

# **DONALD DYER SCHOLARSHIP**

## **RULES**

### **GENERAL**

The Donald Dyer Scholarship (hereinafter referred to as “the Scholarship”) has been established to encourage postgraduate and other advanced research of an original or progressive nature leading to advancement of knowledge in public relations and communications. The nature of the Scholarship shall be determined by the Scholarship trustees (currently Deane Edgecombe, John Hails and Professor David Potts) in consultation with the University of South Australia. The Scholarship will be dependent upon the funding limitations and is to be available from time to time as funds permit.

The Scholarship will be administered by a committee consisting of Mrs Sylvia Dyer’s trustees, a representative of the Council of the College of Fellows of the Public Relations Institute of Australia (PRIA) (or its successor) and an academic representative from the University of South Australia. In the event of the death of any of the trustees of Mrs Dyer, that representative will be replaced by a person nominated by the Council of the College of Fellows of the PRIA.

The rules of the Scholarship may be varied from time to time by the administering committee in consultation with and on the recommendation of the University but the name and general purpose of the Scholarship shall not be changed.

In the event of the course of study having a name other than Public Relations, the course must be one accredited by the National Board of the PRIA or its successor.

The Scholarship will be offered through the University of South Australia while an undergraduate or postgraduate course in public relations is accredited at that institution by the PRIA nationally.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

An applicant may be an Australian citizen or a citizen of another country. Each candidate should hold or expect to obtain a First Class Honours degree or equivalent. (Honours 1 equivalence will be determined by the University). Applicants must be acceptable for admission to candidature of a higher degree by research and must be commencing full-time postgraduate study at the University of South Australia in the year for which the Scholarship is tenable.

The Scholarship will be offered to an outstanding public relations practitioner, or to a person under the age of 30 years who is prepared to make a contribution to the development of the practice of the Public Relations profession.

This would not prevent the Scholarship being awarded to a mature age scholar, provided that person is making a significant contribution to the profession of public relations.

### **SELECTION**

Scholarship applications will be assessed by a committee consisting of the Scholarship trustees (currently Deane Edgecombe, John Hails and Professor David Potts), the representative of the College of Fellows of PRIA and an academic representative from the University of South Australia. These five will hold voting rights.

Other academic representatives may be appointed to advise the committee, but will not hold voting rights. The representatives of the trustees and the PRIA will examine the

credentials of candidates for the Scholarship in the light of the representatives' professional expertise.

Depending on the availability of funds the Scholarship may be awarded every two years. The Scholarship will not be offered if there is no suitable candidate.

If the Committee considers it necessary at the time, the Council of the College of Fellows may appoint interview panels in each State to conduct preliminary interview of candidates.

Preliminary interview of candidates in other countries will be conducted by public relations practitioners recognised by the PRIA nationally as having qualifications which would enable them to be admitted to PRIA at a professional level if they are practising in Australia, and by academics in their own countries nominated by the University of South Australia and acceptable to the assessment committee.

### **STUDY**

The holder of a scholarship will be required to undertake full-time research leading to either a Masters degree by research or the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the appropriate discipline at the University of South Australia. A student commencing on a Masters degree who transfers to a Doctor of Philosophy will continue to receive the scholarship in the third year of study.

The successful applicant will be under no obligation to render any service to the trustees, PRIA or to the University of South Australia as a result of receiving this Scholarship, except that he or she is required to pursue his or her postgraduate research as a full time student and be subject to the normal procedures for monitoring academic progress. He or she will be supervised in the same manner and to the same extent as any other postgraduate student.

### **STIPEND**

The stipend will normally be 20% above the Australian Postgraduate Award stipend per annum subject to indexation in accordance with movements in the stipend of the Australian Postgraduate Award. Other allowances will normally be at least those of the Australian Postgraduate Award With Stipend (or equivalent). Under present taxation law the stipend is expected to be exempt from taxation. The method of determining the stipend may be revised by the Administering Committee if it sees fit.

### **OVERSEAS STUDENTS**

The Scholarship may be offered to an overseas student. The Scholarship Fund may support the student's travelling costs to and from Australia. The Administering Committee may consider payment of all or part of the tuition fees for an overseas student. Such decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

### **TENURE**

A Scholarship is available from 1 January of the year of award and the successful applicant will normally be required to commence full-time study by 30 June of the year of award. Payment will commence from 1 January or the date of full-time enrolment, as appropriate.

A Scholarship is granted on an annual basis but is normally tenable, subject to satisfactory progress, for up to two years for a Masters degree by research, and up to three years for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Tenure and annual renewal of the Scholarship will be subject to satisfactory progress, as indicated by the student's supervisor(s) and Head of Department or School, subject to the normal procedures of the University.

### **NATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

A Dyer Scholar will be encouraged to attend PRIA nations conventions, conferences, or seminars while undertaking his/her studies. A Dyer Scholar may be invited to be a speaker at a national PRIA convention or to any undergraduate student sessions associated with that convention.

### **TRAVELLING COSTS**

The University of South Australia will administer a travel fund for the Dyer Scholar to travel within Australia to visit Public Relations institutions and organizations, and to attend and participate in PRIA conventions and/or seminars determined as suitable by the Committee. The amount available from the Scholarship Funds shall be determined by the Administering Committee.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Employment during working hours, after approval by the Head of the Department or School, should not exceed eight hours in any one week or a maximum of 240 hours in a calendar year. Employment during working hours outside the University must not be undertaken unless approval is obtained, in advance, from the University.

### **ILLNESS**

Short absences, which will not interfere with a student's progress, need not be reported to the University. However, longer absences (two weeks or more) should be reported to the University, through the Head of the Department or School. The value of any support that a student may receive from the Scholarship during a period of absence through illness shall be determined after consideration of the circumstances in each individual case. A medical certificate will be required for any period of illness in excess of two weeks. In the event of illness lasting in excess of three months a further medical certificate must be provided. If scholarship support is to continue there must be some indication that the student will be able to resume full-time study.

### **ABSENCE FROM STUDIES AND SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS**

The Scholarship holder is expected to continue full-time study during the period of which the Scholarship is held (ie there are no breaks between academic semesters or academic years). However, leave of absence may be granted in the following circumstances:

### **RECREATION LEAVE**

The Scholarship holder will be granted recreation leave for three annual periods of four weeks during the three years of tenure. Recreation leave does not accumulate but is forfeited if not taken within the prescribed period. All periods of recreation leave are subject to the approval of the student's supervisor.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Short absences (eg as a result of illness, attendance at a conference related to postgraduate studies or involvement in a university activity) which the supervisor considers would not interfere with the student's progress need not be reported. However if the period of absence exceeds two weeks, approval should be sought from the University.

### **SUSPENSIONS**

In general, when a student discontinues full-time study, the Scholarship terminates. When a break in study is desired for personal reasons or is unavoidable, the student may intermit the scholarship for a maximum total period of twelve months.

### **OVERSEAS STUDY**

The Scholarship is offered to promote advanced research in Australia. However, in special circumstances, a limited period of supervised study overseas may be approved. The study abroad must be necessary and an integral part of the student's research program and must not exceed twelve months' duration. A student should, after consultation with their supervisor, apply for approval from the University to undertake overseas study at least three months before the proposed date of departure and must not leave Australia before approval is granted. No additional assistance is provided towards the costs associated with overseas study.

### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

If results of the research may be subject to future commercialisation, the successful applicant may be required to sign an intellectual property agreement acknowledging the rights of both the student and the University, in accordance with University policies and procedures.

### **PREVIOUS TENURE OF POSTGRADUATE AWARDS**

An applicant who has previously held an Australian Postgraduate Award or other Postgraduate Scholarship, whether at the University or elsewhere, and who has relinquished the scholarship without completing the work for the degree concerned will be given a low priority when selecting the successful candidates.

### **PAYMENTS**

Payments in respect of the Scholarship will be made directly by the trustees to the University, half yearly in advance, upon presentation of an invoice. The University shall also provide at that time a half yearly acquittal of funds to the trustees. Payments of the stipend to the successful applicant will be disbursed by the scholarships administration of the University.

Funding will be approved by the trustees which will be sufficient to enable the successful applicant to undertake a Masters degree of not less than two years or a PhD degree of not less than three years.

No provision has been made under the scholarship for payment of HECS, Student Union Fees or Research Maintenance Allowances.

**DISCLAIMER**

The University accepts no responsibility for continuing support of the successful applicant in the event that the Scholarship ceases to be funded for any reason.

*R Lawrence July 1997  
Revised 2001*