



CIN Policy on PhD Scholarships

Background

As part of the per annum membership fees, University members of the Connectivity Innovation Network (CIN) are required to pay \$60k to support two PhD scholarships. University of Technology Sydney and The University of Sydney will make greater contributions, as they are the universities jointly hosting the CIN. The two PhD scholarships are guaranteed to be allocated to two students from the respective university as per the CIN-University agreement.

The scholarships are initially for three and a half (3.5) years. The extension of the scholarships is subject to further agreements between the CIN and the respective University members. More CIN scholarships may become available to all member Universities in time, however, these will be awarded via a competitive process without any pre-allocation.

Research Priorities

- Emerging terrestrial and non-terrestrial communications technologies for rural and regional areas and communities
- Disaster-resilient and sustainable energy supplies
- Novel sensors and sensor networks for environmental monitoring and prediction relating to flooding and bushfire
- Emerging technologies for data sharing and cyber security

Timeline to Commence Scholarships

University contribution to CIN via UTS by 06 March 2023.
It is intended the scholarships can start after 20 April 2023.

Purpose of the Scholarships and Requirements

The initial two scholarships for each member university reflect the commitment made by each CIN member university to support research and innovation in the connectivity space. The students receiving the scholarships are expected to conduct fundamental research in priority areas as determined by the CIN.

The students are expected to:

- Submit regular reports to the CIN technical steering committee every six months in the form of a written progress report and a final report within 6 months of the project end date.
- Present at the annual CIN Connection Innovations Symposium to showcase their progress, findings, and achievements to the NSW connectivity community including government, industry, and universities.
- Participate in CIN-funded projects as appropriate.
- Take up internships with CIN industry members, subject to separate agreements.

To support collaboration, supervisors of the students are responsible for securing one co-supervisor from a different CIN member organization, preferably from an industry member.

Allocation of the Scholarships

The allocation of the scholarships will follow the following process:

- The CIN Technical Steering Committee determines the priority areas for scholarships, with pre-agreed selection criteria;
- The CIN makes an open call for scholarship applications from member universities. Applications are expected from academics/PhD supervisors but not students;
- The CIN Technical Steering Committee assesses and merit-ranks the scholarship applications against the pre-agreed selection criteria;
- The CIN announces the award of scholarships and signs agreements with respective universities.
- The scholarships are awarded to academics/university supervisors. The universities are responsible for maintaining the standards of the students, the timely progress of the project, and the administration of the scholarships.
- The scholarship needs to start within one month after the award.
- It is expected the university will waive tuition fees and provide other support deemed necessary.

Scholarship Association with Projects

PhD research projects are typically long-term in nature, whilst most projects funded by the CIN are expected to last for a few months, up to 2 years. Therefore, the awards of CIN PhD scholarships and CIN projects are typically independent of each another. That said, the CIN strongly encourages practically oriented research in PhD scholarship applications, so that the students have more opportunities to contribute to the CIN projects and collaborate with industry.