

DFCRC PhD Top-Up Scholarship for Research in Digital Finance

The Digital Finance Co-operative Research Centre (DFCRC) is a 10-year research program funded by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, industry partners and universities. Our mission is to bring together a unique group of stakeholders in fintech, industry, academia, research, and regulation to develop and harness the huge opportunities that arise from the next transformation of financial markets – the universal digitisation of all assets so they can be traded and exchanged directly and in real-time in distributed marketplaces. We refer to this new field as “Digital Finance”.

DFCRC is excited to announce the call for applications for our PhD Top-Up Scholarship Program. This scholarship seeks to promote research excellence in Digital Finance, contribute to the field's body of knowledge, and foster innovation. It is aimed at supporting outstanding PhD candidates pursuing research in DFCRC strategic areas, including:

- (i) Financial, technological, and legal/regulatory aspects of tokenisation of real-world assets;
- (ii) Digital Finance “toolkit” such as decentralised finance innovations, distributed ledger technology, and distributed markets;
- (iii) Applications of digital finance to areas such as sustainable/impact/regenerative finance, mining/minerals, and financial assets.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be current or prospective PhD candidates at our partner universities¹. Students who are part way through their PhD studies are eligible.
- Have secured a primary scholarship for their PhD from university or government.
- Demonstrate academic excellence and research potential in the field of Digital Finance.
- Align with DFCRC's mission and strategic areas of research, summarised above.²

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE

- The scholarship offers an additional \$15,000 per annum on top of the student's primary scholarship.
- The top-up is renewable annually for up to three years, contingent on satisfactory research progress.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A detailed CV, including academic achievements, publications (if any), research experience, and any relevant industry experience.
- A comprehensive research proposal outlining the objectives, method, and expected outcomes of the PhD project. The proposal should clearly demonstrate the alignment with the DFCRC's strategic goals.
- Proof of primary scholarship award.
- Supporting statement from academic supervisor.

¹ Curtin University, Macquarie University, UNSW, UTS, University of Western Australia, or University of Wollongong.

² For further information, see www.dfrc.com.au

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection committee at the DFCRC will review the applications. Selection will be based on academic merit, the quality and relevance of the research proposal, and the potential impact of the research.

BENEFITS TO THE STUDENTS

- Engagement with industry;
- Opportunity to participate in DFCRC research seminars and student events;
- Opportunity to present your work at DFCRC and/or industry.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be submitted electronically via the DFCRC website - <https://dfcrc.com/top-up-scholarship> - including all required documents in PDF format.

NOTIFICATION

Successful applicants will be notified by email, and scholarships will commence when a student agreement is signed.

For more information about the DFCRC PhD Top-Up Scholarship and application guidelines, please visit the DFCRC website <https://dfcrc.com/top-up-scholarship> - or contact education@dfcrc.com.

