

**NICTA Victoria Research Laboratory  
(NICTA VRL)  
AWARD CONDITIONS  
August 2011**



## **1. Nature of the Award**

National ICT Australia (NICTA) will provide an Award for a NICTA-endorsed student who is enrolled at a Victorian University that has either a Contribution or Collaborative Agreement with NICTA that includes provision for Student Awards.

NICTA will provide an Award for a NICTA-endorsed student, who is an Australian or New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident, either as supplementary Award to an awarded Government, University or Private basic stipend Award, or as stand-alone NICTA Award that includes basic stipend.

NICTA will provide an Award for an International NICTA-endorsed student either as supplementary Award to an awarded Government, University or Private basic stipend scholarship, or as stand-alone NICTA Award that includes basic stipend and supplementary components. International students who win a non-NICTA tuition fee scholarship will be treated by NICTA as if they are Australian students.

NICTA Awards are available for up to 4 years of PhD candidature conditional on student performance being maintained as determined by the tenure conditions herein.

All NICTA Awards are offered to endorsed students on the condition that they apply for Government and University Awards for which they are eligible and that they accept the NICTA Award conditions defined herein.

Individual NICTA Award amounts and offers will be authorised by the Victoria Research Laboratory Director or delegate. Award payments will be managed by the University using funds supplied by NICTA for this purpose.

All NICTA Awards will be governed by the NICTA-University Contribution or Collaboration Agreement.

## **2. Conditions for Receipt of Award**

Applicants must;

- hold an offer of endorsement by National ICT Australia;
- meet the criteria for candidature at the University;
- enrol full time at the University in a PhD or Masters leading to PhD program of study approved by NICTA embodying the principles of:
  - The pursuit of the highest level of excellence in research via an enhanced supervisory process;
  - The development of technical breadth and professional skills via specified coursework;

- The development of linkages into the national and the international professional community via conference attendance and membership of informal networks;
- The development of an entrepreneurial attitude to new knowledge in collaboration with commercialisation experts.
- Agree that the topic of the PhD thesis will continue to reside within the broad ICT interests of NICTA as determined by the NICTA VRL Director or delegate.
- Adhere to NICTA's Commercialisation and Economic Impact Policy including the following principles:
  - Students must agree to assign Intellectual Property to NICTA.  
Intellectual Property is assigned to NICTA through the University. Students usually assign their Intellectual Property to the University via a Student Researcher Deed. Under the NICTA funding contract the University then assigns this Intellectual Property to NICTA. Depending on the University's policies, an alternate method may be used. Assignment of Intellectual Property does not affect the students ownership of copyright in their thesis.
  - Students must agree to abide by NICTA policies and procedures relating to Intellectual Property and Commercialisation.
  - students will be encouraged to participate in local industry networking and outplacement where appropriate opportunities exist
  - students will share equitably in the commercial benefits of any research that is taken to market. Economic returns, in the national interest, through commercialisation made by staff and students will be supported by NICTA by virtue of the NICTA funding deed and constitution.
- have the support of a NICTA research leader including:
  - assurance that the research topic lies within the range of ICT interests of NICTA;
  - assurance that the student will be resourced by the research program;
  - assurance that the program will provide a member of the students supervisory panel.
- adhere to all rules imposed by the University in regard to the holding of a Award at the University.
- undertake additional study, in line with requirements, set out below, for a NICTA Enhanced PhD. These requirements may vary from University to University depending on their individual candidature requirements but will consist of:
  - completion of a minimum of four semester long postgraduate level technical subjects during PhD candidature. These subjects to be approved by the student's department and/or the leader of the NICTA programme to which the student is affiliated
  - completion of a minimum of three professional development short courses and seminars such as those presented by University's Schools of Graduate studies or similar, or NICTA.

### **3. The Level of the Award**

- Awards may have two components:
  - a basic living stipend;

- a supplementary stipend;
- The level of the basic living stipend may be tied to the rate of the Australian Postgraduate Award (APA)
- The level of the supplementary stipend will be based on market-related criteria and will be set by NICTA at the time of Award commencement.

#### **4. The Tenure of Awards**

NICTA Awards are normally payable for up to 4 years of full-time PhD candidature subject to the following constraints:

- Payment of the award during the first three and a half years of candidature will be subject to satisfactory performance as determined by the rules of the University.
- Payment of the award for an additional six months beyond three and half years will be subject to satisfactory performance and a plan for the submission of the thesis that has been endorsed by the student's supervisory panel and the NICTA VRL Director or delegate.
- Payment of the award may be terminated if the NICTA VRL Director or delegate determines that there is unsatisfactory performance at any time during the period of candidature.
- The topic of the PhD thesis must continue to reside within the broad ICT interests of NICTA as determined by the NICTA VRL Director or delegate.
- The supervisory panel of the student must continue to include a NICTA Researcher. NICTA Researchers include NICTA staff and University staff making an in-kind contribution to NICTA.
- NICTA Victoria Research Laboratory awards/stipends are granted for a University PhD. By signing the attached "Acceptance of the University NICTA Award & Conditions" students who enter the University as Masters candidates agree that they intend to, and will attempt to, convert their Masters candidature to PhD candidature. NICTA reserves the right to discontinue payment of a NICTA stipend if advised by a student's supervisor(s) and/or department that the student will not be converting to PhD candidature.
- By signing the attached "*Acceptance of the University NICTA Award & Conditions*" students agree that they will assign any intellectual property developed as part of their candidature NICTA via a Student Researcher Deed with the University.

#### **5. Termination of Awards**

Students must notify their University Scholarships Office of any changes in their enrolment and other circumstances that may affect their eligibility to continue receiving a scholarship, or risk termination of the scholarship.

Payments will cease from the date the scholarship is terminated.

Scholarships will be terminated in the following circumstances, whichever comes first:

- if the student ceases to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the conditions
- at the end of the period for which it was granted
- upon completion of the course

- when the thesis is submitted. A scholarship cannot then be reinstated should the thesis require revision and resubmission
  - when the student ceases to be enrolled full-time and approval has not been granted for the scholarship to be held on a part-time basis
  - if the student does not maintain satisfactory academic progress
  - if the course of study is not carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the scholarship offer
  - if the University or NICTA determines that the student is guilty of serious misconduct, including, but not limited to, the provision of false or misleading information. Students will be required to repay to the University any scholarship/s that they have received on the basis of false or misleading information included in their application. Scholarship benefits may include living allowances, fee remission and travel allowances
  - if the student does not resume study at the end of a period of leave or formal arrangements (via the Scholarships Office) have not been made to extend the period of leave
  - if the student accepts another equivalent award, scholarship or salary to undertake their graduate research degree and does not suspend their scholarship while receiving the concurrent award, scholarship or salary, or
  - upon the death, incapacity, resignation or withdrawal of the student from the course.
- Scholarships may also be terminated (or the student placed on probation) before this time if, after due inquiry, the University and NICTA form the view that the student has not complied with the Conditions set out in this document.

Professor Rob Evans  
Director  
NICTA Victoria Research Laboratory

Dr Adrian Pearce  
Associate Director Education  
NICTA Victoria Research Laboratory

Associate Professor Chris Leckie  
Deputy Director  
NICTA Victoria Research Laboratory

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY- NICTA AWARD AND CONDITIONS

Applicant's name:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, accept the offered the University-NICTA Award and have read, and agree to, the University- NICTA Award Terms and Conditions and any conditions outlined in the letter of offer, including:

- The intention to convert to PhD if I am initially enrolled an a Masters Degree;
- Ensuring that my research project continues to be aligned with NICTA's research; and
- An undertaking to assign to NICTA Intellectual Property developed as part of my candidature by the means requested by my University.

When do you intend to begin your study at the University?

Signature:

Date: