

TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up Awards 2018: Round 2 Guidelines

BACKGROUND

The Translational Cancer Research Network (TCRN) is a member-based network formed to create an innovative and supportive environment for the translation of cancer research findings into improvements in patient care and outcomes. Members participate actively across a range of activities in the field of translational cancer research.

The TCRN supports our members by providing the enabling foundation, coordination and resources required to empower you to formulate and implement research-led advances in cancer research, treatment and care. Our vision is to create a culture that empowers our members to formulate and implement research-led improvements in patient care.

The TCRN comprises the founding institutions of the University of New South Wales (UNSW), comprehensive cancer centres at Prince of Wales and St George and Sutherland hospitals, cancer services at the Royal Hospital for Women, the Border Medical Oncology Research Unit (a regional cancer service in the Border/East Hume region of NSW and Victoria), and the University of Technology, Sydney.

INTRODUCTION

The TCRN will support PhD students with a strong alignment to the TCRN via award a number of 3-year, 2-year, and 1-year (final year) PhD Scholarship Top-up Awards in Semester 2, 2018 to students who have received funding via a peer-reviewed, competitive scholarship through 1) UNSW and who are enrolled in a UNSW Medicine School with a strong alignment to the TCRN OR 2) UTS and who are enrolled within any school in the Faculties of Science and Health or the Business School, *see eligibility criteria for more details*.

The TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up awards are designed to enhance the translational cancer research capabilities of PhD students who possess research interests aligned to the core strengths of the TCRN. This will be achieved by promoting access to a strong foundation of research support services, including opportunities for professional development and the mentoring and expertise of experienced translational cancer researchers. Recipients of TCRN PhD Top-up awards are expected to participate in TCRN-led activities and events and to contribute to the TCRN when opportunities arise.

Available awards

A. First-year student: 3-year top-up (\$5,000 per year stipend + \$2,500 research support for up to three years)

B. Second-year student: 2-year top-up (\$5,000 per year stipend + \$2,500 research support for up to two years)

C. Final-year student (a minimum of 12 months): 1-year top-up (\$5,000 stipend)

- Awards will be paid for the duration of the PhD program (max of 3 years), subject to satisfactory progress.
- Awards for 3-year and 2-year top-up recipients also include a further \$2,500 over 3 years and 2 years, respectively, for conference travel and other relevant expenses over the candidature (provided in annual instalments). Students who receive a top-up are not eligible for the TCRN's Conference and Professional Development Grants.
- Awards are competitive and merit-based and the research project must be aligned to TCRN core strengths, including demonstrating the translational application of the research as well as an awareness of the importance of consumer engagement

ELIGIBILITY

Students will be eligible for consideration for a TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up award in 2018 if they:

1. Have applied for and won a competitively awarded scholarship that either commences or successfully continues in 2018 e.g. the Domestic Research Training Program (RTP)), University Postgraduate Award (UPA), UTS Doctoral Scholarship (UTSD) or NHMRC for domestic applicants or the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS), UTS President's Scholarship (UTSP), University International Postgraduate Award (UIPA) for international applicants.
Important: to be eligible for 1-year top-up, final year students must show that they have a minimum of 12 months left in their full scholarship award.
2. Are undertaking a full-time PhD degree either in the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Health or the Business School at UTS or a UNSW Medicine School with a strong alignment to the TCRN. Students may either be:
 - i. Commencing full-time study during the 2018 UTS or UNSW academic year, or
 - ii. Currently enrolled and within either their second or third year of full-time study during the 2018 UTS or UNSW academic year.
3. Have a research interest aligned to the core strengths of the TCRN and can demonstrate the translational relevance of this research to improvements in cancer patient care and clinical outcomes. Core strengths of the TCRN include molecular basis of the cancer, new therapeutics, health services research, cancer epidemiology, and clinical trials. Site specific areas are ovarian cancer, brain tumours, haematological malignancy, and gastrointestinal tract malignancy.
4. Have a principal (primary) or joint principal (joint primary) supervisor who is on the current TCRN Membership list, as listed on the TCRN website (see [here](#)). Although not compulsory, every effort should be made to identify a potential clinical PhD supervisor.
5. Have a letter of support from the primary supervisor which also confirms that there are sufficient resources to support the project.
6. Submit a completed TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up Award 2018 application form with appropriate supporting documents.

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

1. Applications received after the closing date will be regarded as late and will not be considered.
2. The eligibility criteria must be met.

3. PhD Students receiving the TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up Award will be expected to actively participate in the TCRN PhD Skills & Development Program throughout their TCRN Scholarship, including but not limited to:
 - i. Attending and actively participating in the TCRN PhD Skills & Development workshops. The workshops will provide specific skills and knowledge related to translational research and research communication.
 - ii. Presenting at an approved Postgraduate Research Seminar at least once per year during their candidature and supporting fellow PhD Top-up recipients by attending any regular seminar sessions throughout the year.
 - iii. Contributing when requested to the TCRN newsletter or website with articles, and generally participating in the TCRN and attending TCRN events where possible.
 - iv. Attending events hosted by the UTS or UNSW Graduate Research Schools (GRS).
 - v. Attending a minimum of **6** Randwick Precinct Cancer Roundtables, a monthly multidisciplinary forum coordinated by the Prince of Wales Hospital Cancer Services or equivalent (UNSW recipients only). UTS-based students are required to attend a minimum of **4** Cancer Grand Rounds per year.
 - vi. Submitting a TCRN Annual Progress Report for each calendar year by January of the following year.
4. Successful applicants must maintain full-time enrolment at your organisation and satisfactorily complete an annual progress review.
5. Successful applicants must correctly acknowledge the TCRN's support in any documentation related to this scholarship in accordance with the TCRN Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines and TCRN Guidelines for Logo Use, and promote the TCRN's translational cancer research activities amongst other students.
6. Successful applicants will be required to sign a Letter of Acceptance and agree to these conditions in writing.

FUNDING ROUNDS IN 2018

In 2018, the TCRN will provide 2 rounds of PhD Scholarship Top-up Awards. The deadline for the Round 2 is listed below. Late applications will not be considered.

Round	Applications open	Applications close
Round 2	Tuesday 30 April 2018	5pm, 25 June 2018

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Complete the TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up Award 2018 application form in conjunction with these guidelines.
2. Prepare additional supporting documents:
 - a. A letter from your Faculty or GRS confirming receipt of a competitively awarded scholarship (e.g. APA or equivalent)

- b. *Curriculum vitae* including details of key academic marks awarded from previous degrees
 - c. Certified copies or originals of academic transcripts (clearly legible)
 - d. Letter of support from the Primary or Principal supervisor which also confirms that there are sufficient resources to complete the research project in accordance with your organisation's WHS standards.
3. Submit the completed application form (as a WORD DOCUMENT) with all other supporting documents as a SINGLE PDF, via email to tcrngrants@unsw.edu.au with subject line *PhD Scholarship Top-up*.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 5pm, 25 June 2017.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained by contacting the TCRN Operations and Projects Team:
tcrngrants@unsw.edu.au.