



The Bionic Ear Institute

“Top Up” Scholarships - 2009

The Bionic Ear Institute (BEI) is committed to attracting talented and enthusiastic students to undertake PhD studies in our various research programs. To support this objective BEI will provide eligible students - PhD students, who obtain an externally funded, competitive postgraduate research scholarship (NHMRC, APA, MRS) - the opportunity to apply for a Bionic Ear Institute “Top-Up”.

ELIGIBILITY

Projects

- Funding for the “Top up” must be made available through the supervisor’s grant (or other confirmed source)
- The primary supervisor must be an Institute employee or have a special arrangement with the Institute*
- Research must be aligned with the strategic objectives and priorities of the Institute
- Research for the PhD must be conducted primarily at the Institute

**Note: Please discuss with Linda Peterson (Executive Officer) if the project does not fit this criteria.*

Students

- Students must have obtained an externally funded, competitive postgraduate research scholarship
- Applicants must be enrolled in their **first** year of PhD studies at an approved Australian University
- Applicants must be an Australian Citizen or permanent resident at the time of application
- Assessment will be based on academic results and research track record if applicable

Students are not eligible to apply if:

- They are in receipt of another equivalent award/“top up” scholarship eg APAI award
- Their scholarship was not obtained through an external competitive process

APPLICATION

Applications for scholarships should be addressed to The Director of the Bionic Ear Institute and include:

- A synopsis of any relevant research activities (including details of any papers or abstracts on which they are an author)
- A written proposal (maximum of 2 A4 pages), written in consultation with their proposed supervisor
- Copies of the relevant University scholarship application and confirmation of award

The Director will review the applications and contact potential recipients, and if necessary, arrange a brief formal interview.

Applications will be considered early in the academic year and once confirmation of your University scholarship has been received.

How the scholarship will be awarded

April 2008

A tax free stipend will be offered on a competitive basis to eligible PhD students to the value of \$6,000 per annum for a period of 3 years with the potential to extend for a further 6 months subject to the Director's approval.

The "Top Up" will be subject to satisfactory progress as assessed by the relevant university's PhD committee and include satisfactory completion of the probationary candidature at the end of the first year of the PhD.

Payment

Payment of the "Top Up" will be paid through BEI payroll on a monthly basis and will not incur tax.

Employment

Casual employment at the Institute will only be made available on an "as needs" basis and where a project can support the additional funding of a staff member. Such employment will not affect the value of the "Top Up".

It is generally recommended that fulltime students restrict their paid employment to 8 hours per week during normal working hours.

Leave Arrangements

If a student needs to apply for leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances or circumstances beyond their control, the "Top Up" scholarship will also be suspended and recommenced on return to study.

The scholarship will cease if the student does not resume their studies at the end of the leave of absence or if they have not formally extended the leave.

Student Obligations

Students are required to:

- Notify the Institute of any changes in their circumstances that may affect their eligibility to continue receiving their scholarship eg they receive an equivalent scholarship from another source
- Apply themselves diligently and to the best of their ability to the successful completion of their PhD maintaining satisfactory progress throughout the period of their PhD
- Present at least one seminar per year at the Department of Otolaryngology/BEI research seminar series for the duration of the research candidature

The "Top Up" scholarship will be terminated and payments will cease:

- When the thesis is submitted or after 3.5 years, whichever occurs first
- If the Institute determines that the student is guilty of serious misconduct
- If the student does not resume study at the end of a period of leave
- If the student withdraws from the PhD

Supervisor Obligations

Supervisors are required to:

- Ensure that funding for the "Top Up" has been secured through their specified grant prior to advertising a PhD project and eligibility to apply for a "Top Up" Scholarship

For further information please contact Susanne Clarke, HR Officer, The Bionic Ear Institute.