Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS) 2016
Information for Students

What is PRSS?
The PRSS is a scheme introduced by the University in 2001 to provide direct support for currently enrolled postgraduate research students. Under the scheme, funds are allocated to schools or departments (in some cases faculties) based on their higher degree research enrolment figures in the previous year. The funds are not allocated directly to the students but are awarded by schools or departments to eligible applicants on a competitive basis according to the University’s general guidelines. Selection committees will consider the quality of an applicant’s research progress relative to opportunity and stage of candidature, demonstrated need for funding, and priorities, if any, placed on the different expenditure categories by the school of department. In 2016, the allocation is $1.5 million.

What are the eligibility criteria for support?
1. Currently enrolled (including international students)
   - Enrolled **doctorate students**, full-time or part-time, are eligible to apply for funds under the PRSS provided their candidature does not exceed eight full-time semesters* (or part-time equivalent) at the closing date for applications (*= four FT years)
   - Enrolled **masters by research students**, full-time or part-time, are eligible to apply for funds under the PRSS provided their candidature does not exceed four full-time semesters* (or part-time equivalent) at the closing date for applications (*= two FT years)
2. Satisfactory progress towards timely completion of the degree
   - Applications will not be considered if a student has not demonstrated satisfactory progress and/or has exceeded the normal period of candidature (see 1 above).
3. Justification for the need and proposed use of funds
   - A brief statement justifying the need and proposed use of funds, together with the benefits to the student’s candidature.
4. Support by the student’s research supervisor
   - As per requirement on the application form.
5. Any achievement related to the student’s research such as:
   - Publications (in press or submitted), conference presentations, internal reports or other scholarly activities. A track record of achievement relative to opportunity and stage of candidature provides some indication of satisfactory progress during the candidature, however it is not a pre-requisite for a successful PRSS application.

What sort of things can I apply to get support for?
1. Conference expenses – for the purpose of presenting a paper or poster of which the student is the author and in connection with his/her research. Students who attend a conference without presenting, or presenting a paper or poster of which the student is not the author, are not eligible to apply under this category.
2. Expenses in connection with the use of specialist services, or a visit to use specialist facilities or to learn specialist technique/s directly related to the students’ research, but were beyond those normally provided by the school or department.
3. Field expenses – provided the PRSS funds are not used to defray the infrastructure costs normally provided by the school or department.
4. Purchase of specialist books, periodicals, software that are essential to the students’ research, but are not normally available or difficult to obtain in the University.
5. Purchase of computers or other equipment that are essential to the students’ research and are above and beyond the normal infrastructure provided by the school or department.
6. Thesis production expenses to a maximum amount of $600 for a doctorate thesis or $300 for a masters thesis. Only students who do not hold a scholarship and who will submit their theses in the calendar year can apply under this category. This category excludes printing costs; theses are submitted electronically only.

The expenditure/proposed expenditure must have been incurred or will be incurred during this calendar year.

A student cannot lodge a second application for the remainder of expenditure incurred under a previous successful PRSS application.

What will not be supported?
Direct research costs will not be supported. Expenditure related to the purchase of consumables (such as chemicals, stationery, questionnaires and disks) normally provided by schools or departments, or photocopying, will not be supported under the PRSS.

What level of support is available?
Eligible students may apply for a minimum amount of $200 and a maximum amount of $1,200 (or up to $3,000 to support presentations at conferences held in countries in Europe, Africa, North and South America, or up to $2,000 to support presentations at conferences held in other overseas countries) in each application round.

How often can a student apply for support?
Each eligible student can lodge only one application in any PRSS round.

Doctorate students: although eligible doctorate students may apply in any PRSS application round, only three successful applications during their candidature (eight full-time semesters, or part-time equivalent) are permitted. That is, a doctorate student can only be awarded funds three times within eight full-time semesters under the PRSS.

Masters by research students: although a masters by research student may apply in any PRSS application round, only one successful application during the candidature (four full-time semesters, or part-time equivalent) is permitted. That is, a masters student can only be awarded funds once under the PRSS. If a masters by research student converts to a doctorate, the total number of successful PRSS applications permitted will be three (including any successful application as a masters student).

When should I apply?
Individual schools or departments (in some cases faculties) must hold at least one application round every year. The PRSS is administered by the Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre on behalf of schools, departments and faculties.

How do I apply?
The application form appears in your MyUni portal. Login to complete an application and follow the steps for submission.
Apart from completing the application form, you will be required to provide brief statements on justification for the use of funds and support by your supervisor/s, and any evidence of achievement during candidature.

**How are the funds paid if I am successful in getting support?**
Funds will be paid to your nominated bank account. Login to Sydney Student and ensure your bank account details are current.