



**Australian
National
University**

GEOFF MERCER AWARD CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. INTRODUCTION

Each year the National Centre of Epidemiology and Population Health ('NCEPH') in the ANU College of Health and Medicine ('the College') may offer an award known as the Geoff Mercer Award ('the Award').

This Award was established and named in honour of Dr Geoff Mercer, a highly regarded Professor at the National Centre of Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) in the College of Health and Medicine, who passed away suddenly in April 2014 at the peak of his career.

This Award will continue Geoff's legacy of mentoring and support of students, by funding a grant for postgraduate NCEPH students to undertake an activity in pursuit of their academic goals, including travel to a National or International conference. Given Geoff's commitment to applying mathematics to population health, especially infectious disease problems, students undertaking research in that area are particularly encouraged to apply.

2. BENEFITS

The value of the Award is stated in the letter of offer. The Award will be paid as a one off payment, unless otherwise stated in the letter of offer.

Travel/activity must be undertaken within 12 months from the time the Award is granted.

The recipient is responsible for making payment of all tuition fees by the prescribed date as set out by the University each session. Recipients of the Award are responsible for the costs of books, study materials, accommodation, and all other costs of study.

3. ELIGIBILITY

The Award is available each year to a continuing ANU student who is:

- (a) a domestic¹ or international² candidate; and
- (b) is enrolled full-time or part-time in a program of study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Master of Philosophy based in the NCEPH.

4. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applications shall be called for with a closing date as set by the NCEPH. The closing date, and application instructions will be advertised on the University scholarship webpage.

5. SELECTION

¹ A student who is an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen, the holder of an Australian Permanent Resident visa or the holder of an Australian humanitarian visa

² A student who is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen or the holder of Australian permanent resident status, and is required to hold a visa to study in Australia and liable for international student fees (ISF) payable to the University either by the student or a sponsor

Selection will be made on the basis of a maximum two-page single-spaced request and justification, for an activity to assist in the pursuit of their academic goals.

The following criteria should be addressed:

- (a) The academic merit of the proposed activity; and
- (b) the benefit of the proposed activity to the student; and
- (c) the benefit to the proposed activity to NCEPH; and
- (d) a 2-3 line budget specifying how the funds will be spent; and
- (e) if the application is related to conference travel, specify if an abstract has been accepted and the type of presentation (oral or poster).

The Award will be offered to an HDR candidate by a Selection Committee nominated by the Director, NCEPH, which will include a Chair and at least two other senior academic staff from NCEPH. The Selection Committee will make a recommendation on the Award to the Director, NCEPH.

The selection committee reserves the right to make no award if it considers there is no applicant of sufficient merit. NCEPH may also vary the number of Awards and/or offer the Award at other times in exceptional circumstances or based on the standard of applications or students (where funds allow).

6. CONCURRENT HOLDING OF AWARDS

A recipient is permitted to hold other scholarships, awards, grants and bursaries concurrently with this Award, provided the terms of the other scholarship permits this also.

7. DEFERMENT

The Award cannot be deferred and must be used for travel within twelve months of receipt. If the recipient is unable to undertake the travel for this Award the funds awarded will be forgone, and possible awarded to the next person on the reserve list, as recommended by the Selection Committee.

8. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

The recipient must undertake the activity for which the Award is granted. If the activity is not undertaken, the NCEPH has discretion to seek repayment of the Award. If there are circumstances beyond the control of the recipient that prevent the recipient from fulfilling the requirement, the NCEPH may allow the recipient to retain the Award.

An Award cannot be transferred to another institution or ANU College.

9. CESSATION OF AWARD

The Award ceases on the date on which the recipient:

- (a) withdraws or ceases to attend the University other than for approved absences; or
- (b) fails to undertake the activity for which the Award was granted; or
- (c) is no longer meeting or has breached the Conditions of Award; or
- (d) breaches academic or behavioural standards set by the University under the *Discipline Rule (2021)* and *Academic Integrity Rule (2021)*.

10. REPAYMENT OF FUNDS

If the intended activity for which funds were applied is not successfully completed, the travel grant must be refunded to the University. The University reserves the right to recover funds if there is evidence the funds were not used for the approved activity.

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11. PROVIDING FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

The Award is based on the information provided to the University. The Award may be withdrawn at any stage if incorrect, false or misleading information is provided or relevant information is withheld. This includes circumstances where the false information is unrelated to the assessment for the Award.

12. VARIATION TO CONDITIONS OF AWARD

In exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, section 5 of these Conditions of Award may be varied by the College Associate Dean HDR on the recommendation of the Director, NCEPH.

13. TAXATION & CENTRELINK

Recipients are responsible for seeking taxation and Centrelink advice (if applicable) regarding their own individual circumstances. Awards may be regarded as taxable income if a recipient is enrolled on a part-time basis.

For information on how the Award may affect Centrelink benefits, see this website <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/income/>

14. ACCOMMODATION

It is the recipient's responsibility to obtain residential accommodation. Information on student accommodation and application forms are available from the University Accommodation Services. Information may be found on the Web at: <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/accommodation>

15. PUBLICITY

The recipient may be requested to participate in publicity for the Award from time to time. This may include publicity in the country of residence or of schooling. Recipients may be contacted for an interview and photograph. The University may also publicise the Award by publishing the names of the recipients. Arrangements for such publicity will be made through the ANU College of Health and Medicine or ANU Communications and Engagement (ACE).

16. CONTACT WITH THE AWARD OWNER

All enquiries regarding the Award and changes, issues, or further information after acceptance should be made to:

National Centre of Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH)

ANU College of Health and Medicine

scholarships.committee.nceph@anu.edu.au

17. DISCLAIMER

The recipient of the Award is subject to *The Australian National University Act 1991* as amended, and to the Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Resolutions of the University.

The Award does not carry any commitment by the University for future employment.

These Conditions of Award should be read in conjunction with the *Research Awards Rule 2021* and Higher Degree Research Policy and Procedures available from the [ANU website](#).

18. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES & RULES

HDR Legislation, policies and procedures - <https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/hdr-policies-procedures>

ANU Academic Integrity Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00997>

ANU Discipline Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00998>

ANU Student Code of Conduct <https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/program-management/student-code-of-conduct>

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