1. General information on postgraduate funding schemes

The second round of postgraduate research support is open. Applications can be made for funding from the School's PRG and STA schemes. (The University's PRSS scheme does not have a second round).

How to apply
You can apply for all three schemes on one application form. Read the following guidelines and check your eligibility carefully before completing the application form available here: http://www.psych.usyd.edu.au/current_students/msc_phd/index.shtml

Note that the amounts mentioned for each funding scheme are maximum possible amounts. You may request funding up to these maximum limits, however in many cases lesser amounts will be awarded.

How to claim
If your request STA/PRG funds is successful, you will need to lodge a claim with Sandra Cheng for the approved items. Funds are either paid retrospectively to the student on production of original receipts, or may be paid to a supplier by electronic funds transfer when appropriate quotes and purchase order is arranged.

Deadline for claims
There is an end-of-year time limit. The last date to lodge a claim is 1st December and there are no provisions to carry forward any unused funds or to lodge late claims.

What if I don’t spend the funds by December 1st?
If you are awarded funds and don’t spend them by December 1st, please notify Professor David Alais. If still justified, you may re-apply for those funds the following year.

Deadline: Applications are submitted to the Head of School’s office (GT 492) by 4pm, Friday 19th August, 2013.

2. Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS)

What is the PRSS?
PRSS is a University scheme providing students in a research higher degree (i.e., not Masters by coursework) support for their research expenses. Funds are allocated to the School based on the number of higher degree research students and are available to eligible applicants according to the following guidelines.
What are the eligibility criteria for support?

1. Current enrollment:
   • Enrolled PhD students, full-time or part-time, are eligible to apply for funds under the PRSS provided their candidature does not exceed 8 full-time semesters (or part-time equivalent) at the closing date for applications.
   • Enrolled MSc students, full-time or part-time, are eligible to apply for funds under the PRSS provided their candidature does not exceed 4 full-time semesters (or part-time equivalent) at the closing date for applications.
   • Enrolled DCP students from their 2nd year onwards.

2. Satisfactory progress
   • Applications will not be considered if students have not demonstrated satisfactory progress towards timely completion of the degree, or if the period of candidature has been exceeded.

3. Justification for the funds
   • Include a brief statement outlining the benefits to the applicant’s candidature.

4. Supervisors support
   • The supervisor’s signature is required on the application form.

What sorts of expenses are supported?

1. Conference expenses – provided you are presenting a paper or poster in connection with your research.
2. Purchase of specialist books, software or tests essential to the students’ research but not available in the School or University.
3. Purchase of a computer or other equipment essential to the student’s research and beyond the normal infrastructure provided by the School.
4. Expenses in connection with specialist services or facilities, or learning of specialist techniques, may be allowed if directly related to the student’s research but not provided by the School.
5. Thesis production expenses to a maximum amount of $840 for a PhD thesis or $420 for a Masters thesis. Only students who do not hold a scholarship supporting such expenses and who expect to submit a thesis in the current semester/year can apply.

How much financial support can I get?

Students may apply for a minimum of $200 and a maximum of $1200 in each application round. A once-only grant of up to $2000 (PhD students) or $1500 (MSc, DCP) may be given to support presentations at an overseas conference (the student must be the first and presenting author). When PRSS is combined with travel funds from STA (see below) a total of up to $4200 (PhD students) or $2600 (MSc, DCP) is available for conference travel. This large grant would normally be reserved for students in their second or third year of candidature and would end eligibility for subsequent STA & PRSS funds. A student may therefore employ a strategy of “saving up” PRSS and STA for one big trip late in their degree.

How often can I apply for PRSS support?

(i) There is one round of PRSS per year. Eligible students can apply in Round 1 each year (usually late March) until their PRSS limit is reached (PhD $2000; Masters $1500).
(ii) PhD students are entitled to 3 successful PRSS awards during their candidature (eight full-time semesters, or part-time equivalent). MSc research students are entitled to 1 successful PRSS award during their candidature (four full-time semesters, or part-time equivalent). If a Masters-by-research student converts to a PhD, the 3 successful PRSS applications are allowed (including any successful application as a Masters student).

3. Postgraduate Research Grants (PRG)

What are Postgraduate Research Grants?
Postgraduate Research Support – Information for students

PRG is a School-based scheme providing support for maintenance costs of postgraduate research projects. There are two rounds each year (March & August). The PRG scheme is intended to enhance postgraduate research productivity, particularly in areas involving unusual expenses.

Am I eligible, and how much financial support can I get?
All postgraduate research students (PhD, MSc, DCP) may apply. There is a maximum per application of $1500, although most students can expect to receive less than this amount. Over the entire period of candidature, PhD students will not normally receive more than $3000 in PRG funds ($1500 for MSc). Masters by coursework students, if they have taken the research option, may be eligible for up to $750.

What sorts of expenses are supported?
Psychometric tests, rats and mice, costs of fMRI scanning, a contribution to transcription expenses where recorded interviews must be transcribed, participant payments when 1st year undergraduates cannot be used, minor items of equipment necessary to conduct research, etc.

PRG funds cannot be used for:
• Large items of equipment (other schemes are available; discuss with supervisor).
• Research assistance or technical support.
• Travel (except when absolutely necessary for data collection). Note that conference travel is covered under STA & PRSS.

How can I apply for PRG support?
Eligible students can apply for PRG in both rounds each year (usually late March and August) until the PRG limit is reached (PhD $3000; Masters $1500).

How do I apply for PRG?
(i) Fill in the application form;
(ii) Attach a separate sheet detailing and justifying the funding sought (max. 400 words).

4. School Travel Allowance (STA)

School Travel Allowance
STA is a School-based scheme supporting conference travel, accommodation and/or conference registration fees for postgraduate students who are attending conferences to present a paper or poster. There are two rounds each year (March & August).

What are the eligibility criteria for support?
The following students are eligible for STA:
- PhD and MSc students
- DCP students from their second year onwards
- MSc coursework students (only those taking the research option)

How much financial support can I get?
Up to $2200 total funding may awarded over the total PhD candidature, or $1100 total funding over a MSc, or $550 for Masters-by-coursework students (if doing research option). This sum can be taken as one large contribution (e.g., for a major international conference) or as a number of smaller contributions to conference attendance each year. The option of a single large contribution is reserved for students in their second or third year of candidature. Note that by combining the full amounts of STA and PRSS, up to $4200 may be available to fund one overseas trip for a PhD student (or $2600 for a Masters student).

How do I apply for STA?
Attach a separate sheet to the main application form containing details of and justification for the funding sought (max. 400 words). You can apply for STA in both rounds each year (March and August) until the STA limit is reached.