

# Conditions of Award for the Recipient - SQA PhD Scholarship

## 1. Background

- i. The Sydney Quantum Academy PhD Scholarship (Scholarship) is funded by the Sydney Quantum Academy (SQA). The SQA is an unincorporated joint venture between The University of Sydney, The University of New South Wales, University of Technology Sydney, and Macquarie University (University) and is proudly funded by the NSW government.
- ii. This Scholarship is available for a postgraduate student working in the field of quantum technology at one of the SQA partner universities.
- iii. This Scholarship recognises and fosters outstanding postgraduate research degree candidates.
- iv. There are three streams to this Scholarship: the SQA Primary Scholarship (Primary Scholarship), the SQA Supplementary Scholarship (Supplementary Scholarship) and the SQA Supplementary Extension Scholarship (Supplementary Extension Scholarship). Where there are variable conditions per stream, this will be indicated.

## 2. Eligibility

- i. At the time of application, the recipient is expected to apply for or be enrolled in a full-time PhD in a field related to quantum technology at one of the SQA partner universities.
- ii. At the time of accepting a Scholarship offer, the recipient must have an unconditional offer of admission or be currently enrolled in a full-time PhD at one of the SQA partner universities.
- iii. The recipient is expected to commence their Scholarship during the research period in which the Scholarship is awarded.
  - a. The recipient must commence their Scholarship within 6 months from the start date noted in the Letter of Offer issued by the University at which they are or will be enrolled.
  - b. Requests to delay commencement of the Scholarship by more than 6 months beyond the date noted in the Letter of Offer may be granted by SQA in exceptional circumstances. Candidates wishing to delay their candidature for reasons of personal preference will be encouraged to reapply to future rounds.
- iv. To accept a Supplementary Scholarship or Supplementary Extension offer, the recipient must hold a primary PhD stipend scholarship (primary PhD stipend), for example, a Research Training Program (RTP) or equivalent scholarship.
  - a. The Supplementary Scholarship recipient's primary PhD stipend (plus any additional scholarships) must not exceed a total value of AU\$33,000 per annum.

- b. The recipient must advise SQA of any change to their primary PhD stipend (or any additional scholarships) within 1 week of becoming aware of the change. The SQA reserves the right to alter or terminate the Scholarship if there are any changes to the recipient's primary PhD stipend (or any additional scholarships).
- v. The maximum duration of the Scholarship is four years (full time equivalent). The recipient is expected to complete their research and submit their thesis within this time period.
- vi. If permission is given to spend time overseas, either at the commencement or during the Scholarship, the recipient must fulfil all requirements of their University, such as but not limited to holding an Australian bank account and obtaining or maintaining an Australian Tax File Number.

### 3. Value

- i. The Primary Scholarship includes:
  - a. A stipend worth AU\$35,000 per annum (pro rata) for the period of the recipient's PhD candidature.
  - b. International tuition fees waived or covered for international recipients.
  - c. Entry to the SQA PhD Experience program.
  - d. The University may also waive or cover other fees for international recipients, such as visas costs or overseas health cover. This is at the discretion of the University.
- ii. The Supplementary Scholarship includes:
  - a. A stipend top-up worth the difference of the recipient's primary PhD stipend and AU\$35,000 per annum (pro rata) for the period of their primary PhD stipend.
  - b. A stipend extension worth AU\$35,000 per annum (pro rata) for the period of the recipient's PhD candidature that is not covered by their primary PhD stipend.
  - c. International tuition fees waived or covered for international recipients for any period not covered by their primary PhD stipend scholarship.
  - d. Entry to the SQA PhD Experience program.
  - e. The University may also waive or cover other fees for international recipients for the duration of the scholarship, such as visas costs or overseas health cover. This is at the discretion of the University.
- iii. The Supplementary Extension Scholarship includes:
  - a. A stipend extension worth AU\$35,000 per annum (pro rata) for the period of the recipient's PhD candidature that is not covered by their primary PhD stipend.
  - b. International tuition fees waived or covered for international recipients for any period not covered by their primary PhD stipend scholarship.
  - c. Entry to the SQA PhD Experience program.
  - d. The University may also waive or cover other fees for international recipients for the duration of the scholarship, such as visas costs or overseas health cover. This is at the discretion of the University.



- iv. The Scholarship value is outlined in the Letter of Offer issued to the recipient by the University at which they are or will be enrolled.
- v. The Scholarship is not retrospectively payable. It will only be payable from the date noted in the recipient's letter of offer, or the commencement of the recipient's PhD candidature, whichever is later.
- vi. The recipient may not transfer their Scholarship to another institution.
- vii. The recipient must declare any other scholarship or award they receive within 1 week. If the recipient is in receipt of another scholarship or award, the SQA reserves the right to alter the Scholarship value.
- viii. No other amount is payable.

#### 4. Eligibility for Progression

- i. Progression or continuation of the Scholarship is subject to the annual progress review outcome being rated as satisfactory, meeting expectations or higher. The recipient must notify the SQA within 1 week if the review cannot be completed or the outcome is not meeting expectations, unsatisfactory or marginal progress.
- ii. The recipient must participate in and complete the SQA PhD Experience Program satisfactorily. The recipient must raise any concerns about participation with the SQA for consideration of extenuating circumstances.
- iii. The recipient is expected to make reasonable effort to engage in the SQA community and respond to requests for information.
- iv. The recipient must acknowledge the SQA as a funder in all research publications and follow the SQA's guidelines for acknowledgement.
- v. The recipient must notify their supervisor, their University and the SQA promptly of any planned changes to their enrolment including but not limited to; attendance pattern, suspension, leave of absence, withdrawal, course transfer, and change of candidature. If the recipient does not provide notice of the changes identified above, the SQA may require repayment of scholarship funds and/or may terminate the Scholarship.
- vi. The recipient must advise the SQA if there is a substantial change to their research direction or a change to their supervisory arrangements.
- vii. The recipient is expected to adhere to the leave arrangements of the University at which they are enrolled and advise the SQA accordingly of any extended leave arrangements which will impact their ability to participate in the SQA PhD Experience Program.

#### 5. Termination

- i. The SQA may terminate the Scholarship if the conditions described in sections 2,3 or 4 above are not met.
- ii. Unless terminated earlier, the Scholarship will terminate:
  - a. upon submission of their thesis and completion of all other requirements for their program, or at the end of the Scholarship as per the Letter of Offer, whichever occurs earlier,



- b. upon the recipient having completed the maximum candidature for their degree as per the policy at the University with which they are enrolled, or
  - c. if the recipient does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave.
- iii. The Scholarship may also be terminated by the SQA if the recipient is found to have breached the codes and policies of their University (either during the Scholarship or in connection with the recipient's application and eligibility for the Scholarship).
  - a. Examples of such conduct include and without limitation; breaches of the Australian Code of Conduct for responsible research, and or the University's research policy; breaches of University's code of conduct for students; failure to declare conflicts of interest as required by University policy; misrepresentation in the application materials or other documentation associated with the Scholarship.
  - b. Stipend payments may be suspended throughout the duration of any enquiry, investigation and appeal process.
- iv. Once the Scholarship has been terminated, it will not be reinstated.

## 6. Privacy Statement

- i. Information provided by applicants will be used for the purposes of managing and assessing scholarship applications. De-identified information may be used in reports (e.g., to report on the gender balance of the applicant pool). For recipients, information will be used to administer Scholarships. This administration includes publishing the name of the Scholarship recipient in publicly accessible SQA and partner materials and channels. Recipient information (such as gender and country or origin) will also be included in SQA reports.
- ii. The supply of information is voluntary but if the applicant does not provide all the information requested, the SQA may be unable to process their application. The information will be held by the University of Sydney, the administering university for the Scholarship. For requests to update or access personal information, the applicant should contact: [info.sqa@sydney.edu.au](mailto:info.sqa@sydney.edu.au).

