

Project-focused Postgraduate Research Scholarship Application Guide: The establishment and implementation of the Koori Courts in Victoria; PhD or Masters

This guide is for applicants for a postgraduate research scholarship commencing in 2021 at Victoria University which is available for the pre-defined research project(s) listed in Table 2. Project Outline.

Eligibility: Domestic (Australian citizens, or for those who have been granted permanent resident status, including New Zealand citizens who are granted permanent residency status on arrival) applicants.

Projects: Project summaries are available during the application period at Victoria University's [graduate research scholarships website](#).

This scholarship is for the purpose of undertaking a graduate research degree related to the project outlined in Table 2. Project Outline (Project). The stipend value and included benefits are outlined in Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits, whose terms and duration are outlined below.

Applications will be considered on merit.

A. Contents

A.	Contents.....	1
B.	Key details.....	2
	<i>Table 1. Application due date.....</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>Table 2. Project Outline</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits</i>	<i>2</i>
C.	Domestic Applicants	2
	<i>Eligibility</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>Priority for applications</i>	<i>2</i>
D.	Conditions and Benefits (Domestic awardees).....	2
	<i>Scholarship Allowance.....</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>Special Conditions</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>Duration of the Scholarship</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>Employment.....</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>Commencement</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>Part-time Scholarships.....</i>	<i>3</i>
E.	Scholarship Selection Procedures.....	4
	<i>Eligibility</i>	<i>4</i>
	<i>Ranking against the selection criteria</i>	<i>4</i>
	<i>Final Ranking.....</i>	<i>4</i>
	<i>Appeals.....</i>	<i>4</i>
F.	Application Submission.....	4

B. Key details

Table 1. Application due date

a. Application Due Date	28 February 2021 midnight AEST
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Table 2. Project Outline

Item	Detail	
a. Expected Commencement Date	Semester 2, 2021	
b. Project Title	The establishment and implementation of the Koori Courts in Victoria	
c. Funding Agency	Australian Research Council	
d. Funding Agency ID	NA	
e. Chief Investigator	Professor Kathy Laster	
f. Special Conditions	Intellectual Property Assignment Required	No
	Working with Children Check Required	No
	Police Check Required	No
	Other conditions	Not applicable

Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits

Item	Detail
a. Value of stipend per annum	\$29,000 (2021 rate)
b. Fixed rate or incremented	Incremented
c. Fee offset included	RTP Fee Offset
d. Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)	NA
e. PhD and/or Master Research Degrees available	PhD or Masters
f. Part-Time Available	No

C. Domestic Applicants

Eligibility

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

- ◆ Be Australian citizens, **OR** have been granted permanent resident status

(This includes New Zealand citizens who are granted permanent residency status on arrival)

Meet the minimum academic entry and English language requirements for admission- see website for further details: <https://www.vu.edu.au/study-at-vu/how-to-apply/apply-for-graduate-research/higher-degree-by-research-hdr-scholarship-eligibility>

Priority for applications

- ◆ Priority will be given to applicants who have not already completed a degree at the same level as the proposed candidature or at a higher level

D. Conditions and Benefits (Domestic awardees)

Successful applicants will receive a full guide to the conditions and benefits of the Scholarships at the time of offer. The following is a summary of the main benefits and conditions.

Scholarship Allowance

The annual value of the stipend is provided in Item (a) Value of Stipend per Annum in Table 3. Stipend Value and Included

Benefits. If Item (b) of Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits is marked as “Incremented” .then stipend payments are indexed annually and are currently exempt from taxation.

Domestic scholarship holders will be granted a fee offset or Research Training Program fee-offset covering tuition fees for the duration of the course. In 2019, the value of this component of the Award is between \$14,000 and \$16,100.

Holders of Scholarships may:

- Be in receipt of minor award, allowances or other earnings which are supplementary to a scholarship, or derived from part-time work within the guidelines set out by Victoria University
- Receive stipend top up funding from industry, provision for fieldwork, equipment and other such expenses not covered by the scholarship. Funds towards overseas travel costs may be obtained from Commonwealth awards or other sources.

Special Conditions

If item (f) of Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits includes:

- the response “Yes” to the item “Intellectual Property Assignment Required” then the scholarship holder will be required to assign intellectual property they create while working on this project (excluding copyright in the thesis) to the University through a formal agreement; or
- the response “Yes” to the item “Working Children Check Required” then the scholarship holder will be required to secure a Working with Children Check before commencing the Project and Scholarship; or
- the Response “Yes” to the item Police Check Required, then the scholarship holder will be required to secure a Police Check before commencing Project and Scholarship; or
- Other Special Conditions, then the Other Special Conditions must be met and abided by the scholarship holder throughout the Project.

Duration of the Scholarship

All students are expected to complete their study in the timely duration for their degree.

For applicants commencing their enrolment in a research degree, the stipend is awarded for three and half years for Doctoral studies. Tuition fee component of the scholarship will be awarded for 4 years.

For applicants who are currently enrolled in the Masters or Doctoral degree for which they are seeking the Scholarship or a PhD Integrated, the period of enrolment already completed in the degree will be deducted from the duration of the Scholarship.

Doctoral Degrees (not available if Item (e) of Table 3 is “Research Masters Only”)

For applicants commencing their enrolment in a research degree, the scholarship will be awarded for three and half years for Doctoral studies.

Masters (Research) (not available if Item (e) of Table 3 is “PhD Only”)

For applicants commencing their enrolment in a Masters Research Degree, the scholarship (stipend and tuition fee) is for the duration of the course (1 year for the 1 year degree; 1.5 years for the 1.5 year degree; 2 years for the 2 year degree)

If a Master Research Degree or Doctoral scholarship holder exceeds the timely duration of of the enrolled degree, they will be liable for tuition fees should they be required to enrol in the semester beyond timely duration.

Employment

Candidates are paid to study on a full-time basis and are only permitted to undertake a strictly limited amount of employment. Candidates are not permitted to undertake additional paid work for than a maximum of 15 working hours on average in any one week. Employment must not interfere with the candidate’s progress.

Commencement

No deferrals of the Scholarship will be considered. All successful applicants are expected to commence study by the Commencement Date advised in the Letter of Offer. The Commencement Date will normally be the Expected Commencement Date in Item (a) of Table 2. Project Outline (see above), however the University reserves the right to change the Commencement Date in the Letter of Offer when offering a scholarship.

If an applicant cannot start by the Commencement Date, the offer of the Scholarship may be withdrawn.

Part-time Scholarships

If Item (f) of Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits is marked “No” then Funding Agency requirements for the Project mean

that the scholarship cannot be offered for part-time study.

If Item (f) of Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits is marked “Yes” the Scholarship may be available for part-time study to those who are unable to study full-time for all or part of their candidature. Where Item (f) of Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits is marked “yes” part-time scholarships can only be approved only in the following specific instances:

Where the scholarship holder has:

- A medical condition which limits the capacity to undertake full-time study (supported by medical certification), OR
- Care responsibilities for a pre-school child, OR
- Care responsibilities for a school aged child as a sole parent with limited access to support, OR
- Care responsibilities for an invalid or disabled spouse, child or parent

Part-time scholarships are **NOT** available to applicants who wish to study part-time in order to undertake full or part-time employment. Part-time scholarship holders are subject to the same restrictions on employment as full-time scholarship holders. Applicants wishing to be considered for a part-time scholarship must meet the criteria listed above. Applicants must provide evidence of the reason(s) they are unable to study full time. They also require the agreement of the supervisor and the University to the part-time arrangements.

E. Scholarship Selection Procedures

Eligibility

All applications are assessed against the eligibility criteria for the scholarship scheme. Those applications deemed ineligible for a scholarship will not be processed any further and ineligible applicants will be notified of the result.

Due to increased competition in recent years applicants are requested to provide transcripts with actual marks whenever possible.

Ranking against the selection criteria

The Project Supervisor will rank eligible applications on the basis of academic merit, relevant research experience, publications, relevant work experience, referee reports and may identify applications which are not for further consideration (NFFC).

The Project Supervisor may contact an applicant directly for more detail regarding their application.

The Project Supervisor (and, if appropriate, a representative of the industry partner) may interview candidates in person or by tele- or video-conference.

Final Ranking

The Institute Deputy Director will determine a final ranking of applications, identifying the preferred application, a short reserve list and those not to be offered the Scholarship.

Appeals

Appeals can only be lodged against process issues and not against Institute Deputy Director decisions or ranking. Appeals against the outcome of scholarship applications must be made in writing to the Dean and Director, Research Training, Quality and Integrity within 14 days of the applicant being notified of the outcome. Applicants must explain the basis of their appeal and provide relevant documentation and evidence to support the appeal. The appeals process will be carried out by an independent Senior University Officer who is not a staff member who has been part of the process reviewing applications for the Scholarship. The Senior University Officer appointed will consider the appeal and advise the applicant of their decision in writing.

F. Application Submission

Applications must be submitted via the [University's online application form](#), hosted by SmartyGrants by the time and date stated in item (a) of Table 1. Application due date.