

SUPPORT OF HDR STUDENTS - FEBRUARY 2008

1. USE OF DEST RECURRENT INCOME FOR HDR SUPPORT

Background

DEST provides to UNE approximately \$5,500 p.a. for three years for each PhD and for two years for each HDR Masters student. The School receives approximately \$3,000 of the \$5,500. DEST supplies these funds as partial compensation to universities for the cost of training HDR students. DEST requires that \$500 p.a. is made available to the students to directly support their research activities. The University is free to allocate the remaining funds as they require.

The ERS policy is designed to make the most strategic possible use of these DEST funds to provide the best possible research environment and experience for our HDR students to enhance the quality of their research outputs, to enhance the quality of their research training and to attract a high number of highest quality students to our HDR program.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES FOR EXPENDITURE

1. Students will have opportunity to access funds to directly support their activities if they have clear need to do so.
2. The School will offer up to \$20,000 per year in competitive awards to support attendance at conferences in Australia.
3. Remaining funds will be used to support research infrastructure, with emphasis given to providing funds for leveraged equipment funding applications such as ARC LIEF.

DIRECT FUNDING SUPPORT TO STUDENT RESEARCH

HDR students are entitled to support for their projects for a variety of items, such as equipment, materials, fieldwork and conference attendance. Funds cannot be used for expenses related to producing theses.

All HDR students may expend up to \$500 per year for three years for PhD and two year for MSc, part-time students can expend up to \$250 per year for six years for PhD and four years for MSc. Students can apply to spend their whole allocation (i.e. \$1,500 for PhD or \$1,000 for MSc) in Year 1 of their candidature for certain justifiable capital expenses (e.g. a computer).

Additional financial support will not normally be provided to HDR students funded by or working within externally funded projects.

Other students may apply for additional funds to support their research up to a maximum of \$2,200 per year for up to three years for PhD and two years for MSc student.

Applicants should submit a project title, budget and brief justification (max 250 words) and detail of external financial support for the project to the HDR Coordinator. The application will need to be supported by the Principal Supervisor. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed periodically.

Unspent funds will not be rolled over into later years unless a formal proposal to do so has been received prior to approval. Students are encouraged to submit a plan for the full 2 years (MSc) or 3 years (PhD).

Access to funding is dependent on students completing 6 and 12 month progress reports and confirmation of candidature and confirmation by supervisors and HDR Coordinator that their progress continues to be satisfactory.

Students are strongly encouraged to apply for funding from other sources. If successful they will not have their school research grants reduced.

COMPUTERS FOR STUDENTS

The School policy is that every HDR student should have a reliable P.C. adequate to run current or recent versions of standard office and analytic software. This will normally mean P.Cs. are not more than four years old.

Projects are encouraged to supply the HDR students with an adequate P.C. wherever possible. Academic staff should recognise that most funding agencies accept the need to include adequate computing resources and should strive to obtain funding for P.Cs. for staff and students on the project.

Where an adequate P.C. is not supplied by the project, the student will be allocated a P.C. from the School pool of HDR P.Cs. A student may apply to have a new P.C., in which case the cost or \$1,500 (whichever is the lesser) will be deducted from their DEST allocation of \$1,500 (\$1,000 for MSc). The School will maintain a pool of new P.Cs. so that such requests can be met immediately.

The School will pay internet and email charges up to \$300 per annum per student. Costs over this threshold will be charged to the student's project.

CONFERENCE AWARDS

The School will award up to \$20,000 per year to support students attending conferences or workshops in Australia. (Students may apply for UNE awards for overseas travel.)

Each student will be eligible to receive no more than one award during their candidature and must attend the conferences/workshops during the normal period of candidature of three years for PhD and two years for MSc students. Students must be the first author (primarily your own work). The presentation of Honours work is acceptable early in the HDR candidature.

Individual awards will be of up to \$1,000.

Applications will be accepted twice each year in March and September, stating details of conferences/ workshop, title of paper/poster to be presented, relevance to research/training, full costs involved, funds available from other sources and amount requested from the School.

Applications will be received and prioritized by the HDR Committee. Priority will be given to contributions that generate DEST eligible outputs.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The Head of School will periodically assess the funding available after accounting for commitments to support of student activities and conference attendance. Such funds will be made available to purchase or refurbish research equipment, with priority given to support of leveraged funding opportunities such as ARC LIEF grants. Applications for access to these funds can be made at any time. Applications must demonstrate how the infrastructure will support current and future HDR student research activities. Priority will be given to infrastructure support activities of many students and that achieve high degrees of leverage of other funds.