

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

Conditions of Award 2020
Australian Wildlife Society
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 semester of \$2,500

1. ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must:
- have completed a Bachelor Degree with First Class Honours, or be regarded by the University as having an equivalent level of attainment in accordance with paragraph 1.2; and
 - be undertaking a higher degree by research (HDR) at the University in the year of the scholarship (Scholarships are not available to applicants whose enrolment into a postgraduate research program has not been accepted by the University); and
 - be enrolled as a full-time student; and
 - be a domestic or an overseas student, as defined in *the Higher Education Support Act 2003* (Cth); and
 - have completed a Stage One/Doctoral Assessment; and
 - not have completed a degree at the same or higher level as the proposed candidature; and
 - not have received the AWS Wildlife Ecology Science Research Scholarship previously; and
 - be undertaking a research project that is of direct relevance to the conservation of Australian native wildlife – flora or fauna.
- 1.2 Where applicants do not hold a Bachelor Degree with First Class Honours, the University may determine that the applicant has demonstrated an equivalent level of academic attainment. In determining an equivalent level of academic attainment, the University may consider previous study, relevant work experience, research publications, referees' reports and other research experience.

2. SELECTION

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

- 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.
- Proposed use of the scholarship to support the research project.
- Motivation to succeed in the course in which he/she is enrolled.
- Demonstrated initiative in personal and professional life.
- Academic merit in previous undergraduate study (including Honours).

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 Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia 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 Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia (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 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: <http://www.ato.gov.au>

4. TENURE

- 4.1 The commencement date of scholarship will be decided by the Scholarships Committee and is 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 awardees' ongoing eligibility and progress to ensure that each student continues to meet eligibility requirements set out in paragraph 1 and maintain satisfactory progress. Except in special circumstances which the Graduate Research School Board of the Academic Board determines, throughout the tenure of the scholarship, a student shall:
- a) diligently pursue a course of study in the University as a candidate for the degree enrolled in; and
 - b) submit to the relevant Faculty yearly progress reports to enable review of progress in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Graduate Research School Board as per Section 11.13 of the UTS student and related rules: <http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/rules/11-13.html>
 - c) successfully complete the required stage assessments as per Section 11.15 of the UTS student and related rules found at <http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/rules/student/section-11.html#r11.15> and
 - d) comply with the Rules and Regulations of the University concerning research degree students (<http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/rules/11-index.html>)
- 5.2 A student must give at least twenty-one days' notice of intention to relinquish the scholarship (e.g.: on discontinuation of studies).
- 5.3 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. SUSPENSION OF SCHOLARSHIP

- 6.1 After completion of the first six months of the scholarship, the student may be granted up to twelve months (two semesters) suspension of his/her candidature with the permission of the University, subjected to conditions of student visa.
- 6.2 In such cases, scholarship holders must apply separately for a Leave of Absence for the scholarship. Leave application forms for scholarship holders are available from the Graduate Research School Website.
- 6.3 Periods of approved suspension will be added to the normal time for which the scholarship may be held.
- 6.4 Note that if the scholarship holder does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of suspension, or does not make arrangements to extend the period of suspension, the scholarship will be terminated.
- 6.5 If prior approval of a suspension of scholarship is not obtained, the scholarship holder will be deemed to be absent without permission and the scholarship will terminate.

7. SCHOLARSHIP OVERPAYMENT

- 7.1 A scholarship 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 Section 4.4 of the Student and Related Rules at UTS. More information is available at <http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/rules/4-4.html>

8. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

- 8.1 The scholarship will terminate:
- (a) upon the submission of the thesis for examination; or
 - (b) once the maximum duration of the scholarship has been reached; or
 - (c) if the student ceases to meet the eligibility criteria; or
 - (d) if the University determines that the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence in accordance with the offer of scholarship; or
 - (e) if the University determines that the student is guilty of serious academic misconduct including, but not limited to, the provision of false or misleading information; or
 - (f) if the student ceases to be enrolled as a full-time research student; or
 - (g) if the student fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress
- 8.2 If the scholarship is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error, or on re-submission of the thesis. For thesis re-writes, the scholarship may be re-activated until the thesis is finally submitted, to the maximum duration of the scholarship.

9. PROVISION OF FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

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 reassess the student's entitlement to the scholarship.