
PROJECT- FOCUSSED POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STIPEND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDE

Aboriginal History Archive: *Resetting the record: Indigenous history, truth and justice*

Doctor of Philosophy/Masters by
Research (Aboriginal or Torres Strait
Islander applicants ONLY)

August 2023
Version 1.0

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Acknowledgement of Country

Victoria University (VU) acknowledges the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Boonwurrung, Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) and Wathaurung (Wadawurrung) on our Melbourne Campuses, and the Gadigal and Guring-gai people of the Eora Nation on our Sydney campus. These groups are the custodians of University land and have been for many centuries.

We acknowledge that the land on which our campuses stand is the place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. The Kulin and Eora people's living culture had, and has, a unique role in the life of these regions. VU supports the aim of Reconciliation Australia to build better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the benefit of all Australians.

Moondani Balluk

Moondani Balluk means 'embrace people' in the language of the Wurundjeri people who first lived in the western region of Melbourne. Moondani Balluk Academic Unit works across Aboriginal, non-governmental organisation and community spaces to deliver teaching, research and support

Cultural Warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that these pages contain the names of people who have passed away

About the Aboriginal History Archive

The [Aboriginal History Archive](#) (AHA) is built around the [Foley Collection](#). It houses items arising out of the Aboriginal Black Power, Land Rights and Self-Determination movements. It spans a century of activism from the 1920s onwards. Most of the material has been collected by [Professor Gary Foley](#) throughout his fifty-year career as an activist, performer, polemicist, historian and teacher. To learn more about the Aboriginal History Archive [visit us here](#)

Key Details

This guide is for applicants interested in a postgraduate research scholarship, at Victoria University, commencing in 2024, offered by VU Research with the Aboriginal History Archive, which is available for the pre-defined research project listed in [Table 2. Project Outline](#).

Eligibility: Victoria University recognises that Aboriginal people are under-represented in graduate research studies. We encourage Aboriginal people to undertake their research studies at Victoria University.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants ONLY

This scholarship is for the purpose of undertaking a graduate research degree related to the project outlined in [Table 2. Project Outline](#) (Project).

The stipend value and included benefits are outlined in [Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits](#), whose terms and duration are outlined below.

Applications will be considered on merit.

Table 1. Application due date

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| a. Application Due Date | 15 October 2023 |
| Additional rounds may be held in 2024. | |

Table 2. Project Outline

| Item | Detail | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|
| a. Expected Commencement Date | Commencing Semester 1 2024 | |
| b. Project Title | Resetting the record: Indigenous history, truth and justice | |
| c. Funding Agency | Paul Ramsay Foundation | |
| d. Funding Agency ID | N/A | |
| e. Chief Investigator | Professor Gary Foley | |
| f. Special Conditions | Intellectual Property Assignment Required | No |
| | Working with Children Check Required | No |
| | Police Check Required | Yes |
| | Other conditions | N/A |

Table 3. Stipend Value and Included Benefits

| Item | Detail |
|---|----------------------|
| a. Value of stipend per annum | \$45,000 (2023 rate) |
| b. Fixed rate or incremented | Flat rate |
| c. Fee offset included | RTP Fee Offset |
| d. Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) | NA |
| e. PhD and/or Master Research Degrees available | PhD or Masters |
| f. Part-Time Available | No |

Eligibility

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

- i. Be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait islander person

- ii. Have an average final year or Honours year grade of H1 (VU Standard 70% or above) or equivalent
 - a. Applicants may refer to Step 2: **Check your eligibility** on the Apply for Graduate Research page to ascertain if you meet the minimum academic entry requirements for admission
- iii. Enrol as a full-time candidate (part-time-award may be available for compelling or medical reasons)
- iv. Applicants who have been accepted by Victoria University for entrance into the proposed degree
- v. Complete the application form and provide all required documentation, including the contact details of two referees

Selection

Selection Criteria

Applications are assessed against the selection criteria which are: academic merit, relevant research experience, relevant research publications or creative works, relevant work experience, strategic alignment and referee reports (as required)

Strategic Alignment

Be community oriented and have a strong understanding of the nature of community control. To discuss your strategic alignment please contact Rochelle Lepper, Manager, Aboriginal History Archive Rochelle.Lepper@vu.edu.au

Academic Merit

The academic achievement of the applicant based on their results in their relevant qualification which demonstrates the applicant's ability or potential ability to undertake a Research Degree project to a high standard.

Relevant Research Experience

Experience in relevant research activities outside of a research training degree. These include but are not limited to; 6 or more weeks internship; technical assistant with supervision; ongoing research assistant with limited supervision; management of a small research team; patent or patent application (listed as inventor with description of contribution)

This information must be included in your curriculum vitae.

Research publications and creative works

Peer reviewed research publications and published creative works. The criterion is based on relevance to the proposed project; quality of journal; authorship; contribution; critical

reviews of creative works.

Your curriculum vitae must include a bibliographic reference of (up to) your top five publications with your **ORCID number**. If a publication has been accepted by a publisher but not yet published, an acceptance letter from the publisher must be included. **DO NOT** provide copies of your publications. If you do not provide sufficient supporting documentation, your publications will not be taken into account.

Relevant work experience

Work experience within the past 10 years that is relevant to research in the field of the proposed research degree.

If you are using work experience as an entry qualification you must provide supporting documentation as detailed on your curriculum vitae. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide proof of their work experience.

Referees

Referees provide an independent assessment of a candidate's academic potential and abilities. Candidates should provide the name and contact details of referees who have first-hand experience of their research capacity. If you are basing your application on work experience, at least one of your referees must be able to comment on your relevant work experience. Family members will not be accepted as referees; nominated supervisors will only be considered if they have firsthand experience of an applicant's research experience (eg. supervised an applicant in a previous project, internship etc).

By providing Victoria University with contact details for your referees, you give permission for Victoria University to contact your referees to discuss your suitability for the degree and competitiveness for a stipend scholarship.

Selection Process

The Project Aboriginal History Archive (AHA) Selection Committee will rank eligible applications on the basis of a strong understanding of the nature of community control, academic merit, relevant research experience, publications, relevant work experience, referee reports and may identify applications which are not for further consideration (NFFC). Applications deemed to be suitable will be invited to interview with the AHA Committee. Successful applicants will be recommended to the Deputy Director, Institute Sustainable Industries & Liveable Cities for final approval.

All applications will receive written notification of the results of their scholarship application by mid-December 2023.

Appeals

Appeals can only be lodged if an unsuccessful applicant believes there is a breach of process in the handling of their application. Appeals against the outcome of scholarship applications must be lodged in writing to dean.gradresearch@vu.edu.au within 10 University business

days of the applicant being informed of the decision. Applicants must explain the basis of their appeal and provide relevant documentation and evidence to support the appeal. The Dean, Graduate Research will undertake or arrange a review, if there is a conflict of interest, of the decision and a written outcome will be provided within 10 University business days of the date that the request was received by Victoria University. If there are any delays to the timeline for the outcome, the Dean Graduate Research will advise the applicant the reason for the delay and the date that they may receive an outcome of the review. The review is final and cannot be appealed within Victoria University

Scholarship Conditions and Benefits

Successful applicants will receive a full guide to the conditions and benefits of this scholarship at the time of offer. The following is a summary of the main benefits and conditions.

Scholarship Allowance

See [Table 3](#) for an outline of the value of living stipend for this scholarship.

Domestic holders of all scholarships may:

- Be in receipt of minor award, allowances or other earnings, which are supplementary to a scholarship, or derived from part-time work within the [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Procedure](#).
- Receive stipend top up funding from industry, or obtain from a non-Commonwealth source, provision for fieldwork, equipment and other such expenses not covered by the scholarship. Funds towards overseas travel costs may be obtained from Commonwealth awards or other sources.

RTP Fee Offset

In addition to the scholarship allowance provided for this scholarship, each scholarship holder will receive a RTP Fee Offset Place. This will exempt the scholarship holder from paying tuition fees for the timely duration of the enrolled degree. Successful recipients will still have to pay the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) every semester (domestic only).

Intellectual Property

Applicants should note that they may be required to assign the University intellectual property they create while working on certain research projects through a formal agreement. Applicants should discuss this with their prospective supervisor.

Special Conditions

If item (f) of [Table 2: Project Outline](#) includes:

- the response “Yes” to the item “Intellectual Property Assignment Required” then the scholarship holder will be required to assign intellectual property they create while

working on this Project (excluding copyright in the thesis) to the University through a formal agreement; or

- the response “Yes” to the item “Working Children Check Required” then the scholarship holder will be required to secure a Working with Children Check before commencing the Project and Scholarship; or
- the Response “Yes” to the item Police Check Required, then the scholarship holder will be required to secure a Police Check before commencing Project and Scholarship; or
- Other Special Conditions, then the Other Special Conditions must be met and abided by the scholarship holder throughout the Project.

Duration of the Scholarship

All students are expected to complete their study in the timely duration for their degree per [Table 4](#).

Table 4. Stipend durations for Higher Degrees by Research at Victoria University

| | Stipend Duration | Timely Duration |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Master of Applied Research | 2 years | 2 years |
| Master of Research Practice | 1 year | 1 year |
| Master of Research | 1.5 years | 1.5 year |
| Doctor of Philosophy | 3.5 years | 4 years |

Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award will be deducted from the normal period of award tenure. Similarly, periods of study undertaken during suspension of the award, or undertaken during the tenure of a previous Research Training Program Stipend or Australian Postgraduate Award, will be deducted from the maximum period of tenure.

A Scholarship holder may be required to pay tuition fees for any period of enrolment in excess of the timely duration.

Employment

Stipend candidates are expected to normally study and research full-time (minimum of 36.75 hours per week) between the hours of 8.00am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday with Stipend candidates limited to a maximum of eight (8) hours paid employment per week during these hours. Please refer to the [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Procedure](#).

Employment must not interfere with the candidate’s progress.

Commencement

No deferrals of the scholarship will be considered. All successful applicants are expected to commence study **in person** on **19 February 2024** (coursework commencement date) for Master students and **4 March 2024** (coursework commencement date) for PhD students. If an applicant cannot start or present in person by these dates, the offer of the scholarship may be withdrawn. If an awardee of a Scholarship who has accepted their offer does not take up their offer and enrol by the Commencement Date, their offer cannot be deferred and their offer will be withdrawn by the University.

Part-time Scholarships

Part-time scholarships may be available to those who are unable to study full-time for all or part of their candidature. Part-time scholarships can only be approved only in the following specific instances:

Where the scholarship holder has:

- A medical condition which limits the capacity to undertake full-time study (supported by medical certification), OR
- Care responsibilities for a pre-school child, OR
- Care responsibilities for a school aged child as a sole parent with limited access to support, OR
- Care responsibilities for an invalid or disabled spouse, child or parent

Part-time scholarships are **NOT** available to applicants who wish to study part-time in order to undertake full or part-time employment. Part-time scholarship holders are subject to the same restrictions on employment as full-time scholarship holders. Applicants wishing to be considered for a part-time scholarship must meet the criteria listed above. Applicants must provide evidence of the reason(s) they are unable to study full time. They also require the agreement of the supervisor and the University to the part-time arrangements. Stipends for part-time awards are NOT tax exempt.

Application Submission

How to apply:

- Refer to the instructions detailed on [apply for a graduate research scholarship](#) webpage
 - Start from step 1 - select a suitable study level in the Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities. You will be directed to the course page
 - choose 'apply direct to VU'
 - choose 'create an account'.
 - In your application ensure you select:
 - 'project-based research'
 - principal supervisor – Professor Gary Foley

Please note: you are **NOT** required to complete a 'Prospective Supervisor' form

For more information

Contact Rochelle Lepper, Manager, Aboriginal History Archive
Rochelle.Lepper@vu.edu.au

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Victoria University (VU) values your privacy and is committed to handling your personal information in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and other applicable privacy legislation. The personal information collected on this form will be used primarily for the purposes of assessing and processing this application. VU may also use and disclose your personal information to verify the information provided by you, to comply with government and other reporting requirements and/or to carry out associated activities connected with this application. Your personal information may also be disclosed to Commonwealth and State agencies such as the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Home Affairs in accordance with VU's obligations under the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (Cth) (**ESOS Act**), the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (**National Code**) and other applicable legislation. Your personal information will not otherwise be used or disclosed without your consent, unless permitted by law. By completing and submitting this application, you agree to VU collecting, using and disclosing your personal information as described above and in accordance with VU's Privacy Policy and Student Information Privacy Collection Statement (which provides further detail about the types of personal information VU may collect from you and how it is managed) available on the Privacy page on our website vu.edu.au/privacy

You have a right to access your personal information held by VU. If you have any questions regarding privacy, please refer to the Privacy page on our website, our frequently asked questions at ASKVU or phone us on 9919 6100 or 1300 VIC UNI (or 1300 842 864).

PRIVACY INFORMATION:

We collect and protect your personal information in accordance with our Privacy Policy vu.edu.au/privacy

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