



## Moondani Balluk Research Scholarship Application Guide 2019

### A. Moondani Balluk

Moondani Balluk means 'embrace people' in the language of the Wurundjeri people who first lived in the western region of Melbourne.

Moondani Balluk Academic Unit works across Aboriginal, non-governmental organisation and community spaces to deliver teaching, research and support.

### B. Cultural Warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that these pages contain the names of people who have passed away.

### C. Introduction

This guide is for applicants interested in research scholarships offered by VU Research with the Moondani Balluk Academic Unit:

- Lisa Bellear Indigenous Research Scholarship  
Granted to a promising Indigenous Australian researcher wishing to undertake a graduate research degree.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships  
Granted to Indigenous Australian researchers wishing to undertake a graduate research degree
- Foley Collection Research Scholarship  
To enable graduate research projects which use the Foley Collection. Applicants may be international or domestic students,

### Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Applicants

Victoria University recognises that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people are under-represented in graduate research studies. We encourage Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people to undertake their research studies at Victoria University.

Lisa Bellear Indigenous Research Scholarship and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships are only available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (who are citizens of Australia) are eligible to apply for all research scholarships available to domestic students.

Applications will only be received for research projects in Victoria University's Priority or Accreditation Fields of Research. A list of the areas of research priority is available as a drop-down list in the online scholarship application form.

All scholarships include tuition fees and a stipend for the duration of the award.

Scholarship/A	2019 Stipend	Open for**
Lisa Bellear Indigenous Research Scholarship	\$30,000*	Domestic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships	\$30,000*	Domestic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only
Foley Collection Research Scholarship	\$27,600*	Domestic and International applicants
*RTP Stipend - Domestic, VUPRS, VUIPRS and VUDPRS are indexed annually. Figure given is 2019 rate.		

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## E. Acknowledgement of Country

Victoria University (VU) acknowledges the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Boonwurrung, Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) and Wathaurung (Wadawurrung) on our Melbourne Campuses, and the Gadigal and Guring-gai people of the Eora Nation on our Sydney campus. These groups are the custodians of University land and have been for many centuries.

We acknowledge that the land on which our campuses stand is the place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. The Kulin and Eora people's living culture had, and has, a unique role in the life of these regions. VU supports the aim of Reconciliation Australia to build better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the benefit of all Australians.

## F. Lisa Bellear Research Scholarship

The Lisa Bellear Indigenous Research Scholarship provides living allowance support to promising Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students wishing to undertake a graduate research degree.

For eligibility and other details, see the section, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships below.

Applicants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships, will automatically be considered for the Lisa Bellear Research Scholarship

## G. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships

Victoria University recognises that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people are under-represented in graduate research studies and encourages qualified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicants to undertake their research studies at Victoria University.

### Priority

Preference will be given to applicants for the Master of Research or PhD (Integrated) degrees.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarship (including Lisa Bellear Indigenous Research 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)
- ◆ Be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- ◆ Enrol as a full-time student  
(Part-time awards may be available for compelling social or medical reasons)
- ◆ Have had their enrolment into the proposed degree approved by the institution

### For doctoral degrees

- ◆ Have completed a four year undergraduate degree, or equivalent. For example:
  - a four year undergraduate degree (e.g. Engineering or Law)

- a three year degree and an Honours year
- a three year degree and a postgraduate diploma
- a three year degree and one year of a higher degree
- OR
- be undertaking a Master of Research (for applicants to the PhD only) in 2018

#### *For Masters degrees*

- ◆ Have completed a three year undergraduate degree, or equivalent. For example:

NOTE: competition for these awards is intense. Those awarded these scholarships in recent years have held degrees at Distinction level, or equivalent)

You are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for a VU Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarship if you:

- ◆ Have already completed a degree at the same or higher level as the proposed candidature
- ◆ Have held any Victoria University Postgraduate Research Scholarship previously unless it was terminated within six months of the commencement of benefits
- ◆ Are receiving another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake the proposed program ("equivalent" stipend is regarded as more than \$17,000 per annum)

Applicants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships will automatically be considered for the Lisa Belleair Research Scholarship

## H. Foley Collection Research Scholarship

The Foley Collection Graduate Research Scholarship is to enable graduate research projects which use the Foley Collection, a selection of digital works from a major historic archive collected over the past 45 years by Aboriginal activist/academic Gary Foley. It is part of a large scale archive of print, audio visual and digital material currently housed at the Victoria University Moondani Balluk Academic Unit.

The scholarship provides a living allowance of \$27,600 per annum (2019 rate). If the , the successful applicant is an international student, she or he will be awarded a 100% Tuition Fees Scholarship which provides a waiver of tuition fees for the duration of the course- see Conditions and Benefits for further information.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for a Foley Collection Graduate Research Scholarship:

- ◆ Have a research proposal directly related to the Foley Collection
- ◆ Have completed a four year undergraduate degree, or equivalent. For example:
  - a four year undergraduate degree (e.g. Engineering or Law);
  - a three year degree and an Honours year;
  - a three year degree and a postgraduate diploma at an advanced level; or
  - a three year degree and one year of a higher degree.
- ◆ Meet the University's academic entrance requirements for enrolment into a research degree - see website: <http://www.vu.edu.au/international-students/apply-and-accept/entry-requirements> for further details.
- ◆ Meet the University's English language proficiency requirements for enrolment in a research degree – see website: <http://www.vu.edu.au/international-students/apply-and-accept/entry-requirements> for further details.
- ◆ Be commencing a Masters by Research or Doctoral degree in 2019.
- ◆ Enrol as a full-time student.
- ◆ Priority will be given to applicants who pursue a program of study in one of Victoria University's Priority or Accreditation Fields of Research

You are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for if you:

- ◆ Have previously held an IPRS, VUIPRS or OPRS (unless it was for a Masters by Research degree, and you are applying for an IPRS to undertake PhD studies).
- ◆ Are currently studying, or have recently studied, on an AIDAB or AUSAID scholarship and are applying for an IPRS immediately following the AIDAB/AUSAID funded studies.

Priority will be given to:

- ◆ Applicants without an equivalent level degree.

You **MAY NOT** be eligible if you have already enrolled for more than one semester in the degree for which you are applying for RTPSS International or VUIPRS funding. Please contact the Scholarships Coordinator via

## I. Conditions and Benefits (Domestic Awardees)

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

### Scholarship Allowance

Scholarship/Award	Annual Stipend Value*
Lisa Bellear Indigenous Research Scholarship	\$30,000*
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships	\$30,000*
Foley Collection Research Scholarship	\$27,000*
* Lisa Bellear Indigenous Research Scholarships, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships and Foley Collection Research Scholarships are indexed annually.	

- All new full time RTP Stipend Scholarship - Domestic and VU scholarships (including the Lisa Bellear Indigenous Research Scholarship) are indexed annually as per agreed Government rates and are currently tax-exempt.
- The part-time rate (only applicable in approved exceptional circumstances) of \$13,800 per annum (2019 rate for RTP Stipend Scholarship - Domestic, and VU) are also indexed annually but are NOT tax exempt.

Holders of all 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, or obtain from a non-Commonwealth source, 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.

### Research Training Program Fee Offset

In addition to the scholarship allowance provided for any of the domestic above scholarships, each scholarship holder will receive an RTP Fee Offset Place. This will exempt the scholarship holder from paying tuition fees for the duration of the scholarship. Successful recipients will still have to pay the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) every semester.

### Intellectual Property

Applicants should note that they may be required to assign intellectual property they create while working on certain research projects to the University through a formal agreement.

### Duration of the Scholarship

For applicants commencing their enrolment in a research degree, the scholarship is normally for three years for Doctoral studies and two years for Masters by research studies.

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. This includes prior enrolment in a Masters degree where a Masters enrolment has been converted to a Doctoral enrolment.

A scholarship extension of up to six months may be granted to Doctoral candidates where the University is satisfied that the extension is based on grounds which are beyond the control of the candidate and are related to the research rather than of a personal nature. Scholarship extensions are not possible for Masters by research candidates. All students are expected to complete their study in the minimum time for their degree.

If a Doctoral scholarship holder exceeds a maximum duration of 4 years, they may thereafter be required to pay tuition fees.

	0 – 3 years Equivalent Full- Time (EFT)	Extension 1 3 yrs – 3.5 yrs EFT	Extension 2 3.5yrs – 4 yrs EFT	Beyond 4yrs EFT
Living Stipend component of scholarship	Yes	Extension possible	No extension possible	No Extension possible
Fee component of scholarship	Yes	Extension possible	Extension possible	Tuition fees charged (No scholarship)

## Employment

Students are paid to study on a full-time basis and are only permitted to undertake a strictly limited amount of employment. Students 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 student's progress.

## Commencement

No deferrals of the scholarship will be considered. All successful applicants are expected to commence study by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

If an applicant cannot start by 1 February 2019, the offer of the scholarship will be withdrawn.

## Part-time Scholarships

Part-time scholarships may be available to those who are unable to study full-time for all or part of their candidature. 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.

## J. Conditions and Benefits (International awardees)

Successful applicants for the **Foley Collection Research Scholarship** will receive a full guide to the conditions and benefits of the scholarship at the time of offer. The following is a summary of the main benefits and conditions.

### Scholarship Benefits

Recipient of a Foley Collection Research Scholarship at VU receive an award with two components. A Fee Offset scholarship award which provides payment of annual course tuition fees for the duration of the scholarship and a living allowance funded by VU. Recipients are required to join the Overseas Student Health Care Cover (OSHC) scheme. VU will pay the costs of this health cover for holders of the Foley Collection Research Scholarship and their dependants, for the duration of the scholarship.

The following are NOT included:

- travel costs
- the cost of English language testing
- the cost of bridging programs or English language programs

### Scholarship Benefits - Foley Collection Research Scholarship

Recipients of the VUIPRS receive a living allowance of \$27,600 per annum (2019 rate) for the duration of the scholarship. In addition, each recipient receives an RTP Fee Offset scholarship to cover tuition fees for the duration of the scholarship. OSHC will also be covered.

The following are NOT included under the Foley Collection Research Scholarship:

- the cost of English language testing
- the cost of bridging programs or English language programs
- Travel costs from overseas

### Intellectual Property

Applicants should note that they may be required to assign intellectual property they create while working on certain research projects to the University through a formal agreement.

### Duration of the Scholarship

These scholarships are normally provided for 36 months for Doctoral studies and 24 months for Masters studies. Students are expected to complete their study in the minimum time for their course.

A scholarship extension of up to six months may be granted to Doctoral candidates where the University is satisfied that the extension is based on grounds which are beyond the control of the candidate and are related to the research rather than of a personal nature. Scholarship extensions are not possible for Masters by research candidates. All students are expected to complete their study in the minimum time for their degree.

If a Doctoral scholarship holder exceeds a maximum duration of 4 years, they may thereafter be required to pay tuition fees.

	0 – 3 years Equivalent Full- Time (EFT)	Extension 1 3 yrs – 3.5 yrs EFT	Extension 2 3.5yrs – 4 yrs EFT	Beyond 4yrs EFT
<b>Living Stipend component of scholarship</b>	Yes	Extension possible	No extension possible	No Extension possible
<b>Fee component of scholarship</b>	Yes	Extension possible	Extension possible	Tuition fees charged (No scholarship)

### Employment

Students are paid to study on a full-time basis and are only permitted to undertake a strictly limited amount of employment, depending on their visa conditions. Students are not permitted to undertake additional paid work for more than a maximum of 15 working hours on average in any one week. Employment must not interfere with the student's progress.

### Commencement

No deferrals of the scholarship will be considered. All successful applicants are expected to commence study by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019.

If an applicant cannot start by 1 February 2019, the offer of the scholarship will be withdrawn.

## K. Scholarship Selection Procedures

### Eligibility

Applications are assessed against the eligibility criteria for each of the scholarship schemes or awards that are available. Only those applications that are deemed eligible and have provided all required supporting documentation will be forwarded to the Moondani Balluk Ranking Panel for further assessment and ranking.

Due to increased competition in recent years applicants are requested to provide transcripts with actual marks whenever possible. These marks may be used to distinguish between applicants of high academic merit if necessary.

### Appeals

Appeals can only be lodged against process issues and not against Committee decisions or ranking. Appeals against the outcome of scholarship applications must be made in writing to the Chair, University Scholarship Ranking Committee 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 member of the Moondani Balluk Ranking Panel or University Scholarship Ranking Committee that has considered the scholarship applications in a particular year. The Senior University Officer appointed will consider the appeal and advise the applicant of their decision in writing.



## L. Application Submission

Lisa Bellear Indigenous Research Scholarships, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Scholarships and Foley Collection Research Scholarships open on 1 September 2018 and close at 8.00am Australian Eastern Standard Time on **31 October 2018**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

