

Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre PhD Scholarship

Conditions of 2016 Awards

1. The PhD Scholarship

This scholarship is funded by Curtin University and Bankwest to support and foster the development of world-class research on economic and social topics of relevance to the mission and aims of the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre.

2. Background

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre is an independent economic and social research organisation located within the Curtin Business School at Curtin University. The centre was established in 2012 through the generous support from Bankwest (a division of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia), with a core mission to examine the key economic and social policy issues that contribute to the sustainability of Western Australia and the wellbeing of households both within WA and nationally.

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre is the first research organisation of its kind in Western Australia, and draws great strength and credibility from its partnership with Bankwest, Curtin University and the Western Australian government. The centre brings a unique philosophy to research on the major economic issues facing the state. By bringing together experts from the research, policy and business communities at all stages of the process – from framing and conceptualising research questions, through the conduct of research, to the communication and implementation of research findings – we ensure that our research is relevant, fit for purpose, and makes a genuine difference to the lives of Australians, both in WA and nationally.

The Centre is able to capitalise on Curtin University's reputation for excellence in economic modelling, forecasting, public policy research, trade and industrial economics and spatial sciences. Centre researchers have specific expertise in economic forecasting, quantitative modelling, micro-data analysis and economic and social policy evaluation. The Centre also derives great value from its close association with experts from the corporate, business, public and not-for-profit sectors.

Suitable topics for PhD scholars will fall under one of the following general themes, which represent the Centre's priority areas for research:

- economic policy forecasting and evaluation
- regional economic policy
- trade and industrial economics
- labour, workforce and productivity
- population growth and dynamics
- income, wealth and housing
- wellbeing and disadvantage

Candidates are welcome to discuss potential research topics with the Centre Director or Centre researchers.

3. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for this award, a student must:

- (a) have completed a Bachelor Degree with First Class Honours, or be regarded as having an equivalent level of attainment; and

- (b) not hold a Research Doctorate degree or an equivalent research qualification; and
- (c) not previously have held an Australian Government-funded postgraduate research scholarship, unless it was terminated within six months of the scholarship's payments commencing; and
- (d) not be receiving an equivalent award, scholarship or salary providing a benefit greater than 75% of the award stipend rate to undertake the HDR. Income earned from sources unrelated to the course of study is not subject to the 75% rule.

4. Duration of the award

- (a) The duration of a full-time award is three years and six months for a student undertaking Doctoral studies. No further extension is available under this award.
- (b) The duration of this award will be increased by any periods of paid sick or maternity leave approved by the University.

5. Stipend and Allowances

5.1 Annual Stipend

- (a) The Centre will provide each full-time awardee with an enhanced stipend of **\$34,380** per annum which is exempt from taxation. Where a full-time awardee is not enrolled over the full period of the year, because of a late commencement or periods of suspension, the Centre will provide at least the proportion of the annual stipend for the period in which study is undertaken for that year.
- (b) Award holders will receive up to \$2,500 per annum for conference and field work expenses.
- (c) Award holders are permitted to:
 - (i) obtain funding for overseas travel costs from other Australian Government awards or any other source; and
 - (ii) receive income derived from part-time work undertaken within the Conditions set by the University.

6. Suspension of an Award

- (a) Award holders may apply for a suspension of their Award for up to twelve months. The approval of suspensions will be at the discretion of the University. In exceptional circumstances, students may apply for suspensions beyond twelve months, but any suspensions beyond twelve months must be approved by the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Training, who must be satisfied that the exceptional circumstances are beyond the student's control and warrant a further suspension of the Award.
- (b) Award holders are not normally allowed suspension of their scholarship within six months of taking up the award or prior to having their candidacy approved.
- (c) Periods of suspension approved pursuant to Section 4(a) should be covered by a Leave of Absence to cease the enrolment as periods of study undertaken towards the degree during suspension of the Award must be deducted from the maximum period of its tenure.
- (d) The University may suspend the Award after an awardee on conditional status, with specified conditions to be met within a specified time has failed to meet those conditions on the Award holder within the specified time.
- (e) No stipend will be back paid during the suspension period if a student is re-instated afterwards.

7. Transfer of an Award

This award is not transferrable.

8. Termination

- (a) An Award must be terminated:
- (i) if the student ceases to meet the eligibility requirements specified in section 3 of these Conditions, other than during a period in which the Award has been suspended pursuant to Section 4(a) or during a period of leave;
 - (ii) if, in the opinion of the University, the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the offer of the award;
 - (iii) if the University determines that a student has committed serious misconduct, including but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information in terms of Section 15 of these Conditions;
 - (iv) when the student ceases to be a full-time student and when approval has not been obtained from the institution to hold the award on a part-time basis;
 - (v) on completion of the course of study, or the death, incapacity, resignation or withdrawal of the student undertaking a Doctoral degree;
 - (vi) if the Award holder does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of suspension pursuant to Section 4(a), or does not make arrangements to extend that period of suspension pursuant to Section 4(a);
 - (vii) if the Award holder fails to maintain satisfactory progress including unsatisfactory progress as detailed in Section 6(d);
- (b) If an Award is terminated, it cannot be re-activated unless the termination occurred in error.

9. Eligibility for Concurrent Awards or Scholarships

- (a) An Award holder may receive a concurrent award or scholarship to undertake their research higher degree if:
- (i) the concurrent award or scholarship provides a benefit less than 75% of the base stipend rate; or
 - (ii) the Award is suspended pursuant to Section 5(a) for the period of the concurrent award or scholarship and the period of study undertaken towards the research higher degree during suspension of the Award is deducted from the maximum period of its tenure.
- (b) Income earned from sources unrelated to the course of study is not subject to the 75% rule.

10. Leave Entitlements

- (a) Award holders are entitled to the following leave entitlements.
- (i) up to 20 working days paid recreation leave and 10 working days paid sick leave for each year of the Award. The entitlements may be accrued over the life of the Award but will be forfeited when the Award is completed or terminated.
 - (ii) up to a total of twelve weeks additional paid sick leave during the life of the Award for periods of illness lasting longer than ten days, for which a medical certificate has been provided. Sick leave entitlements (including additional sick leave) may also be used to

cover leave for students with family responsibilities. Students must take a leave of absence for periods of extended sick leave.

- (iii) a maximum of 12 weeks paid maternity leave during the duration of the Award for holders who have completed 12 months of their Award. Periods of paid maternity leave are in addition to the normal duration of the Award. Award holders who have not completed twelve months of their award may access unpaid maternity leave through the suspension provisions at Section 5(a). Paid leave may also be approved if the student has adopted a child. Students must take a leave of absence for periods of maternity leave.
- (iv) Students who are partners of women giving birth and who have completed 12 months of their Award, may be entitled to a period of parenting leave at the time of the birth or adoption. Students must take a leave of absence for periods of parenting leave.

11. Employment

- (a) Award holders may undertake part-time work subject to their Supervisor being satisfied that the work will not interfere with the student's study program.
There is no limit on how much income an award holder can receive from part-time work. However, this income will not be tax-exempt.
- (b) A full-time student is permitted to undertake a limited amount of part-time paid employment during the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday: no more than 8 hours of employment per week throughout the year apart from periods of annual leave (4 weeks) and the Christmas/New Year closure. Paid employment hours include preparation time.
- (c) The University does not require scholarship holders to undertake employment.

12. Research Overseas

- (a) The University may approve students conducting up to 12 months of their research outside Australia. Approval will only be granted if the research is essential for completion of the degree.
- (b) The University will only approve overseas research if there is adequate supervision, the student remains enrolled and the work can be credited to the student's postgraduate program.
- (c) The student must have gained candidacy prior to undertaking research overseas.

13. Research at Other Organisations

The University may approve a student conducting substantial amounts of research at organisations outside the higher education system provided that adequate support, supervision, training, and research freedom for the student is available at the other organisation and on the understanding that the University will still be responsible for the student.

14. Specific University Obligations

- (a) The University has a code of supervision of postgraduate research degrees.
- (b) The University will be fair and equitable in the use of its discretionary powers.
- (c) The right of students to appeal against decisions is recognised. The University will advise students of appropriate appeal mechanisms for resolution of any disputes which might arise during their candidature.
- (d) The University will pay the student all entitlements under the award.

15. Specific Student Obligations

- (a) Students shall diligently and to the best of their ability apply themselves to the successful completion of the degree.
- (b) The student shall abide where relevant by the National Health and Medical Research (NHMRC) and Australian Research Council (ARC) Codes on Human and Animal Research Conditions and decisions of the Safety and Ethics committees of the University.
- (c) An award holder is required to conform to the rules (including disciplinary provisions) of the University.
- (d) Students must provide all reports required by the University including an annual progress report submitted through the Faculty Graduate Studies Officer (FGSO). If the University does not consider that progress to be satisfactory the student will be placed on conditional status and/or the award may be terminated.
- (e) The student must advise the Scholarships Office in writing of any change of address or change enrolment status including when they submit their thesis for examination to the Office of Research and Development.

16. Variation of Conditions

- (a) These conditions may not be varied or waived without the prior consent of the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Training.
- (b) Applications for variation or waiver must be submitted in writing to the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Training and carry the endorsement of the Student's Supervisor and the Head of the appropriate academic unit.

17. Provision of False or Misleading Information

- (a) If the University knows or has reason to believe that a student in receipt of an Award has provided false or misleading information to the University in relation to the Award, the University must immediately:
 - (i) re-assess the student's entitlement to the Award; and
 - (ii) notify the Department of Education and Training/Department of Immigration and Border Protection of the suspected offence and provide a copy of the student's application and any other relevant information requested by the relevant department.

DO NOT DETACH

- I have read the attached 2016 Conditions of Award governing the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre PhD Scholarship. I agree to abide by the conditions and obligations outlined therein.
- I undertake to devote myself full time to my studies throughout the year subject to the concessions on employment described in Section 9 above.
- I accept your offer of a scholarship award under the conditions specified.

Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Number: _____

School/Department: _____

Scholarship Start Date: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ENTIRE/COMPLETE COPY OF THE CONDITIONS OF AWARD TO:

Manager, Scholarships
Office of Research and Development
Curtin University
GPO Box U1987
PERTH WA 6845