GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS FOR GABCC PhD TOP-UP SCHOLARSHIPS
commencing 2009

GABCC PhD Top-up Scholarship

The Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee (GABCC) PhD top-up scholarships (the Scholarship) are awarded to current or prospective PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) students at Australian universities and institutions. The awards are open to doctoral students who are engaged in any discipline of research that supports improved management of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) including ecological, physical, cultural or socioeconomic approaches. See the Research Prospectus for the GAB for priority research areas and topics. Application and referee forms be obtained from the GABCC website's PhD Top-up Scholarship page.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be an Australian citizen or have Australian Permanent Resident status.
- The PhD research project must be in accordance with the objectives of the Research Prospectus
- Applicants must be enrolled, or finalising enrolment in a full-time PhD research degree at any accredited Australian university.
- Applicants must be successful in obtaining a primary scholarship such as an Australian Postgraduate Award or equivalent.

Application deadline. There is no closing date. Applications may be submitted at any time to the GABCC Scholarship Committee.

The selection process

The GABCC Scholarship Committee will review applications and shortlist candidates as assessed by merit against criteria including:

- academic and research track-record
- significance of the research proposal to the future management of the GAB
- referee reports.

Particular consideration will be given to research projects that are compatible with the Research Prospectus. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within six to eight weeks after it has been lodged. The applicant must advise the Scholarship Committee within five working days whether he/she wishes to accept the offer of award. Scholarship winners will also be announced on the GABCC website.

The GABCC reserves the right not to award Scholarships for any reason.

Tenure of GABCC PhD Top-up Scholarships

- Scholarships are awarded for a maximum duration of three years from initial enrolment in the PhD.
- Scholars must advise the GABCC of the expected commencement date of the Scholarship.
- Scholars are expected to commence studies within three months of the award, unless the GABCC Scholarship Committee agrees otherwise.
- Subject to satisfactory progress, the Scholarship will be renewed each year.
- The Scholarship will cease upon submission of the thesis for a Doctorate or when the award expires, whichever is the earlier.

Conditions of award

The Scholarship recipient ('the Scholar) must comply with the conditions of award stipulated in their primary scholarship. The Scholar is also expected to follow the policy and protocols of the administering institution.

As a condition of award, the Scholar will:

- submit an annual progress report in writing, within one year of commencement and then each twelve months, to the GABCC Scholarships Committee (the report can be the same as delivered to the Scholar's university, and must be endorsed by the primary supervisor)
- acknowledge the GABCC's support in publications and presentations related to the project, and provide copies of publications and proceedings (electronic or paper) to GABCC
- deliver a presentation to a GABCC meeting on the outcomes of the research
- contact the GABCC regarding media coverage of the research

- supply two bound copies and an electronic copy of the final approved version of their thesis to the GABCC.

Extension and deferment

If an extension or deferment is approved by the granting body for the primary scholarship, the Scholar must notify the GABCC in writing by registered mail within 10 working days of the date of approval. GABCC may, at its discretion, grant an extension or deferment to the Scholarship. Consideration may be given to the deferment of a Scholarship for a maximum period or periods totalling twelve months. Any Scholar not granted an extension must relinquish the award. Consideration may be given to a period of extension for a maximum period of six months.

Administering institution

Prior to the award of a Scholarship, certification that the administering institution endorses the application and is willing to administer the Scholarship must be received by the GABCC. Acceptance of the Scholarship will indicate that the candidate accepts the 'Conditions of Award'. The administering institution shall provide the facilities and services necessary for the efficient conduct of research during the term of the Scholarship. The GABCC does not provide funds for administrative charges to administering institutions. If a researcher relocates during the term of the grant, he/she must notify the GABCC in writing as soon as possible.

Financial administration

- The total stipend attached to the Scholarship will be $5000 per annum and will be paid to the administering institution at the beginning of each year of study. Payments will be made to the Scholar as a regular stipend rather than a lump sum.
- GABCC offers of funding are made on the understanding that the applicant will accept primary scholarship funding for the duration of the GABCC Scholarship from another funding body.
- The student is responsible for obtaining any tax exemption or advice for their study.
- The awarding of a Scholarship does not imply an employer/employee relationship; therefore, the GABCC does not pay for workers' compensation insurance or Superannuation Guarantee Contributions.

Termination of a Top-up Scholarship

The Scholarship will be terminated or suspended at the discretion of the GABCC if:

- the full scholarship is terminated for any reason; or
- the university or the GABCC Scholarship Committee, after investigation, determine that the research for which the Scholarship is approved is not being carried out:
    - with competence, diligence, and scientific honesty and with appropriate ethics clearances; or
    - in accordance with the conditions of award; or
    - on the grounds of permanent incapacity or illness, and no alternative arrangements can be made for continuation of the PhD.
- the Scholar ceases to be a full time student; or
- the Scholar does not resume study at the conclusion of a period of deferment, or does not make arrangements to extend a current period of deferment.

If the Scholar wishes to terminate the Scholarship, they must notify the GABCC within 10 working days in writing of such an intention.

When a Scholarship terminates under any circumstances, any unexpended balance / funds shall be returned to the GABCC.

Privacy and confidentiality

All information contained in applications will be regarded as confidential. Applicants consent to the information supplied as part of their application being disclosed for the purposes of the assessment of their application and for purposes connected with the making and administration of the GABCC PhD Top-up Scholarship.

Enquiries about the GABCC PhD Top-up Scholarship can be directed to the GABCC Scholarship Committee via email: gabcc@secretariat.com.au or telephone on (02) 6295-7573.