



# Difficult Airway Society

## DAS PhD SCHOLARSHIPS

### *BACKGROUND*

1. It is possible to acquire a higher degree (PhD or MD) by several routes. A person may:
  - a. Prospectively enrol (rarely part-time) for a degree course, which usually takes a minimum of 3 years if full-time, away from clinical work; or
  - b. Submit a body of published papers forming a theme to a university
2. If the second route is taken, a person may submit to their own alma mater (if theirs offers such a route) or may identify another university that offers such a route:
  - a. The submission must be formal, organised, and reflect a clear and discrete theme of scholarly publications
  - b. These are formally examined
  - c. There is a cost (often ranging from £3,000 - £6,000)
3. Many DAS members accumulate a strong list of publications in the field of airway management and related themes. Yet, they do not have access to higher degrees and as practising clinicians they cannot take years out of work to undertake a PhD or MD.
4. DAS now has a Faculty of Professors who can serve to guide potential applicants and DAS has funds that it can make available to fund, in part, the submissions.
5. The sponsorship of members undertaking higher degrees fits with DAS's overall mission of creating an academic career path, from research-active member, to senior lecturer to DAS Professor.

### *PROPOSAL*

Anyone can choose their own route to obtaining a PhD. This proposal is only for those members who seek DAS support.

1. The scheme will be known as the 'DAS PhD Scholarship Scheme' and successful applicants known as DAS Scholars.
2. The scheme is open only to fee-paying members of DAS.

3. The DAS member approaches DAS to state that they wish to seek support for submitting for PhD by published works, including a list of publications they wish to include.
4. DAS makes a non-refundable administrative charge of £500 which serves to
  - a. act as a filter to ensure serious applications;
  - b. offer the DAS Professor mentors a token sum for their time and effort;
  - c. cover the cost of the mock viva (see below).
5. Once fee is paid, two PhD Mentors are assigned, from the Faculty of Professors (Mentors must themselves must have a higher degree). Applicants are free to choose one Mentor from the Faculty fulfilling this criteria.
6. The Mentors review the material submitted. There are two possible outcomes:
  - a. The submitted works are judged unlikely to lead to a successful submission for a PhD. The applicant is suitably advised, and £200 of the original £500 fee returned. Advice may include specific steps the candidate might take to make their works suitable for DAS support in future.
  - b. The submitted works are judged worthy of DAS support and the Mentors make a recommendation to DAS Committee that a Scholarship is awarded. The remainder of this document discusses the next steps.
7. The supervisor(s) and Scholar together identify the university to submit to and prepare the submission and go through the required processes. The applicant may express a preference for a university.
8. The Scholarship covers 50% of the costs of submission, up to a maximum of £3,000. These monies will be paid only after submission of the thesis to the university as advised by the Mentors.
9. Where a viva is part of the award from the university, the Mentors arrange a mock viva. If the applicant has chosen a non-UK Mentor, then the costs of arranging a mock viva are deducted from the Scholarship limit of £3,000 if the applicant wishes both Mentors to be present.
10. In this way, the applicant is fully prepared and mentored to submit a successful PhD thesis
11. After the award of degree, the applicant is invited to give a lecture to DAS AGM at the next available slot, and encouraged to apply for opportunities such as the DAS Professorship or other suitable awards.
12. A maximum of 3 Scholarships will be awarded each calendar year.

13. If the candidate is unsuccessful in the submission to the university, no refunds are made by DAS of any monies paid by the applicant to DAS; nor is any refund expected by DAS of any scholarship monies paid. However, if additional there are additional costs of resubmission required by the university, then (on the advice of Mentors) DAS may consider such a request.
14. An applicant may only be awarded a Scholarship once.
15. A successful applicant remains a Scholar until such time as the thesis is awarded a degree (or until a final rejection of thesis is submission is made by the university). Successful applicants may, in perpetuity if they wish, style themselves as 'DAS Scholar 2015-18' etc.