



GEOFF MERCER AWARD

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. INTRODUCTION

Each year the Research School of Population Health (“RSPH”), 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 RSPH, 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 RSPH Higher Degree Research (HDR) Candidates 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, HDR Candidates undertaking research in this area are particularly encouraged to apply.

2. BENEFITS

The value of the Award will be stated in the offer of letter and will be paid in one lump sum instalment, unless otherwise stated in the letter of offer.

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

3. ELIGIBILITY

The Award will be available each year to a continuing HDR Candidate/s who is:

- (a) a domestic or international candidate; and
- (b) enrolled full-time or part-time in a program of study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Master of Philosophy at the RSPH.

4. APPLICATION

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

5. SELECTION

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 RSPH; 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, RSPH, which will include a Chair and at least two other academic staff members from RSPH. The Selection Committee will make a recommendation on the Award to the Director, RSPH.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to make a recommendation of no Award if it considers there are no candidates of sufficient merit. RSPH 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 candidates (where funds allow).

6. CONCURRENT HOLDING OF AWARDS

A recipient of the Award is permitted to concurrently hold other scholarships, awards, grants and bursaries subject to the terms of the corresponding section in the Conditions of Award of the other scholarship/bursary/grant/award that they are holding.

7. DEFERMENT

The Award cannot be deferred.

8. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

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

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 Academic Misconduct & Discipline Rules.

10. REPAYMENT OF FUNDS

If the intended activity for which funds were applied for 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.

11. PROVIDING FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

The offer of an Award is based on the information provided by the HDR Candidate to the University. An 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 in offering the Award.

12. VARIATION TO CONDITIONS OF AWARD

In exceptional circumstances, and on a case-by-case basis, section 6 and/or 7 of these Conditions of Award may be varied by the College Dean on the recommendation of the Director, RSPH.

13. TAXATION & CENTRELINK

Recipients are responsible for seeking taxation and Centrelink advice regarding their own individual circumstances. Scholarships/grants/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, please refer to 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/students/services/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 state or territory 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 the University's Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Office.

16. CONTACT WITH THE ANU COLLEGE

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

Research School of Population Health
ANU College of Health and Medicine
Email: rsph.executive.support@anu.edu.au

17. DISCLAIMER

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

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

These Conditions of Award should be read in conjunction with the University's Research Awards Rule and Candidature and Supervision Policies.

18. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, RULES & RESOURCES

ANU Research Awards Rule - <https://www.anu.edu.au/about/governance/legislation>

ANU Academic Misconduct Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2015L02025>

ANU Discipline Rule - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L00319>

Policy: Higher degree by research – candidature -
https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_012808

Policy: Higher degree by research – supervision -
https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_012812