UTR2.68 - THE E.W. BENHAM BEQUEST
THE E. W. BENHAM HONOURS SCHOLARSHIPS
and
THE E. W. BENHAM RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Background –

A. Edward Warner Benham (‘donor’), a prominent academic and lawyer, died on 21 June 1948 and under the terms of his Will dated 17 December 1943 bequeathed his residuary estate (subject to the prior life interest of his wife Violet Margaret Benham) to the University of Adelaide (‘bequest’) to be administered in the following manner:–

‘…..to the University of Adelaide the whole of the residue of my trust Estate remaining after payment of the above legacies absolutely (including therein the amount of any by this Clause bequeathed which may have lapsed by reason of the death of the legatee in my lifetime). I express the desire that the said University will apply such portion of the said legacy as it may see fit in the Establishment of two prizes to be annually awarded if thought fit for an original thesis in (a) English Literature (b) and English Political History subject to such conditions as the University may impose.’

B. Following the death of his widow Violet Margaret Benham in 1969, the bulk of his residuary estate (approximately $200,000) (‘bequest’) was left to the University of Adelaide which endowed two annual prizes, for theses in English literature and English political history, and used the major part of the bequest to buy books in those subjects and in law. $20,000 was spent on a bronze sculpture by Henry Moore, ‘Reclining Connected Forms’ (1969), for the University's grounds.

C. Edward Warner Benham was born on 20 January 1872 and educated at the Collegiate School of St Peter (1882-87) and the University of Adelaide (LL.B., 1891). After acting as dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Adelaide in 1937 during Professor Arthur Campbell's absence, Edward Benham retired the following year.

D. Richard Benham, Edward’s father was the State's first public librarian and in 1932 his son was a member of the committee that established the Friends of the Public Library of South Australia (vice-president 1942-48).

E. The University accepted the bequest upon the trusts specified by the donor and the bequest therefore became the capital subject to those trusts (‘capital sum’).

F. On 21 December 2010, the University approved expenditure of the income from the capital sum in the following manner:–

(1) An endowment of $147,000 to provide for the income for two undergraduate scholarships of $3,500 each year.

(2) An endowment of $840,000 to provide the income for the purchase of books for the Barr Smith Library to the value of approximately $40,000 per year.

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(3) The residuary funds of approximately $946,000 to provide the income for one perpetual, three year Postgraduate Scholarship in the area of English Literature and/or English Political History and if/when income permits, an additional Postgraduate Scholarship be considered.

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 E. W. Benham Bequest’ (‘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 wishes of the donor.

Trust terms

3. As trustee of the fund, the University is obliged by the trusts specified by the donor:-

   (1) to establish a perpetual trust in respect of the capital sum;

   (2) to establish a fund for the purchase of books for the Barr Smith Library; and

   (3) to establish scholarships in the manner described in the following Rules.

Rules

The E. W. Benham Bequest for the Barr Smith Library

4. The EW Benham Bequest provides an annual income distribution from the Endowment Fund to be used for the purchase of books for the Barr Smith Library in English Literature, English History and that part of the Law which was of greatest interest to Mr Benham.

The E. W. Benham Honours Scholarships

5. The EW Benham Honours Scholarships are open to students who are Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens or permanent residents of Australia. Students must be undertaking an Honours program at the University of Adelaide in the area of English Literature or English Political History.

   (1) The scholarship shall be known as the ‘The EW Benham Honours Scholarship’.

   (2) Two scholarships shall be awarded annually to students who are Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens or permanent residents of Australia who are
undertaking an Honours Degree at the University of Adelaide in the area of English Literature or English Political History. Students should also be undertaking Honours study on a full time basis and as a Commonwealth Supported student.

(3) The scholarships will be offered each year in perpetuity commencing in 2012.

(4) The annual value of the scholarships shall be $3,500 per student, payable in two instalments of $1,750 direct to the students following confirmation of enrolment at each of the census dates (usually 31 March and 31 August each year).

(5) The scholarship funds are to be used to assist with education and living costs for one year.

(6) The successful candidates will be required to undertake a research project (minimum of 12 points) under the direction of an academic staff member in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The students’ research topics will be determined by each student in conjunction with the relevant supervisors and school. Research projects should be in the areas of English Literature or English Political History.

(7) The scholarships shall be administered by the Scholarships Office of the University of Adelaide.

(8) Selection of the successful candidates will be made according to academic merit and the relevance of each student’s thesis topic. Academic merit will be determined according to students’ cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) for the preceding years.

(9) If in any year there are no candidates suitable for the scholarship, then no awards shall be made.

(10) The scholarship must be taken up in the year in which it is offered; acceptance of the scholarship offer cannot be deferred. If a student declines the scholarship offer, the scholarship will be offered to the next eligible student.

(11) If the successful applicants fail to continue their studies during the year in which the scholarship has been offered, or the students no longer meet the conditions of the scholarship, for example, the recipients are:

• no longer enrolled in an Honours program of study;
• no longer completing the research project for which the scholarship was approved;
• found to have provided false or misleading information with regard to their scholarship application;
• guilty of serious misconduct in terms of the University Policy Rules for Student Conduct in the University

then the balance of funds remaining for the scholarship after the first census date will be retained by the University, and the scholarship will be re-awarded and the balance of the funds paid to the next eligible student.

(12) These rules may be varied from time to time, but the title and general purpose of the scholarship shall not be changed.

The E W Benham Honours Scholarship rules amended and updated February 2012

The E. W. Benham Research Scholarship

1. The Scholarship will be formally named ‘The E.W.Benham Research Scholarship’. The establishment of the scholarship was made possible as a result of the generosity of a bequest by Edward Warner Benham, a prominent lawyer, following the death of his widow Violet Margaret Benham

2. The Scholarship will be available as income permits, to students commencing a full-time Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Masters by research program at the University of Adelaide in the area of English Literature or English Political History.

3. New scholarships shall be awarded subject to available funding with no more than two scholarships being paid at any one time.

4. The value of each scholarship shall be equivalent to an Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) (tax free) and indexed annually. Scholarship recipients will be subject to the same conditions of award as recipients of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) and entitled to all of the benefits and allowances provided by the APA including, but not limited to paid sick leave, paid maternity leave, relocation allowance and thesis allowance.

5. The Scholarship will be administered by the Research Education and Development Committee of the University of Adelaide.

6. The successful applicants will be selected by the University on the grounds of their academic merit, research potential and financial disadvantage as determined by the Research Education Development Committee.

7. The duration of the scholarships will be three years for research towards the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and two years for a Masters by research recipient. Applications for extensions will be considered on a case by case basis.

8. Tenure and annual extension of the scholarships will be subject to satisfactory progress, as indicated by the students’ supervisor and Head of School, subject to the normal procedures of the University.

9. The successful applicants will be under no obligation whatsoever to render any service to the benefactor, or the University of Adelaide as a result of receiving this Scholarship, except insofar that they are required to pursue their research as a full time student. They will be supervised in the same manner and to the same extent as any other postgraduate student.

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10. Payment of the stipend to the successful applicants will be disbursed by the University on a fortnightly basis.

11. It is not proposed that the scholarship would ordinarily be available to a student who is not an Australian Citizen or who does not have Permanent Resident Status in Australia.

12. The University of Adelaide accepts no responsibility to support the recipient of the Scholarship in the event that the Scholarship ceases to be funded for any reason.

E W Benham Research Scholarship rules approved by Deputy Vice Chancellor & Vice President (Research) 6 May 2016