Sydney Local Health District Nursing and Midwifery Service

SLHD / USYD Research Honours Scholarship Program

2020 Program Guidelines and Expression of Interest
SLHD / USYD Research Honours Scholarship Program

Have you applied for a 2020 SLHD GradStart Program? Are you currently employed within SLHD as a Registered Nurse with 5 or less years of experience?

If you answered yes to one of these questions and you are interested in making research part of your career – This could be the program for you!

Sydney Local Health District wants to support you undertaking the Research Honours program with the University of Sydney by providing you with the opportunity for Part-time employment and a scholarship of $10,000 over two years towards your study costs.

Program Overview

There will be two types of programs offered in 2020:
1. GradStart Participants – Will be offered 2 x 12 months rotations through different clinical areas
2. Existing employees - Will complete the program within their existing place of work

Both programs will include the following:

1. 2 year Part time Research Honours Course (including a Research Project) – The University of Sydney
2. 2 year Part time employment within SLHD (0.5 FTE /40 hours per fortnight, rotating roster)
3. Mentoring and support from both SLHD and USYD staff
4. Opportunities to present research work
5. Opportunities to publish research work

The Bachelor Honours degree combines coursework units with research skills development for the conduct of an independent research project, leading to the submission and examination of a 15,000 word thesis. Students are guided through the program by an academic supervisor. A minimum weighted average mark (WAM) of 65 is required from your undergraduate degree.

Please note: Students who do not complete the Honours program will be required to repay any scholarship funding

All research projects associated with this scholarship program will require a patient and family centered care focus in line with SLHD priorities.
Research Honours Scholarship Program
Expression of Interest

Personal Details:
First Name ___________________________________ Surname ___________________________________
University where you will completed your undergraduate training ___________________________________
Name of pre-registration degree ____________________________________________________________

Essential Criteria:
Are you a current SLHD Nursing Employee or a 2020 GradStart Applicant? _______________________________
Current employment details – Stafflink ID: ___________________________
2020 GradStart Details – Campaign ID: ______________________________

**Please attach a copy of your most recent transcript from your pre-registration course**

Please state in 250 words or less - I am interested in the Research Honours Scholarship Program because:

Closing Date = COB Friday 29 November 2019

Please send applications via Email to Jennifer Thorncraft, Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Manager @health.nsw.gov.au

For further information on the Research Honours Scholarship
Please contact Jennifer Thorncraft via email. Jennifer.Thorncraft@health.nsw.gov.au

For further information on the Bachelor Honours program
Please contact the Honours Coordinator Christopher Gordon christopher.gordon@sydney.edu.au
Or go to the Sydney Nursing School Website
Research Honours Scholarship Program

Guidelines

Background

Research and development is fundamental to quality patient and family centred care. The Sydney LHD Nursing & Midwifery Service is continually developing, building and supporting research capacity across the District. Building research capacity is a strategic priority for the SLHD Nursing & Midwifery Service with a particular focus on the following key areas:

- Expanding Nursing & Midwifery research capacity
- Increasing publishing output
- Increasing external funding research
- Supporting the translation of research into practice

Objective

The SLHD Nursing Research Honours Scholarship program aims to support Registered Nurses early in their career who are interested in research. Program participants are provided with part-time employment in SLHD as a Nurse and a scholarship of $10,000 over the 2 years that they undertake the Research Honours program with the University of Sydney.

The goal of the program is to promote research in nursing and continue to develop the research capability of nurses working within SLHD. Together with the University Of Sydney School Of Nursing, research opportunities with the SLHD will explore the following domains:

- Patient and Family Centre Care
- Clinical Practice
- Workforce and Leadership
- Information and Communication Technology

The scholarship program aligns with the SLHD Nursing & Midwifery Strategic Plan and the SLHD Research Plan by supporting the translation of research into practice; building strong relationships and collaborations with university partners; developing a body of innovative research and celebrating Nursing & Midwifery research and novice research nurses.

Scholarship details

- Participants will receive $5,000 per year for degree fees and/or education related costs from Sydney Local Health District. Over the 2 year program this will be a total of $10,000.
- A half payment of $5,000 will be received by the students within the first 3 months of commencing the program and then again in the second year of the program.
- Students who do not complete the Honours program will be required to repay any scholarship funding.
Program Overview

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Both programs will include the following elements:

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2. 2 year Part time employment within SLHD (0.5 FTE /40 hours per fortnight, rotating roster)
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4. Opportunities to present research work
5. Opportunities to publish research work

SLHD Commitments:

GradStart Participants:

- Four week block of Full time work at the beginning of the first placement in March 2019, which will include;
  - Ward Orientation and documentation (ie: Handbook for the area)
  - A preceptorship model to enhance support in the clinical area.
- The block is intended to support transition into the clinical environment, routine and team as well as begin the process of the consolidation of clinical skills and knowledge gained to date.
- The first 4 weeks will consist of Monday to Friday morning and afternoon shifts to facilitate increased support from the Clinical Nurse Educator and Nursing Unit Manager.
- At the completion of the 4 week block rostering will be week on and week off (40 hours per fortnight) to allow for ongoing transition and socialisation into the clinical environment.
- The week off will allow for adequate time to undertake required course work and research for the university.
- It is recommended that no night shifts are rostered for the first 12 – 16 weeks.
- During the first 12 months of the program the Research Honours graduates will attend study days in addition to the participant’s clinical hours.
- On commencement of second rotation in 2019 they will require a further 2 week full time roster to once again allow transition into the new ward environment, routine and team as well as ongoing consolidation of new clinical skills and knowledge.

Existing employees:

- Maintain employment within existing clinical area
- Reduction of hours to part time at the commencement of the Honours program in February 2020
- Rotations will be available on request if this will aid in the research being undertaken
University Commitments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Dates</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10 February 2020</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>University Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11 February 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2 March 2020</td>
<td>2 – 4pm</td>
<td>Seminar Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16 March 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20 April 2020</td>
<td>2 – 4pm</td>
<td>Seminar Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4 May 2020</td>
<td>2 – 4pm</td>
<td>Seminar Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 18 May 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 1 June 2020</td>
<td>Presentation 2 – 4pm</td>
<td>Research Proposal presentation</td>
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Participant Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Support provided</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Supervisor</td>
<td>As per The University of Sydney Course requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLHD Research Clinical Nurse Consultant</td>
<td>This position will provide research mentorship and methodologically support</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLHD/University Research Fellow</td>
<td>This position will provide research mentorship and methodologically support</td>
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<td>Clinical Mentor</td>
<td>A clinical mentor for each of the participants will be identified by the Director of Nursing in their local facilities/service. The mentor role is best suited to a senior professional such as a Clinical Nurse Consultant with research experience. The role of the mentor is to share knowledge and expertise to support the professional development of the mentee. <em>(For further information regarding Mentorship roles and responsibilities, please refer to the Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) The Superguide: A Supervision Continuum for Nurses and Midwives).</em></td>
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<td>Nursing Unit Manager (NUM)</td>
<td>The NUM will provide support to the participant and manage requirements of the program within the clinical unit. Rostering according to the SLHD commitments is a requirement of the NUM role.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Nurse Educator (CNE)</td>
<td>The CNE will provide education support to the participant within the clinical unit</td>
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<td>Graduate Coordinators</td>
<td>If the participants are part of the SLHD GradStart Program in each facility/service</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLHD Nurse Manager Workforce</td>
<td>This position is responsible for the coordination of the Program. The position is the contact person for the participants, facilities/services and Sydney University</td>
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