study, the suspension may be extended for a further year. Where the suspension is due to illness a medical certificate must be provided. Periods of study undertaken towards the degree during a period of suspension of the award, must be deducted from the maximum period of time.

  Before a scholarship can be restored after suspension the student and supervisor will need to complete a "Commencement of Study" form (available from NewSouthQ) and confirm the re-commencement date. Failure to resume studies after an approved period of suspension will result in termination of the award.

• **Sick Leave.** Recipients are eligible for up to 3 months paid sick leave over the duration of the award. If a number of periods of illness totalling more than three months are taken, a period of suspension may be necessary. Periods of sick leave less than two weeks in duration will not result in an extension of the award.

• **Maternity Leave** of up to 3 months may be available. Paid maternity leave cannot be taken during the first 12 months of tenure. Periods of paid maternity leave are in addition to the normal duration of the award.

**Transfer of Awards**

• **Masters to PhD**
  A Masters by research award may be converted to a PhD award or vice-versa provided the student’s progress merits it.

• **Between institutions**
  FPRS awards cannot be transferred to another institution.
Relinquishment

An award will be terminated two weeks after the thesis is submitted or at the end of the award, whichever is the earlier.

The award will be terminated:

- if the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or the student is not fulfilling obligations or has not met the criteria for satisfactory progress.
- when the student ceases to be a full-time research student (unless a part-time award is approved).
- on the death, incapacity, resignation or withdrawal of the student.
- if the cumulative periods of suspension exceeds twelve months, and prior approval has not been obtained for further suspension.
- if the student is absent from study without the prior approval of their supervisor, the Associate Dean (Research) or SLARSO.
- if the student fails to return to study after an approved period of leave, suspension or overseas study.
- if the student accepts another equivalent scholarship award or salary providing a benefit greater than that of the FPRS or if the student is appointed as a member of the Faculty staff.

An award holder is required to give at least 14 days notice of the intention to voluntarily relinquish the award.

Obligations of Award Holders

The student must advise SLARSO prior to making any change that may affect their application or eligibility for benefits, for example, a change of address, the intention to study overseas or suspend their award, or periods of illness. Students must also advise the SLARSO if they transfer from Masters to PhD or PhD to Masters, and when they submit their thesis. Where it is not possible to provide prior advice concerning a change, notification must be sent to the Office within seven days of the change.

Students must diligently apply themselves to the successful completion of the degree and comply with degree conditions. The student must abide by the rulings of the Safety and Ethics Committees of the University.

Renewal

Each year the student's supervisor will be asked if renewal of the award is required and recommended. An application by a PhD candidate for an extension of the award beyond three years will be treated as a special case.
The FPRS is subject to review at any time.