TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up Awards 2013
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 award a number of 3-year 2-year, and 1-year (final year) PhD Scholarship Top-up Awards throughout the 2012–2016 academic years to students who have received funding via a peer-reviewed, competitive scholarship through UNSW and who are enrolled within any school in the UNSW Faculty of Medicine. 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.

Available awards
A. First-year student: 3-year top-up ($5,000 per year stipend + $5,000 research support for up to three years)
B. Second-year student: 2-year top-up ($5,000 per year stipend + $3,000 research support for up to two years)
C. Final-year student: 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 $5,000 and $3,000, respectively, for conference travel and other relevant expenses over the candidature (provided in annual instalments).
• Awards are competitive and merit-based and the research project must be aligned to TCRN core strengths, including demonstrating translational application.
FUNDING ROUNDS IN 2013

In 2013, the TCRN will provide two rounds of PhD Scholarship Top-up Awards. The deadlines for the two rounds are listed below. Late applications will not be considered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Applications open</th>
<th>Applications close</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round 1</td>
<td>Thursday 22 November 2012</td>
<td>4pm Wednesday 23 January 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round 2</td>
<td>Monday 20 May 2013</td>
<td>4pm Monday 24 June 2013</td>
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ELIGIBILITY

Students will be eligible for consideration for a TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up award in 2013 if they:

1. Have applied for and won a competitively awarded scholarship that either commences or successfully continues in 2013. e.g. the Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), University Postgraduate Award (UPA) or NHMRC for domestic applicants or the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS)/University International Postgraduate Award (UIPA) for international applicants.

2. Are undertaking a full-time PhD degree in 2013 within any school in the Faculty of Medicine at UNSW. Student may either be:
   i. Commencing full-time study during the 2013 UNSW academic year, or
   ii. Currently enrolled and within either their second or third year of full-time study during the 2013 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.

4. Have a primary (or joint primary) supervisor who is on the current TCRN Membership list AND a member of a TCRN Member Group, as listed on the TCRN website (see [here](#)).

5. Have written confirmation that the primary supervisor has sufficient resources to support the project.

6. Agree to actively participate in the TCRN PhD Skills & Development Program, including regular attendance of POWCS Postgraduate Research Seminars and TCRN PhD workshops, and presenting at an approved Postgraduate Research Seminar at least once per year during their candidature.

7. Submit a completed and signed TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up Award 2013 application form with appropriate supporting documents.

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

1. Applications received after the closing dates 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 To-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 two full-day TCRN PhD Skills & Development workshops in 2013. The workshops will provide specific skills and knowledge related to translational research and research communication. For the 2013 calendar year, these workshops are scheduled tentatively in March and July.
ii. Presenting at an approved Postgraduate Research Seminar at least once per year during their candidature and supporting your fellow researchers by attending the 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 UNSW Graduate Research School.

v. Attending a minimum of 6 Cancer Grand Rounds per year, a monthly multidisciplinary forum coordinated by the Prince of Wales Hospital Cancer Services.

vi. Submitting a TCRN Annual Progress Report at the end of each TCRN Scholarship year.

4. Successful applicants must maintain full-time enrolment at UNSW and satisfactorily complete all annual progress reviews.

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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Complete the TCRN PhD Scholarship Top-up Award 2013 application form in conjunction with these guidelines.

2. Prepare additional supporting documents of:
   a. A full copy of your competitively awarded scholarship application (e.g. APA or equivalent), ensuring inclusion of:
   b. Curriculum vitae, and
   c. Certified copies or originals of academic transcripts (clearly legible)
   d. Letter from the primary supervisor confirming that there are sufficient resources to complete the research project in accordance with UNSW OH&S standards.

3. Submit the completed and signed application form with supporting documents by emailing a scanned application as a SINGLE PDF to tcrngrants@unsw.edu.au with subject line PhD Scholarship Top-up.

   NOTE – applicants may use the ACP printer/scanner on Level 4 of the Lowy Cancer Research Centre to scan and email all documentation directly to the TCRN. Select recipient No. 079 (‘TCRN Grants’) from the address book.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 4pm Wednesday 23 January 2013. The successful applicants will be announced by March 2013.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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