



2 September 2025

Gerard John Kelly  
Unit 33 40 Applegum Cres  
NORTH KELLYVILLE NSW 2155

Application No : 01502999  
Student ID : 5709962  
Date of Birth : 11 November 1983

Dear Mr Kelly,

### Research Letter of Offer - Term 3 2025

I am delighted to offer you admission as a Higher Degree Research (HDR) Candidate to UNSW Sydney. Following are your program details, conditions of offer, a list of outstanding documents (if applicable), instructions for accepting this offer, deadlines and important information about fees and government requirements. If you have applied for a UNSW Scholarship, you will be notified of the outcome in separate communication.

Program Details	
Program Code	1650
Program Name	Computer Science and Eng
Academic Plan	Computer Science & Engineering
Program Type	Doctorate
Campus	Sydney
Location	Kensington
Faculty	Faculty of Engineering
Attendance Pattern	Full-Time
Starting Term	Term 3 2025
Start Date	15/09/2025
Thesis Submission Date	09/09/2029*
Expected Program Duration	48 Months*
Fee Type	Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset Scholarship**
Research Topic	Ethereum Virtual Machine as a technical standard to enable digital asset interoperability

\*The Thesis Submission Date and Expected Program Duration is based on full-time attendance pattern and does not take into account any prior study that may have been deducted. Dates are projected and may be subject to change.

\*\* All Domestic HDR Candidates at UNSW are awarded an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Fee Offset scholarship, which is paid to the University from the Australian Government on your behalf. The Australian Government contribution in the range of \$45,000-\$55,000 annually is used to offset the costs of your tuition fees as a candidate of the University. This is paid to the University from the Australian Government on your behalf and subject to variation in later years based on actual Higher Degree by Research (HDR) expenditure. Further information can also be found on the Department of Education and Training's [website](#).

\*\*\* Indicative First Year Tuition Fee is a current estimate of tuition fees for 2025. Indicative fees are a guide for comparison only based on current conditions and available data. You should not rely on indicative fees. More information on fees can be found on the [fees website](#)

\*\*\*\* Indicative Full Program Fee is a current estimate of total tuition fees and other compulsory study costs excluding SSAF. Details of compulsory non-tuition fees are available in the Compulsory Non-Tuition Fees Table in Annexure A.

Supervisor(s)
Name
Associate Professor Hye young Paik

5709962

UNSW SYDNEY NSW 2052  
AUSTRALIA  
ABN 57 195 873 179  
CRICOS Provider No 00098G

## Comments

Please note that your Secondary Supervisor is Dilum Bandara.

All research candidates shall be enrolled in their Faculty's HDR Onboarding Program upon commencement of the program. You are expected to arrive at the beginning of the term, as this required onboarding program will commence shortly after the term start date. Details of the specific course meeting dates will be made available to you prior to the start of the term.

All Engineering research candidates shall be enrolled in GSOE9400 - Engineering Postgraduate Research Essentials upon commencement of the program. You are expected to arrive at the beginning of the term, as this required course will commence shortly after the term start date. Details of the specific course meeting dates will be made available to you prior to the start of the term.

## Document Verification

Please be aware that you must be prepared to present your original documents to UNSW for inspection prior to enrolment if requested. You may need to bring your original documents with you. Additionally, UNSW may verify your documents with your home institution. If your documents cannot be verified, you may be required to bring the originals to the Graduate Research School for verification.

## Academic Progression

Your continued enrolment in the HDR program is contingent on maintaining satisfactory progress towards on-time completion of the degree. Your progress will be monitored through the UNSW Research Progress Review (RPR) processes.

All HDR candidates, whether full-time or part-time, must participate in an annual RPR. The review will require you to present a comprehensive report on your research project, achievements, and plans, to an independent panel of experts in your field, academic staff and other HDR candidates. You will be reviewed as to whether you are progressing satisfactorily towards on-time completion.

Within the first 9–12 months of enrolment, all HDR candidates must achieve a satisfactory RPR outcome by successfully achieving progression expectations of the degree, which include completing the required coursework, onboarding program and preliminary research tasks, completing the UNSW Research Integrity and Research Data Management training, and attending the HDR Welcome and Orientation. For Doctoral candidates, this initial review is referred to as the Confirmation Review. If you are a Professional Doctoral candidate, you must satisfactorily complete between 48 units of advanced coursework typically within your first year of candidature. If you are not sure about the coursework in which you need to enrol, please contact your [School's postgraduate coordinator](#).

Please note that if your progress is deemed unsatisfactory following your RPR, your school will recommend appropriate and supportive remedial actions. However, if your progress continues to be unsatisfactory, your candidature may be discontinued. Visit our [website](#) for information on what is expected in your [first year](#) of HDR candidature and beyond.

## Accepting your Offer

You can accept, defer or decline your offer online via [Accept Online](#). Simply follow and complete the online acceptance procedures. Accept Part 2 should be completed only once you arrive at your study location. You will receive enrolment information approximately four weeks before the start of the term.

## Acceptance Deadlines

Accepting your offer correctly and within the specified time is extremely important. UNSW Scholarship recipients must accept their offers 2 weeks from date of issue, while non-scholarship recipients must accept within 1 month from the offer date. Your offer will lapse after this time.

The University reserves the right to close acceptances before the deadline stated, therefore it is advised that you accept your offer as soon as possible to secure your place in the program.

## Deadlines for uploading outstanding documents

Please note it is important to submit all outstanding documents in a timely manner to avoid delays to your enrolment. Please refer to our [website](#) for relevant deadlines.

### **Deferring Your Offer**

You may apply for deferment of your enrolment for up to 12 months. Approval is not automatic and may require approximately 4 weeks for review.

You will be emailed confirmation of your deferment, including information on how to take up your deferred offer. For your records, we recommend you keep a screen print of your deferment request. Requests to defer must be submitted by the acceptance deadline.

### **Unique Student Identifier (USI)**

The USI is a Government initiative that came into effect in 2021 for Higher Education. It is a single identifier for a student's education journey, and it links to an online account which contains records of all the training you have completed in Australia. All tertiary students (including international students studying in Australia) must have a USI to graduate and receive their award.

To create or retrieve your USI please visit this [website](#). For more information about your Unique Student Identifier, including when you must provide this to UNSW, please visit this [website](#).

### **Equitable Learning Services**

UNSW has a policy of equal opportunity in education and seeks wherever possible to ensure maximum participation of students with disabilities. A range of assistance is offered, including examination support, educational support, parking provisions and library assistance. If you have a disability, please make contact with the Equitable Learning Services by email to discuss your support needs: [els@unsw.edu.au](mailto:els@unsw.edu.au). Alternatively you can register with [Equitable Learning Services](#) once you are enrolled by following the information provided about [registration](#).

### **Orientation**

Orientation is essential for all new candidates studying at UNSW. Our comprehensive orientation and onboarding program is designed to equip you with the knowledge, resources, and connections necessary for a successful start.

HDR candidates are expected to attend the UNSW HDR Welcome and Orientation in person, which will occur approximately one week after the census date. Additionally, candidates will need to attend Faculty and School orientation events, including enrolling in their Faculty level HDR Onboarding Program upon commencement of the program. You are expected to arrive at the beginning of the term, as this required course will commence shortly after the term start date.

Details of the specific course meeting dates for the HDR Onboarding program will be made available to you prior to the start of the term. Other Orientation week events are detailed at [UNSW Orientation for Students](#).

Please accept our congratulations on your offer of admission. UNSW looks forward to welcoming you as one of our HDR candidates. Should you have any questions, please contact the Graduate Research School by email: [domestic.grs@unsw.edu.au](mailto:domestic.grs@unsw.edu.au) quoting the student number 5709962.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Jonathan Morris

Pro Vice Chancellor Research Training and Dean of Graduate Research

CRICOS Provider: 00098G

## Annexure A: Information about Fees

The fees set out in this offer are a current estimate for 2025. The fees are a guide for comparison only based on current conditions and available data. The fees you will pay will depend on when you enrol in the program.

### Compulsory Non-Tuition Fees

By enrolling into this program, you will be charged compulsory non-tuition fees related to your studies.

#### Compulsory non-Tuition Fee Table

<b>Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) (2025)*</b>	AUD\$365.00
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\* The compulsory Student Service and Amenities Fee (SSAF) contributes to the provision of support, development and campus life services. This fee is based on full-time enrolment and is subject to increase annually. Students will be invoiced for this amount separately, after commencement in their program through their student account. More information on SSAF and other incidental fees is available on this [website](#).

### Incidental Fees & Costs

UNSW will levy incidental fees for the following goods/services. Incidental fees are for goods and services provided to you which are not essential to your program or study. Incidental fees are payable on a user basis and are not generally refundable. The following list reflects common requests and is not exhaustive. Incidental fees are subject to review without further notice and further information on determining incidental fees can be found [here](#).

Service/Item	Description of Service/Item	Fee
Verification of Qualification	Public Information Verification	Free
	Non-Public Information Verification	AUD\$60
	Document Verification	Free
Early Release of Testamur		AUD\$125
Replacement Testamur		AUD\$160
Replacement Transcripts	Fast Transcript Service	AUD\$38
	Standard Transcript Service	AUD\$40
	Digital Transcript Service	AUD\$20
AHEGS	Physical	AUD\$40
	my eEquals	AUD\$20
Payment Plan Fee	Administrative Fee	AUD\$100
UNSW Graduation Fee	3 x guest tickets Hire of your academic dress A trencher (or bonnet for PhD graduates) for you to keep A digital copy of your professional stage photo Invitation to our post-ceremony function with refreshments Livestream of your ceremony	AUD\$225
Thesis submission related costs (variable)	Thesis editing	AUD\$4,400
	Thesis proofreading	AUD\$2,500

Please note that the University reserves the right to vary student fees at any time during enrolment in line with relevant legislation. For further information regarding:

- **Tuition Fee Schedule** - visit <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/fees/dates>
- **Higher Degree Research Indicative Fees & Costs:** <https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/hdr/fees-and-costs>
- **Full Program Indicative Fees** – visit <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/fees/international>
- **Student Services Amenities Fees** - visit <https://www.unsw.edu.au/student/managing-your-studies/fees/ssaf>
- **Incidental Fees** - visit <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/fees/incidental>
- **UNSW Medibank** - visit <https://www.medibankoshc.com.au/unsw/>

## Annexure B: Refund and Program Discontinuation Policy

Applicants who notify the University in writing that they wish to withdraw/discontinue from their program in their commencing term, will receive a full refund of all tuition fees and unspent non-tuition fees paid, less a discontinuation fee.

Any Refund and Discontinuation Fee will apply as per the following table:

Refund and Discontinuation Fee	
Visa refusal, documented illness/misadventure	Full refund
Accepted a full offer of admission and paid the deposit fee	50% of the deposit fee
Where a student has been found to have submitted false information and/or fraudulent documentation	No refund
Enrolled and requests withdrawal/discontinuation after Census date	Students remain liable for full tuition costs

### Refunds

Overpayments arising from changes to enrolment will be automatically allocated to future charges for enrolment and related fees, unless a refund is specifically requested by the student. Where a credit exists and is approved to be refunded to the student, UNSW will endeavour to process the refund within 28 days of receiving the application. UNSW adheres to the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standards (DSS) and will, in all cases attempt to return any credit back to the originating card or cardholder.

### Refunds will be paid

- To the person or entity from which the original payment was received
- In Australian Dollars, unless external requirements prevent this;
- Wherever possible, to the account from which; and using the mechanism by which, the original payment was received.

Where it is not possible for UNSW to make a payment to the account, person or entity from which the original payment was received, UNSW will consult with the student, the person or entity who made the original payment and the appropriate financial institutions to determine how the refund will be paid.

If UNSW is unable to contact a former student to arrange a refund of an overpayment, the funds will be held for a maximum of six years, at which time the credit balance will be transferred to the Office of State Revenue. Where a student is suspected of providing fraudulent documentation, UNSW will consider the account to be on hold until the investigation has concluded and a decision regarding the possible outcomes is communicated to the student. No refund of any visa processing fee, application fee, tuition fee or deposit will be made during this time and may be forfeited as part of the final decision.

For more information please refer to the [UNSW Student Fee Policy and Student Fee Procedure](#). This policy, and the availability of complaints and appeals processes, does not remove your right to take action under Australia's consumer protection laws.

In the unlikely event that UNSW is unable to offer an alternative course or pay a refund you can contact the Australian Government Tuition Protection Service (TPS) for assistance. Please go to this [website](#). The TPS ensures that overseas students are able to either complete their studies in another course or with another education provider or receive a refund of their unspent tuition fees.

## Annexure C: Complaints and Appeals

UNSW respects the views of the people it engages with and is committed to promoting a culture that values complaints and their effective resolution. All applicants and students at UNSW have the right to lodge complaints and appeals, which will be managed fairly and impartially under the Complaints Management and Investigations Policy and Procedure

### How to lodge an Appeal

An applicant who wishes to appeal the decision regarding their application for admission to a UNSW HDR program must submit a formal written appeal within 10 working days of receiving notification of their application being unsuccessful to the Graduate Research School for consideration by the Director, Graduate Research School (or nominee).

An appeal must be made only by the applicant (or officially nominated agent) and meet all the following conditions:

- a) the applicant satisfies all University and program entry requirements;
- b) the application for admission and, where applicable, any additional application for cases where approval by the Dean of Graduate Research is required, was lodged on time, in the correct manner, and all relevant documentation was made available to the selection personnel at the time of selection; and
- c) the applicant was not selected due to the improper application of this and/or other University policies or procedures.

Once an appeal considered under the Admissions to Higher Degree Research Programs Procedure by the delegated officer the University does not provide any further internal avenues of complaint or appeal.

### How to Lodge a Complaint

University Assisted Resolution: Applicants are encouraged to address concerns informally first. They can discuss issues with relevant staff members such as Graduate Research School Officers, School Postgraduate Coordinators, School Grievance Officers, or supervisors. University Formal Complaints: If an informal resolution is not appropriate, students can submit a formal complaint which will be managed centrally by the Conduct and Integrity Office (CIO). All complaints will be acknowledged within 10 business days. Students wishing to lodge a formal complaint should follow these steps.

Step	Description	
1	Identify the Issue	Clearly define the problem or issue they want to address
2	Submit a Complaint	Students can submit a written complaint via CaseIQ. Complaints may be submitted verbally or via other negotiated means if more suitable.
3	Investigation and Resolution	UNSW will investigate the complaint and aim for a fair resolution within a reasonable timeframe.
4	Appeals	If students are dissatisfied with the outcome, they can appeal the decision following UNSW's Internal Review process, or lodge an appeal with an external body (for example, the NSW Ombudsman)

The complaints acknowledgement and handling process will usually begin within 10 working days of the lodgement of the complaint.

### Support and Guidance

UNSW provides support and guidance throughout the process. Students can seek advice from the Conduct and Integrity Office, Nucleus Student Hub, Student Support or Arc Legal & Advocacy. All individuals who lodge complaints are protected from any form of retaliation or reprisal. Students may lodge complaints anonymously, and on behalf of others. Complaints are handled confidentially, respecting privacy in compliance with relevant legislation.

More guidance on how to raise complaints & seek support are detailed on our [website](#).

## **Annexure D: Other Important Information**

### **Program Study Periods**

HDR candidates enrol year-round (estimated to be 48 weeks of study and 4 weeks annual leave). Candidates must enrol in their research component for all four HDR terms (Terms 1,2,3 and Summer Term), as per the [HDR Calendar](#). Full-time enrolment is 48 units of credit per year, and candidates are expected to work on their research for a minimum of 35 hours per week. Part-time enrolment is 50% of the full-time load.

### **Cost of Living**

For useful information about the cost of living in Sydney please visit this [website](#).

### **Your Contact Details**

Personal details (including residential address, mobile number, email address, and who to contact in emergency situations) must be provided through your [myUNSW](#) profile after enrolment, and any changes to these details must be made within 7 days.



## **Annexure E: Student Admissions Privacy Statement**

The University is committed to safeguarding the privacy of individuals, implementing measures to comply with our privacy obligations. The University's commitment is set out in its [Privacy Policy](#) and [Privacy Management Plan](#).

The University collects your personal information directly from you during the application process. It may collect your personal information from other sources, such as your authorised representative, but only with your consent or where required or authorised by law. The University only collects personal information that is necessary to process and determine your application for admission to the university, including your name, contact details, date of birth, program of study, and previous education records.

The University stores your personal information in systems owned and managed by the University, and in other systems under license or by agreement. Service providers of such systems are contractually bound by the University's privacy and security requirements. Access to your personal information is limited to University employees and contractors who have a legitimate reason to access the information.

The personal information is only used for purposes that are directly related to and reasonably necessary for the legitimate functions and activities of the University. The University uses assorted technologies, including automation tools, to process your personal information. You will be advised of any consequences of not providing personal information requested by the University. The purposes for which your personal information is used include:

- processing your application, admission and enrolment, including processing your application in relation to other courses offered by UNSW or related parties that may be of interest to you
- informing you about University programs and events
- conducting data analysis to maintain the integrity of the University's academic programs, develop and improve the University's systems, and to support marketing and student recruitment activities

Your personal information will be disclosed by the University where necessary to support the uses outlined above. Where personal information is disclosed, it will be done only to the extent necessary to fulfil the purpose of such disclosure. Such disclosures may include:

- other institutions at which you have studied or applied for admission for the purpose of verifying documents you have submitted with your application
- UNSW controlled entities (e.g. UNSW College) where you are, have been or may be engaged with that entity
- contracted service providers which the University uses to perform services on its behalf and who are bound by the University's privacy and security requirements (some providers being located outside New South Wales and/or Australia for which, as a result, personal information collected by the University may be transferred outside of New South Wales and/or Australia).

The University may also use or disclose your personal information where authorised or required to do so by law. The University will seek your consent prior to the use or disclosure of your personal information for any other purpose. If you give your consent, you may subsequently withdraw your consent in writing at any time. You may request access to an amendment (whether by way of corrections, deletions or amendments) of your personal information that is held by the University, subject to any legal rights and obligations imposed upon the University to retain such information. For instance, certain information is required to be retained under the State Records Act 1998 (NSW).

If your application is successful and you enrol at the University, your personal information will be managed in accordance with the [Privacy Policy](#), [Privacy Management Plan](#) and [Student Privacy Statement](#).

### **Please Note:**

This offer letter constitutes a written agreement. You are responsible for keeping a copy of this written agreement, and receipts of any payments of tuition fees or non-tuition fees. This written agreement, and the right to make complaints and seek appeals of decisions and action under various processes, does not affect your rights to take action under the Australian Consumer Law if the Australian Consumer Law applies. Upon request, the University may be required to provide information about your application to appropriate Australian government departments.