



John and Eric Smyth Travelling Scholarship **Guidelines – Round 1 2016**

The lucrative and prestigious John and Eric Smyth Travelling Scholarship is aimed at supporting applicants who show potential as a researcher or teacher. It offers a stipend as well as contribution to travel, accommodation and tuition fees (if applicable) for a maximum of two years. The recipient can use the scholarship to support a study program overseas to:

- study education and allied subjects at a university
- study education systems
- study a subject related to the teaching profession

The Scholarship is open to applicants who:

- are under 30 years of age at the time the scholarship is awarded
- have completed a degree and a secondary teaching qualification from the University of Melbourne OR have completed a Masters degree in education at the University of Melbourne
- can demonstrate an aptitude in teaching and an ability to research education (note: this may be demonstrated through strong performances in Professional Practice subjects completed as a part of your teaching qualification)
- are keen to make an exciting career move, and
- would like to pursue research or teaching interests at an overseas institution or setting that will enrich the teaching profession at the Graduate School of Education.

It is a condition of the scholarship that scholarship holders are expected to return to Australia within three years of the termination of the scholarship and hold a position in the field of education for a minimum of two years.

Please note that John Smyth was the first Professor of Education at the University of Melbourne. He set up the John and Eric Smyth Travelling Scholarship to commemorate his son Eric, a medical student, who died from an accident when he was only 23.

A leading researcher in the field of education who was a recipient of this Scholarship is **Professor Lyn Yates**. Lyn is the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and holds the Foundation Chair of Curriculum in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) of The University of Melbourne. For Lyn, it was 'an invaluable experience' to move outside the familiarity of her own education system: 'The scholarship allowed me to spend time in Bristol and London and encounter first hand some exciting new work and theories that were important influences on my later research'.

Guidelines

The following guidelines outline what you need to do to make an application for this Scholarship. If awarded this scholarship, a separate document detailing the terms and conditions of the award will be provided, including requirements relating to regular communications.

1. **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

- Check that you meet the *Criteria* (below).
- Write an Expression of Interest of 500 words that outlines the kind of project you would like to do. To get an idea of what you might like to do, read the section on *Project* below.
- Email this to mgse-research@unimelb.edu.au by midnight AEST **1 February 2016**
- Within two weeks you will receive a response indicating whether you have been invited to submit a full application

2. **FULL APPLICATION – documents to support your application**

- a copy of your current academic record
- two academic references
- a curriculum vitae, including present position. No more than two pages.
- Project plan (2 pages) and budget - If you are asked to submit an application, you will be put in touch with the MGSE's Associate Dean (Research Training) to discuss what your Project might look like. This will help you to prepare the project and a budget
- You will need to submit your full application by **29 February 2016**

After you submit your full application, you may be contacted by the Selection Officer to attend an interview or to provide the Selection Committee with extra information.

The Criteria

To assess your potential as a researcher or teacher, the selection panel needs to evaluate your teaching and/or research potential. Some applicants will have a strong background in teaching, and others in research. Equal weighting will be given to each. If you have strengths in both areas, each of these will be taken into account.

The following criteria will apply:

- If you are applying for this Scholarship via the **research route**
 - You will be assessed according to academic marks and grades received in your most recent University qualifications. You would need to have an average of H1 / 80%.
 - Ideally, you will also have some teaching experience.
- If you are applying for this Scholarship via the **teaching route**
 - An average of at least H1 or 80% would be preferred, but this minimum grade/mark may be waived for those who show potential as an outstanding teacher. The panel

needs to be confident that the applicant would be capable of writing a high quality report (see 'The Project' below).

- Ideally, you will be able to demonstrate an ability to research the field of education.
 - Eligibility:
 - Under 30 years of age at the time the scholarship is awarded
- AND**
- Have completed a degree and a secondary teaching qualification at the University of Melbourne,
- OR**
- Have completed a Masters degree in Education at the University of Melbourne, and can demonstrate aptitude as a teacher or researcher

The Project

1. You will need to think carefully about what your project will be. At the *Expression of Interest* stage you could think about what your main researchable idea is, and which overseas universities or systems of education you could plan to visit to develop your idea.
2. One possibility is to align your idea with the research strengths and directions of the MGSE. This will give you an opportunity to tap into the extensive overseas networks we have built up. Find out about these areas of research:
<http://www.findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/>
3. If you are invited to submit an *Application*, you will have the opportunity to discuss the topic you would like to research with the Assistant Dean (Research Training) who will link you with a mentor with expertise on this topic. The mentor will help you to frame your project.
4. You will then devise a plan of visits/studies, and a (broadly) costed itinerary for the time you expect to be overseas.

Following completion of the scholarship

It is a condition of the scholarship that you are expected to return to Australia within three years of the termination of the scholarship and hold a position in the field of education for a minimum of two years.

Within two months of returning from your travel, you will also be expected to write a report and make a public presentation at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) on your project.

- If the scholarship was to undertake formal study at an institution overseas, this report will be approximately 2 – 3 pages in length.
- If the scholarship was for activities other than formal study at an institution overseas, this report will be 8,000 to 10,000 words.
- MGSE may also request information on expenses related to the travel

Templates for any reports required will be provided by the Melbourne Education Research Institute.

The Budget

The Scholarship can provide support towards major expenditures of your trip, such as, accommodation, tuition fees, and a stipend to cover day-to-day incidentals.

Elaborate the following in your budget, providing a justification of each of the items requested:

- Travel costs
 - itemised to show the cost of each individual leg (economy-class)
- Accommodation costs
 - cost per night in each place
 - number of nights you are staying in each place
 - hotels that have no more than a 3-star rating. (The only exception is if a female applicant is travelling to a location where her personal safety might be compromised. In this case, you will need to make a special case for staying in other accommodation)
- Tuition costs – if applicable
- Dates for when accommodation and travel information were collected.
 - The selection panel understands that prices can change, especially travel costs. If you are awarded the scholarship you can update this information for the selection panel, with reference to the firm bookings you have made.

The stipend can only be paid for the period that you would be overseas.

Travel Advice

Recipients of this Scholarship are bound by University regulations concerning travel to countries where DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) have issued a warning. The Scholarship may be affected by changes in status of a travel destination.

Application Procedure

Expression of Interest to be emailed to mgse-research@unimelb.edu.au by midnight AEST **1 February 2016**

Full application

If you are invited to complete a full application, your application must be completed and emailed to the Melbourne Education Research Institute – mgse-research@unimelb.edu.au by **29 February 2016**.

Contact

Dave Wolf, Graduate Research Support Officer – 8344 5447 or mgse-research@unimelb.edu.au

Melbourne Education Research Institute

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