

UTR2.59 - SIR RONALD FISHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Background –

- A. In 1965 a fund was established by the University of Adelaide from contributions amounting to £1,300 ('donations') made by the professional colleagues and friends ('donors') of the late Sir Ronald A. Fisher Sc.D., F.R.S.
- B. Donations were sought for the fund, the interest on which shall be used:-
 - a. to provide one or more memorial postgraduate scholarships in Statistics and Genetics at the University of Adelaide; and
 - b. to foster brief visits to Australia by scientists distinguished in the fields in which Sir Ronald worked.
- C. Ronald Aylmer Fisher was born in London in 1890. He came to Adelaide in 1959 on a six-month visit to the CSIRO Division of Mathematical Statistics and decided to settle in the city. He died in Adelaide on 29 July 1962. The University of Adelaide's website states that "R. A. Fisher's contributions to statistical theory and methods, experimental design, scientific inference, evolutionary biology and genetics have had far-reaching consequences in many branches of human thought and endeavour." It has also been said that modern genetics could not have developed without his contributions.
- D. The University accepted the donations upon the trusts specified by the donors and the donations therefore became the capital subject to those trusts ('capital sum').

Name of the fund

1. The capital sum, all income arising from the capital sum and any accumulations and additions thereto together form a fund called the 'Sir Ronald Fisher Memorial Scholarships' ('fund').

Investment of the fund

2. The fund is to be amalgamated for the purposes of investment, and held in a common fund, and the net income earned by the common fund shall be credited, rateably, to the funds so amalgamated and thereafter distributed according to the trusts specified by the donors.

Obligations

3. In administering the fund, the University must adhere to the terms specified and is obliged:-
 - (a) to invest the capital sum according to the directions of the donors; and
 - (b) to establish a scholarship in the manner described in the following Rules.

Rules

The Sir Ronald Fisher Memorial Scholarships are administered according to the following Rules:-

1. Two scholarships tenable in the University of Adelaide, to be known as 'The Sir Ronald Fisher Memorial Scholarships', shall be offered for award annually.
2. The value of each scholarship shall be \$5,000 payable in one instalment direct to the student following confirmation of enrolment in the approved program for which the scholarships were approved.
3. One scholarship shall be awarded to the highest ranked Genetics student proceeding to a postgraduate degree in Genetics at the University of Adelaide.
4. The other scholarship shall be awarded to the student placed highest in order of merit amongst those candidates who have completed a major in Statistics, with a standard of distinction overall in the subjects included in the major and who proceeds to a Master of Philosophy degree in Statistics.
5. The scholarship must be taken up in the year in which it is offered; acceptance of the scholarship cannot be deferred. If a student declines the scholarship offer, the scholarship will be offered to the next eligible student.
6. The scholarships shall be administered by the School of Biological Sciences (Genetics) and School of Mathematical Sciences (Statistics) respectively.
7. Where two or more candidates are of equal merit in any year, the Scholarship may be divided equally among them.
8. The scholarship may be terminated where:-
 - a student ceases to be enrolled in the approved program of study at the University;
 - a student has provided false or misleading information with regard to their personal details;
 - a student is guilty of serious misconduct in terms of the University Policy Rules for Student Conduct in the University.
9. The University may vary the rules from time to time in a manner consistent with the University's legal obligations and policies.

Rules approved by Deputy Vice Chancellor & Vice President (Research) 25 May 2017