

Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (International) and Flinders International Research Scholarship (FIPRS) applications

Ranking Guidelines



Academic Merit (10 points maximum)

This score should be based on the last two years fulltime equivalent academic work with a significant coursework component. Marks for thesis topics should not be counted in this category. If there is a Masters degree with sufficient coursework, the results from such course work should be used (but not marks for thesis topics). Ideally, the mark out of 10 should be based on the performance of the applicant against the performance of the applicant's peers. Information provided by the institution or the referees may be used to judge the performance of the applicant relative to peers.

Guidelines

10 points should be awarded only if there is reason to believe that the student ranks within the top 1 percent of persons completing a similar qualification.

9 points should be awarded for ranking among the top 2-5 percent.

8 points should be awarded for ranking among the top 6-10 percent.

7 points should be awarded for ranking among the top 11-15 percent.

6 points should be awarded for ranking among the top 16–20 percent.

5 points should be awarded for ranking among the top 21–25 percent.

4 points should be awarded for ranking among the top 26-30 percent.

0 points if the ranking is not in the top 30 percent.

Recommendations

The institution at which the qualification was obtained will be asked to provide ranking information or statistical information (means and standard deviations) of marks for a suitable cohort. If this is not practical, referees should be asked to provide estimates of such ranking.

Proposed instructions to referees:

Please rank the applicant against others who have completed a similar degree by providing an estimate the percentage of students who have achieved equal or greater results. For example a score of 15 percent would indicated that 15 percent of students completing a similar qualification achieved similar or greater academic scores. Please base estimates only on coursework performance.

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Research ability and experience will be considered separately. If exact figures are available (for example, the applicant was ranked at 132 out of 147 students completing a similar degree) please report this information instead of an estimate of percentage.

Minimum qualification:

Normally, applicants should not be short listed for further consideration if the Academic Merit score is less than 7 points.

Academic Research Training (10 points maximum)

This score should be based on research project reports or research thesis produced as part of academic training. The score should reflect academic research training as compared to the research component of an Australian honours degree.

Guidelines

10 points for research training and merit equivalent to a score of 95 percent or greater on the research component an Australian honours degree.

9 points for 90 – 94 percent equivalent score.

8 points for 85 – 89 percent equivalent score.

6 points for 80 – 84 percent equivalent score.

4 points for 75 – 79 percent equivalent score or high quality academic research output of smaller scope than a thesis (a research projects report, for example).

1 - 3 points for academic research output of smaller scope of lesser quality or for research topic results if there is no thesis or project report or similar research outcome.

Minimum qualification:

Normally, applicants should not be short listed for further consideration if the Academic Research Training score is less than 8.

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Research Indicators and Performance (only top 5 publications scored – max 25 points)

The guide below indicates the maximum score to be assigned to items submitted as research indicators and performance. Less value may be assigned on a case- by-case basis depending on the quality of the work and the suitability with respect to the proposed study.

5-point category:

- A. Sole or principle author of a peer reviewed full-length paper published in an internationally recognised leading journal.
- B. Principle creator of work acclaimed internationally.
- C. Sole or principle author of a book published by an internationally recognised publisher.

4-point category:

- A. A major author but not principle author of a peer reviewed full-length paper in an internationally recognised leading journal.
- B. A Major but not principal creator of work recognised internationally.
- C. Sole or principle author of a peer reviewed full-length paper published in and internationally recognised journal of secondary stature.
- D. Sole principle author of a peer reviewed full-length paper published the proceedings of a highly regarded international conference. Evidence of critical peer review and/or substantial rejection rate may be requested.
- E. Co-author of a book published by an internationally recognised publisher.

3-point category:

- A. A Major but not principle author of a peer reviewed full-length paper published in an internationally recognised journal of secondary stature.
- B. A minor author of a peer reviewed full-length paper published in an internationally recognised leading journal.
- C. Sole or major author of a peer reviewed full-length paper published in the proceedings of an international conference of secondary stature. Evidence of critical peer review and/or substantial rejection rate may be required.
- D. Sole author of a chapter in an edited collection of research articles.

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2-point category:

- A. A minor author of a peer reviewed full-length paper published in an internationally recognised journal of secondary stature.
- B. A major but not principle author of a peer reviewed full-length paper published in the proceedings of an international conference of secondary stature.
- C. Co-author of a chapter in an edited collection of research articles.

1-point category: (Cap of three points from this category)

- A. Published abstracts
- B. Paper published in “in house” or not readily available internationally
- C. Patents
- D. Full-length articles published in lay journals
- E. Research outputs that are not peer reviewed

Process

Colleges will assign scores in all three categories (academic merit, Academic research training and performance, Research indicators) for every applicant and submit up to 8 ranked applications for consideration by University Scholarship Committee. Scores assigned to research indicators and performance items should include the letter code to indicate the reason for the assignment. For example, 3-B to indicate that the applicant was a minor author of paper published in a leading journal.

All applications submitted to the Committee will be made available to the full Committee at least one week before the AGRTPS round. Committee member are asked to note if they have any questions regarding the assignment of points in any of the applications. Committee member need not rank the submitted applications, but should be prepared to contribute to the discussion at the AGRTPS meeting leading to a consensus final ranking. The chair reserves the right to include applications in the final discussions that were not submitted by the colleges.