INTRODUCTION

Postgraduate research scholarships, including Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) and Flinders University Research Scholarships (FURS), are awarded on the basis of academic merit and research potential.

A candidate's application is ranked on the basis of their:
- Honours result or other equivalent qualification;
- academic record;
- publications record.

Applications ranked on the basis of qualifications deemed equivalent to Honours are considered special cases.

RANKING PROCEDURE

The University uses a points system for ranking postgraduate research scholarship applications. The Scholarships Committee determines an applicant's ranking on the basis of the sum of the scores for the three categories below.

Category 1: Honours Result

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H1 Band A</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1 Band B</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1 Band C</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2A (Borderline 1st)</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2A High</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2A Mid</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2A Low</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2B</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Honours 1 category the Honours Coordinator will be asked to make a judgement on the basis of all Honours 1 grades in their discipline in the last 5 years. Therefore, H1 Band A will indicate that the Honours 1 was in the top third of all Honours 1 grades in the last 5 years; H1 Band B will indicate that the Honours 1 was in the middle third of all Honours 1 grades in the last 5 years; and H1 Band C will indicate that the Honours 1 was in the bottom third of all Honours 1 grades in the last 5 years.

Applicants with a H2A grade in the top third, middle third, and bottom third of the mark range in H2A will be allocated 60 points, 55 points and 50 points respectively. Applicants whose final Honours grade was less than the minimum grade required for First Class Honours by no more than one mark, and where the Honours coordinator reports that a decision not to award a first class degree was taken after considerable discussion, will be allocated 65 points. Honours coordinators will be asked to provide a detailed justification for applicants allocated 65 points.

In the absence of a Band recommendation from the Honours Coordinator an applicant with either an Honours 1 or Honours 2A classification, will provisionally be deemed as H1 Band C or H2A Low respectively.

Applicants who hold a Masters degree by research or a Masters degree by coursework will be considered as special cases. Faculties may recommend to the Scholarships Committee that other academic qualifications should be considered equivalent to the Honours year and should be considered as a special case. See the Special Cases section below for further information.
Category 2: Academic Record

The University will calculate each applicant's Grade Point Average (GPA) for the most recent two years full-time equivalent coursework studies (not including the Honours year). This is equivalent to 72 units of study in a degree from Flinders University. The academic record score is calculated using the following formula: GPA x 15 / 7. For applications where a GPA cannot be calculated, and in the absence of a recommended GPA from the Faculty, an academic record score of 10 will be allocated.

Category 3: Publications

Applicants should submit for consideration by the Scholarships Committee details of publications they believe demonstrate their research potential and scholarship. Applicants must complete a Publication Details form for each of these publications. Applicants who are unsure whether a publication should be submitted for consideration should contact the Higher Degree Administration and Scholarships Office (HDASO) for further information. The Faculties review applicants' publications and, taking into account scores proposed by the relevant School or Department, recommend points for various categories of publication. Where the applicant is the primary author or the primary researcher on a co-authored publication, maximum points will be awarded. For co-authored (co-edited) publications, the relative contribution of each author will be assessed in accordance with details provided by the applicant and fractional points will be allocated. Less than the maximum points may be awarded for publications in any category that indicate a lesser degree of research potential or scholarship. Points are allocated for publications published in the last five years and normally are within, or relevant to, the applicant's proposed field of study.

Details of publications submitted for publication prior to 31 October but not yet published should be included with the scholarship application. Publications submitted after 31 October will not be considered. At its December meeting, the Scholarships Committee will only allocate points to submitted publications if evidence of acceptance has been provided to the HDASO prior to that meeting. Please ensure that you submit this evidence of acceptance as soon as you receive it.

Points for publications are awarded as follows:

1 point each = national or international conference abstract or equivalent (may include less than substantial creative or non-fiction works). (A maximum of 3 points may be awarded in this category.)

3 points each = commercially published small monographs, edited books, or equivalent. (A maximum of 6 points may be awarded in this category.)

5 points each = refereed journal article, refereed conference publication, or a chapter in commercially published book, or equivalent.

10 points each = substantial, commercially published book, containing original research or creative work, or equivalent.

In each of the categories listed above, points may be allocated for creative or other works that demonstrate research and/or scholarship.

The Scholarships Committee, on the recommendation of the Faculty, may award more than the maximum points for a particular category if the applicant has made a case that significant research potential and scholarship is demonstrated through his or her publications in that category.

SPECIAL CASES

The Scholarships Committee will consider recommendations from Faculties that an applicant's score should differ from that derived from the formula. Such applications will be considered as Special Cases.

Special cases are determined on an individual basis. Faculties recommend a score for applicants whom they consider should be special cases. The Scholarships Committee assesses the recommended score, and determines the final score and ranking for the applicant.
Examples of special cases include, but are not limited to:

- Applicants who hold a Masters degree by research. A Masters degree by research is normally considered equivalent to H1 Band B. Applicants holding a Masters degree by research may request that their degree be considered equivalent to H1 Band A. Such applicants must provide written evidence to support their request.

- Applicants who hold Masters degrees by coursework. Where a Masters degree by coursework has a thesis component equivalent to at least 18 units (.5 EFTSL), the numerical grade of the thesis will replace the Honours result.

- Applicants who hold an Honours degree that is more than five years old where compelling evidence can be provided to document how their research potential has subsequently developed. Such cases must be supported by two referees' reports documenting compelling evidence that the applicant's research potential has developed since the Honours result.

- Applicants who hold a BMBS degree (or equivalent), with evidence of exceptional research potential, as demonstrated by successful completion of the Part I exam for fellowship of a professional medical college (e.g. FRACP, FRACS) and initiation of a research project in Part II of this assessment.

- Other applicants who hold professional degrees with evidence of exceptional research potential.

- Applicants who have undergraduate degrees more than five years old, who have changed their field of study, or have compelling evidence that the GPA over the last two years of their most recent coursework degree does not fairly reflect their academic achievement.

Amended by Scholarships Committee 17 August 2006
Approved Academic Senate 15 November 2006