



Higher Degree by Research

Guidelines and Rules

in applying for the

MAWA

Medical Advances Without Animals

Doctoral Research Scholarship

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MAWA Trust Policy and Conditions of support for the **MAWA Doctoral Research Scholarship**

1. Introduction

The MAWA Trust is a registered charity established in 1999 with the aim of promoting research into the development and utilisation of valid techniques and procedures to replace the use of living animals in biomedical research.

To further this aim, the Trust supports, assists and encourages scientists to discover and develop techniques which will replace the current use of living animals. The Trust encourages, through publicity and education, the wider adoption of such techniques.

In practice, we accept it is not always the case that the direct or immediate outcome of a single piece of research will be the complete replacement of animal procedures in a certain field. **However, projects must have the potential to advance the development, validation or application of non-animal methods of research.**

The MAWA Doctoral Research Scholarship has been established with the specific intention of encouraging new scientists to advance the development, validation or application of non-animal methods of research.

2. Scientific Policies and Conditions

Research which is directly relevant to human health problems will receive priority consideration. Acceptable approaches include, but are not limited to, the use of human volunteers, epidemiology, certain human cell lines, certain human tissue or cells *in vitro*, certain micro-organisms, sub-cellular components *in vitro*, pharmacokinetic modelling and computer technology.

Funding will not be made available simply in support of non-animal research per se. The research must be directed towards replacing the use of living animals in current programs within the applicant's laboratory, or, preferably, in the wider field.

Research which requires or involves the use of living animals in any way, even though the ultimate aim may be to replace their use, **will not** be supported. The Trust **will not** fund the purchase or maintenance of animals for any reason.

The trust **does not** offer funding for research which uses (non-human) animal cells, animal tissues or animal cell lines. This reflects recent progress in the culture and availability of human cells and tissues, as well as concerns about the problems of species variation.

The Trust will fund the use of human fetal tissues or human fetal cell lines and the human placenta or amnion from routine deliveries may be used for research provided there is informed consent.

3. Method of Application for the MAWA Doctoral Research Scholarship

Complete the separate Application Form ensuring that all information is included in or as an attachment to the application.

Please note that the nature of the proposed research project, which is forming the basis of the student's doctoral studies, ***must fulfil the strict criteria laid out in these Guidelines and to the satisfaction of the MAWA Advisory Committee.***

The MAWA Doctoral Research Scholarship is only available in support of ***full-time supervised study*** and in institutions which offer an academically sound and properly administered, structured doctoral program.

The closing date for applications is the 31 November each year but may be flexible. Applicants may be notified on the outcome of their application by 31 December or at a later date depending on the date of their application.

4. Selection Process

Applicants should normally hold an Honours Degree at the First Class level, or equivalent qualification.

There are two important selection criteria:

- * The applicant should have a good academic record. This will be assessed from their documented tertiary performance and the reports of the two academic referees.
- * The research project ***must*** address the aims of the MAWA Trust as detailed in Scientific Policy and Conditions (2 above). ***Research which does not address the Trust's principal aim of replacing the use animals or animal tissues in research will not be supported and applications which ignore this principle will not be considered.***

Applicants must be Australian citizens.

The MAWA Scholarship cannot be held concurrently with any other award.

The shortlisted applicants may be required to attend an interview.

5. Tenure of the MAWA Doctoral Research Scholarship

The Trust Scholarship is available for a maximum of three years full time study towards a doctoral degree with the possibility, subject to application, of a six months extension.

Continued support is subject to satisfactory progress as judged by annual reviews conducted as part of the institution's structured doctoral program (see Application Form). These are normally conducted in concert with the student's supervisor(s), the Departmental Academic Postgraduate Student Coordinator and the Head of Department or their nominees.

An annual report of progress and evidence of adherence to the research time lines spelt out in the application must be provided by the holder of the scholarship and signed by the supervisor(s) and Departmental Academic Postgraduate Student Coordinator. The annual report must be forwarded to the MAWA Trust by 30 November of each year of scholarship tenure.

Within six months of termination of the MAWA Trust Scholarship the student must prepare and submit a two-page summary of the three year research program, including copies of any publications and the accepted thesis.

6. Student Supervision

To ensure that the student receives appropriate supervision and research training he or she must be part of an appropriately structured and administered Doctoral Program within the parent institution.

The laboratory or facility in which the student's research is to be undertaken must have the appropriate support facilities and funding to allow the three year program to be followed to a successful completion.

7. Financial Provisions

The MAWA Scholarship will be funded through the institution where the research project and doctoral program are being conducted.

The funds will be paid to the Bursar or equivalent financial manager of that institution in quarterly instalments, in advance.

The annual remuneration is \$25,000 free of income tax and covering an annual stipend of \$22,500 and, subject to approval of the MAWA Trust, reimbursement of identified acceptable costs up to a maximum of \$2,500 per annum (see below).

Subject to application and approval by the Trust a six months extension of the normal three year term of the scholarship is allowed.

The awarding of the scholarship does not imply an employer/employee relationship and therefore the MAWA Trust does not pay for holidays or leave loading, worker's compensation insurance or superannuation.

The MAWA Scholarship must be taken up within twelve months of the offer of the award.

8. Allowable expenses in addition to the annual stipend

Where a student is presenting a paper or poster of his or her doctoral research work at a national or international meeting a reasonable contribution may be made to defray costs incurred. Such costs will be met for only one meeting per annum and award of costs will be dependent on the student providing a copy of the accepted abstract and appropriate justification of expenses.

Subject to application to the Trust a contribution may be made to defray to costs of publication of work deriving from the doctoral research studies in peer reviewed journals.

Subject to application to the Trust a contribution may be made in the final year of study to defray to costs of preparation of the doctoral research thesis.

The award of any other benefits will be determined on application by the scholarship holder to the Trust.

Any unexpended funds each year are to be returned to the MAWA Trust by the administering institution.

9. Termination of the Scholarship

The MAWA Trust may terminate a scholarship if, in the opinion of the Trust's Advisory Committee:

The research is not being carried out with competence and diligence.

Satisfactory progress is not being made.

Reporting on the project is unsatisfactory.

The holder of the scholarship ceases to be engaged in the project or is absent from the project for more than one month without prior approval.

The research project ceases to adhere to the approved objectives of the MAWA Trust.

Any unexpended balance held by the institution on termination of the scholarship must be returned to the MAWA Trust.

A decision by the Trust to terminate a scholarship will be final.

10. Publications

The Trust must be acknowledged in any publication, including the Doctoral Thesis, arising from the research work conducted during tenure of the Scholarship.

Such acknowledgments must use the Trust's full name, namely, ***The MAWA (Medical Advances Without Animals) Trust.***

One copy of each piece of published work, including a bound final copy of the thesis after the examination process has been completed, must be sent to the Trust.

GCS 22/07/03