

Postgraduate Research Travel Awards

Judging Criteria

Quality of the applicant

- The academic or research ability of the applicant. This is generally evident in the publications of the student, and the experience and knowledge they are able to demonstrate.
- The level of support provided to the candidate by their Head of School/Graduate Research Co-ordinator.

Quality of the proposal

- Clarity of the proposal. The best applications tend to be clear and concise.
- Variety of tasks to be undertaken (lab visits, conference papers, networking etc.) Generally, the best applicants plan to use their trips for multiple purposes: Going to a Conference and visiting a Lab with important equipment.
- The relevance of the proposed travel to the applicant' s current research programme (as described by the applicant). Generally, the committee has preferred candidates who can add to their research and explore previously unexpected avenues.
- The costs of the proposed travel relative to the likely benefits

Benefit for the applicant of the proposed travel

- The ability of the student to benefit from the proposed travel.
- On-going benefits for the applicant in his or her current research.

Benefit for others of the proposed travel

- The likely benefit of the proposed travel for others in the applicant's discipline, the University, or the outside community.
- The committee tends to favour candidates who can show that they will be bringing back new skills to the University or to the outside community.

Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Awards [F51251]

Members of the Convocation of UWA Graduates (“Convocation”) provided an initial donation of \$16,750 to establish a travel award to mark the 75th anniversary of The University of Western Australia ('the University').

Since then further donations from members of Convocation and funding from the Central Research Allocation and the Postgraduate Students' Association have provided additional awards including awards to be known as the Geoffrey Kennedy Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award; the Alexander K. Cohen Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award; the Ken and Julie Michael Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award; the Sue Baker Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award; the Barry Marshall and Robin Warren Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award; the Michael Chaney Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award and one or more Postgraduate Students' Association Award(s).

The remaining awards will be known as the Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Awards.

The awards are administered in accordance with the following conditions.

Purpose

1. The purpose of the awards is to enable postgraduate research students of the University to enhance and gain new perspectives on their research through travel within Australia or overseas.

Value

2. The funding available comprises:

(a) annual income from the initial fund, after capitalisation in accordance with Senate policy; and

(b) additional funding by the Council of Convocation, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Postgraduate Students' Association.

3. The funding available provides one or more awards each year, the value and conditions of the awards in any year being determined by the Council of Convocation on the recommendation of the selection committee for the awards.

Eligibility

4.(1) To be eligible to apply for an award, an applicant must have been enrolled for a higher degree by research at this University for at least six months and have had their research proposal accepted by the Board of the Graduate Research School.

(2) A Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award is not granted to the same person twice.

Body responsible for selection

5. The selection committee for the award comprises:

(a) the Dean of the Graduate Research School or nominee;

(b) the Warden of Convocation or nominee;

(c) two members of the Council of Convocation nominated by the Warden;

(d) the President of the Postgraduate Students' Association or nominee; and

(e) an additional member of the Postgraduate Students' Association recommended by the Postgraduate Students' Association's Committee.

Selection criteria

6.(1) The award is made by the selection committee to the applicant(s) who, in its opinion, best demonstrates through their application—

(a) the proposed research to be undertaken;

(b) the relevance of the proposed travel to current and future research;

(c) how the proposed travel benefits or enhances the applicant's research program as outlined in the research proposal lodged with the Graduate Research School; [See (2) below]

(d) the benefits for the student, the University and the outside community which are expected to arise from the proposed travel and research; [See (2) below]

(e) the reasons for visiting any institution and the proposed duration of the visit;

(f) the estimated cost of travel, accommodation and incidentals;

(g) a recommendation on the proposal and a report on the applicant's work to date from their supervisor; and

(h) academic achievement as evidenced by their academic record.

(2) Details of the benefits or enhancements which must be included under (1)(c) and (d) require written endorsement by the applicant's supervisor(s).

Selection process

7. 1 The awards are made by the Council of Convocation on the recommendation of the selection committee.

7.2 Awards will normally be granted to students in the middle years of their candidature who can demonstrate that the travel will lead to new developments in the research or exploration of previously unexpected avenues.

7.3 Preference may be given to applicants who intend to undertake a variety of activities during the proposed travel, such as conference attendance and visiting other institutions to bring back new skills or techniques to UWA.

Awarding body

8. The award is made by the Council of Convocation.

Method of payment

9. The award is paid in one instalment upon presentation of original receipts for travel up to a maximum value determined each year by the Council.

Application procedure

10.(1) The awards are advertised annually on the Convocation website:
<http://www.convocation.uwa.edu.au/prizes-and-scholarship>

(2) Applicants must complete and submit the online application form by the advertised closing date.

(3) An applicant must include in their application—

(a) a curriculum vitae;

(b) an application addressing the points outlined in 6(1)(a) to (f) inclusive;

(c) a recommendation on the proposal and a report on the applicant's work to date from their supervisor; and

(d) a copy of the applicant's academic record.

Administering body

11. The award is administered by the Office of Convocation.

Other conditions

12. Each successful applicant may be asked to make a short presentation about the travel undertaken to a meeting of Convocation, nominated by the Warden of Convocation, not later than 12 months after their return from the travel for which the award was made.

Publications

13. Any thesis or other publication arising from research financed wholly or partly by an award must acknowledge the assistance of the Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award and must use the University by-line.