



Destination Australia – an Australian Government Initiative

**University of New England
Destination Australia Program
Scholarship
(Higher Degree Research)**

Terms and Conditions

Background

The University of New England has been selected by the Commonwealth Government as one of the tertiary education institutions that will award a number of the new Destination Australia Program (DAP) scholarships for commencement in the 2024 academic year. UNE welcomes the opportunity to provide DAP scholarship support to new domestic and international students interested in undertaking study at Australia's oldest regional university, located in the scenic New England region in northern NSW, with seven residential colleges at its main Armidale campus.

UNE has a long and strong record of world class research in numerous fields. In ERA 2018, UNE gained a top 5-star rating of 'Well above world standard', for 15 specific research fields including: Agriculture, Land & Farm Management; Animal Production; Ecology; Environmental Science & Management; Evolutionary Biology; Genetics; Geology; Macromolecular & Materials Chemistry; Pure Mathematics; Soil Sciences; and Zoology. UNE was rated the second top 4-star category of 'Above World Standard', or 3-star for 'World Standard', for another 12 specific research fields.

Conditions of Award – Higher Degree Research Candidates

Eligibility

A scholarship holder:

- Must have applied for admission but not yet commenced into an accredited Higher Degree Research course of study at UNE during the period 1 January 2024 prior to 30 June 2024.
- Must maintain ongoing residency in the Armidale area for the duration of the scholarship.
- Must maintain a student visa, where applicable, for the duration of the scholarship.

Additional UNE Requirements

A scholarship holder

- Must not have completed a research degree at the same level as the proposed candidature.
- Must be enrolled in their degree as a full-time, on-campus student.
- Once enrolled, must complete bi-annual HDR Progress Reports (in May and October)
- Must provide proof of residential status to comply with eligibility requirements.

Duration of Scholarship

The period of tenure of a scholarship may be 1, 2, 3 or 4 years. Scholarships are renewable bi-annually subject to satisfactory progress and continued eligibility (as noted above) is maintained.

Commencement

A scholarship holder must commence studies by the date specified in the offer letter, or the scholarship may be withdrawn and may be reallocated to another applicant. Candidates who accept the scholarship and subsequently reject it, may only be eligible to re-apply in the following year if the scholarship is relinquished for reasons acceptable to UNE, and within six months of the scholarship's payments commencing.

Destination Australia Scholarship

The Destination Australia Program Scholarship amounts to AU\$15,000 tax free per annum.

Leave Arrangements

The Destination Australia Program scholarship has no provisions for paid or unpaid periods of leave. Any periods of leave requested and/or taken whilst in receipt of the DAP scholarship will result in review of scholarship continuation.

Extension of Scholarship

The Destination Australia Program scholarship has no provisions for extensions.

Enrolment Status

Destination Australia Program recipients are required to maintain a full-time, on-campus enrolment status. Any deviations to these will result in review of scholarship continuation. The Graduate Research School will request evidence to maintain candidate eligibility.

Research at Other Organisations

The University may approve DAP scholarship holders to conduct research at other, approved research facilities for a limited time.

Research Overseas

The University may approve DAP scholarship holders to conduct research at approved research facilities

overseas for archival research or field work, normally for no longer than six months.

Field Work in Australia

The University may approve DAP scholarship holders to conduct field work away from the University. The DAP scholarship makes no additional contribution towards expenses for field work or research away from the University for a limited time, though it is possible (but not guaranteed) that a student's supervising Faculty or School may choose to provide some financial support for field work.

Termination of the DAP Scholarship

DAP Scholarship payments will cease upon the submission of the thesis or at the end of the scholarship, whichever occurs first. Scholarships will be terminated before this time under any of the following conditions:

- i. If the scholarship holder ceases to meet the eligibility criteria, or provide adequate proof of meeting eligibility;
- ii. If, in the opinion of the University, the scholarship holder is not carrying out the course of study with competence and diligence, or in accordance with the offer of scholarship, and no suitable alternative arrangements can be made for the continuation of the HDR candidature;
- iii. If the scholarship holder is in receipt of a progression DAP Scholarship does not meet progression requirements to the next phase of study (i.e. Hons/Grad Dip to HDR)
- iv. On the death, incapacity, resignation or withdrawal of the scholarship holder, or;
- v. If the scholarship holder has committed serious misconduct, including, but not limited to the provision of false or misleading information.

If the scholarship is terminated it may not be reinstated unless the termination occurred in error.

Termination of the scholarship due to failure to meet the scholarship conditions may result in the scholarship recipient's being required to repay part or all of any instalments already received.

Scholarship Administration

The University will be fair and equitable in the use of its discretionary powers. The University recognises the rights of scholarship holders to appeal against decisions. In the first instance problems should be directed to the Graduate Research School.

The University will pay the scholarship holder all entitlements under the award. Payments will be made bi-annually in lump-sum instalments of \$7,500.00.

One lump-sum payment will be payable upon commencement, and; the following lump-sum payment will be payable on or before census date after successful completion of the HDR Progress Reporting round, whichever is the latter in terms of scholarship commencement.

An example of the payment schedule (student in receipt of a two-year DAP scholarship (total \$30,000.00)):

Payment 1	Commencement of candidature and DAP Scholarship in March 2024	Student receives \$7,500.00 (in March 2024)
Payment 2	Completion of October 2024 HDR Progress Report	Student receives \$7,500.00 (by census date 2024)
Payment 3	Completion of May 2024 HDR Progress Report	Student receives \$7,500.00 (by census date 2024)
Payment 4	Completion of October 2024 HDR Progress Report	Student receives \$7,500.00 (by census date 2024)

Specific Student Obligations

Scholarship holders shall:

- diligently and to the best of their ability apply themselves to the successful completion of their degree;
- abide by the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research;
- abide by the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research;
- abide by the Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes; and
- conform to the regulations, including disciplinary provisions, of the University, as described in the University of New England's policies and rules.
- Recipients will be contacted and required to complete an exit survey on consumption of their Destination Australia Program Scholarship