

SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL

VISITING FELLOW AND VISITING SCHOLAR SCHEMES

GUIDELINES

A OVERVIEW

These schemes encompass two levels of funding and provide for two different types of visitor. The Sydney Law School Visiting Scholars Scheme (VSS) is designed to fund visits to the Faculty by promising, relatively junior academics with whom members of Faculty propose to collaborate towards the achievement of designated research goals (typically, academics early in their careers, academics not holding a chair and/or persons conducting research outside the academy). The Sydney Law School Visiting Fellows Scheme (VFS) is designed to fund visits to the Faculty by more established academics (typically persons in a chair or other senior academic post) with whom members of Faculty would like to collaborate towards specific research outcomes.

Applicants for these positions would typically be researchers whom Faculty members have identified as key contributors to the field(s) in which they are working (or in the case of Visiting Scholars, contributors with demonstrated capacity to become influential figures in their field(s)). It is hoped that Faculty members will consult among themselves (within a research cluster or otherwise) to identify 'wish lists' of people whom they would like to attract to the Faculty for research collaborative purposes and that prospective applicants for these visiting positions might be approached on that basis.

SPECIAL GUIDELINES FOR THIS ROUND ONLY **(November 2008 for visits during 2009)**

SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL SPECIAL VISITING SCHOLARS SCHEME

To celebrate and promote the move to the new building the Faculty will be offering additional funding for **Special Visiting Fellows** who will visit the Faculty during 2009. This funding is intended to attract eminent visitors who may not be persuaded to visit under the conditions of the existing schemes. Staff applying will need to complete the existing application form for the Visiting Fellows and Visiting Scholars Scheme and submit by 28 November 2008.

Where justified, funding of up to \$10,000 may be allocated to a Special Visiting Fellow depending on the duration of their visit instead of up to \$5,000 as per the existing scheme. This would include up to \$3,500 for airfare (must be economy class) plus living expenses of up to \$1,200 per week. Alternatively, a visitor whose airfare was to be covered by other funding could access the full \$10,000 for living expenses if they stayed at least 8 weeks.

Applications will be considered on a competitive basis. Special consideration will be given to the profile of the visitor, the term of the visit and the benefits to the Faculty.

B SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL VISITING SCHOLARS SCHEME (VSS)

B.1. Value: Successful applicants to this scheme will typically be awarded up to \$5,000 per person, depending on the duration of their visit. This will usually be comprised of up to \$2,500 reimbursement for a return airfare, and a contribution towards living expenses of \$400 per week. Alternatively, a visitor whose airfare was to be covered by other funding could access the full \$5,000 for living expenses if they stayed at least 12 weeks. See further below.

B.2. Eligibility: In order to be eligible for this scheme, the Faculty sponsor must be able to provide (by completing the attached application form and providing the material requested therein):

- Evidence of outstanding scholarly potential on the part of the prospective visitor;
- A plan for that visitor's collaboration with members of Faculty likely to enhance the Faculty's research capacity and yield specific research outcomes, with the support of the Faculty members concerned (named as application "sponsors"); and
- Assurance of that visitor's availability for a visit to the Faculty of a minimum of three weeks.

In addition, eligibility will ordinarily be conditional upon the visitor having an appointment or affiliation with a recognised research institution. Full time research students are generally excluded from applying. In cases of exceptional merit and financial need, however, allowance will be made for worthy applicants outside these parameters, where the applicant in question has very strong Faculty support.

C SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL VISITING FELLOWS SCHEME (VFS)

C.1. Value: Successful applicants to this scheme will typically be awarded up to \$5,000 per person, depending on the duration of their visit. This will usually be comprised of up to \$2500 reimbursement for a return airfare, and a contribution towards living expenses of \$600 per week. Alternatively, a visitor whose airfare was to be covered by other funding could access the full \$5,000 for living expenses if they stayed at least 8 weeks. See further below.

C.2. Eligibility: In order to be eligible for this scheme, the Faculty sponsor must be able to provide (by completing the attached application form and providing the material requested therein):

- Evidence of an outstanding scholarly track record on the part of the prospective visitor;
- Confirmation of the visitor's occupancy of a senior academic post at a recognised research institution;
- A plan for that visitor's collaboration with members of Faculty likely to enhance the Faculty's research capacity and yield specific research outcomes, with the support of the Faculty members concerned (named as application "sponsors"); and
- Assurance of that visitor's availability for a visit to the Faculty of a minimum of three weeks.

D GUIDELINES COMMON TO BOTH THE VSS AND VFS

D.1. Discretion to modify value: In any one year, the \$10,000 available across the VSS and VFS may be subject to different allocation to that indicated above. Such modified allocation may be determined by the selection committee on the basis of the number, type and strength of application(s) received in that year, the duration of the proposed visit(s), and the availability of other sources of financial support for the proposed visitor(s). This might involve, for example, the award of three Visiting Scholarships at a slightly lower level of funding if particularly strong applications were forthcoming at that level. Similarly, it may involve dedicating the entirety of the funds to one Visiting Fellow or Visiting Scholar, if a particularly strong application were submitted, a visit of longer duration were anticipated, and alternative funds necessary to support that visit were not available.

D.2. Selection criteria: Assuming satisfaction of the eligibility criteria mentioned above, applications are assessed according to the following selection criteria:

- 'Outstanding' track record - The track record (VFS) or demonstrated potential (VSS) of the proposed visitor, having primary regard to the quality of their research; and
- The quality and significance of the research collaboration proposed, having regard to the current research activities and interests of members of the Faculty, including postgraduate research students. In assessing applications, emphasis is placed on the relative likelihood of a visit enhancing the research capacity of the Faculty, and contributing to research in which members of Faculty are already engaged. Only applications likely to have some demonstrable effect towards fostering the research productivity of the Faculty will be funded. Significant research outcomes that a VSS or VFS application may anticipate include:
 - Joint research work leading to publication;
 - Development of a joint grant application;
 - Joint empirical work; and/or
 - Working or reading group with Faculty members or post-graduate students.

Other desirable outcomes to be yielded by a visit could include:

- Conference presentation;
 - Faculty seminar; and/or
 - Teaching – UG, PG or LPD – either a single session, or proportion of an intensive course.
- The availability of alternative sources of funds will also be a relevant consideration in assessing applications. However, the fact that a prospective visitor might have access to other sources of funds (from their home institution, for instance) does not necessarily rule out their receiving Visiting Fellow or Visiting Scholar funding under these schemes.

D.3. Status; Visas: Visitors funded through both the VSS and the VFS will be designated “Visiting Scholars” for purposes of the University’s policy and process concerning appointing visiting personnel. Visitors funded through these schemes will be responsible for making their own inquiries regarding Australian immigration law requirements to which they may be subject and for obtaining a visa, where required (see generally <http://www.immi.gov.au/immigration.htm>). Should an invitation letter or other assistance be required from the Faculty for this purpose, Faculty sponsors are advised to request this at the time of the application’s submission.

D.4. Frequency and Procedure: One VSS grant and one VFS grant will be available in each calendar year. Applications should be made on the application form and should include all the supporting information requested therein. **The closing date for applications for funding in the coming calendar year is the last Friday in November.**

Awards and allocations of funding under the VSS and VFS will be made by a specially convened selection committee comprised of all available members of the Visitors Committee and a representative of the Research Promotion Committee. Faculty members sponsoring a particular application should make themselves available to respond to questions or points of clarification raised by the selection committee and are entitled to request constructive feedback from the committee on any applications that prove unsuccessful.

D.5. Connection with Other Programs: Funding under the VSS or the VFS might be awarded in connection with a conference seeding application. However, successful applications would likely have to outline proposed research collaboration activities beyond the visitor simply addressing a conference, since such an event may be of only marginal benefit to the research environment and productivity of the Faculty.

It is also conceivable that a visitorship under the VSS or the VFS may be awarded in conjunction with a Summer Grant or Redesign Grant (and/or with other comparable funding directed towards preparation of a grant application). For example, it may be desirable for named participants in a draft grant application to work closely in a single location towards the application’s finalisation. In such a case, Visiting Fellow or Visiting Scholar funding might enable a foreign collaborator to visit the Faculty with a view to achieving that goal.

Finally, it is important to recognise that this proposal is not intended to supplant or offset the Faculty’s pursuit of visitors’ funding under available University schemes (such as the International Visiting Research Fellowships). Rather, we envisage these visitorships being utilised when the scholar or fellow in question would not be eligible for this scheme, has been unsuccessful in an application for this scheme, or when an application under this scheme is otherwise not appropriate. It may be that a visitorship is granted by the Faculty before determination of a pending application for University funding, in which case it would be open to the Faculty to render it conditional upon that application not succeeding, or to grant this funding in addition to University funding (where financial need merits that outcome).

Visitors funded through the VSS and the VFS should not expect to receive additional funding through the Parsons Visitors Scheme, since that money remains to be dedicated to the wide range of scholars that seek to visit the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney.