

HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP RANKING GUIDELINES



JUNE 2023

PURPOSE

These guidelines are used to assist with the assessment of domestic HDR scholarship applications received by the Scholarships Office. The Flinders University HDR Scholarship Committee Ranking Panel will review, assess, and endorse scholarship offers based on recommendations put forward by Colleges.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) will approve all scholarship offers based on the recommendation of the Flinders University HDR Scholarship Committee.

HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED

Applicants must be eligible for entry into a specific HDR (PhD or Master by Research and others) candidature before proceeding further with their application.

HDR scholarship applications are ranked using these scoring mechanisms. Applications for scholarships are competitive and assessed based on evidence of academic merit and performance, and research output. It is expected that only exceptional applicants in their first Higher Degree will be recommended for a scholarship.

Scholarship offers are subject to applicants meeting the admission criteria for the relevant Higher Research Degree and receiving approval from the relevant College.

Applicants that do not follow the prescribed application process, do not apply, or do not provide supporting documentation by the relevant closing date, provide insufficient evidence to support their application or are unable to meet the requirements described in this document will be excluded from the scholarship ranking process.

HDR SCHOLARSHIP METRIC APPLICATION SCORING MECHANISM

The HDR College Committees will assess and allocate scores against these criteria based on the evidence provided by the applicant. The relevant Colleges will be asked to review the score and make recommendations to the HDR Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship applications will be ranked in accordance with the Australian Government Commonwealth Government Scholarship Guidelines (Research) 2017 and the Flinders University RTP Scholarships Administrative Rules, section 4.2. Applicants will need to ensure they meet the admission criteria for Higher Degree by Research as stipulated in the HDR Admission and Enrolment Procedures and Course Rule to apply for a scholarship. The applicant may nominate either Pathway A or B in their application. The Scholarships Office will confirm depending on the applicant's academic record prior to calculation of ranks. The Chair of the HDR Scholarships Committee will assess the equity assessment statements independently.

Pathway A is for recent First-Class Honours and Research Masters graduates, i.e., those who have gained their degree in the last two years with a GPA of 6.5 in their most recent 36 units of study, whereas Pathway B is open to all applicants who are eligible to be enrolled in a Higher Degree Research program at Flinders University, including those with experience working in research or industry. Scoring of Pathway A and Pathway B are completed separately as they are two different pathways. The allocation of the number of Scholarships will be at the discretion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

The aim of the following scoring guideline system is to identify as objectively as possible the applicants most likely to complete a high-quality Higher Degree Research thesis through demonstrating excellence.

ELIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS | PATHWAY A

THE RANKING OF PATHWAY A APPLICANTS.

1. Applicants must have achieved a **GPA of 6.5 or higher** (out of 7) in their last 36 units of study.
2. Applicants will be allocated points for their **Honours or an equivalent Research Masters in the past 2 years** in accordance with the allocation of points detailed under Section 1 to 3 below.
3. **Please note** that Sections 1 to 3 scores are **cumulative**.

SECTION 1 : QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must have achieved an **Honours or an equivalent Research Masters in the past 2 years**. Applicants must have achieved a **GPA of 6.5 or higher (out of 7)** in their last 36 units of coursework study prior to the Honors year or coursework GPA in Masters OR must be able to **demonstrate equivalency**. For example, in courses that use Non-Graded Pass or if their undergraduate studies were conducted in a country using a different GPA system. Refer to the Appendix 1 for equivalence scoring in courses with Non-Graded Pass or in Appendix 2 for disciplines that produce Non-Traditional Research Outputs (NTROs).

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| a) First Class Honours or Master (High Distinction) Thesis in the past 2 years | POINTS: 20 |
| b) Second Class Honours or Master (Distinction) Thesis in the past 2 years | POINTS: 18 |

SECTION 2 : OTHER BONUS POINTS (ONE ONLY)

National, International, or Institution-wide awards for excellence in research such as a:

- a) Australian research award in the discipline
- b) Outstanding Thesis Award
- c) Internationally recognised award – conference presentation or international organisation

Evidence of such award must be included in the application.

POINTS: 1

SECTION 3 : EQUITY ASSESSMENT

Applicants that performed less well in studies prior to commencing a Higher Degree by research due to reasons beyond their control can be considered for an additional point. The applicant may include a statement (maximum 250-words) addressed to the Chair of the Scholarships Committee that describes the situation that affected their study. Further evidence may be requested by the scholarships committee.

For example, but not restricted to:

- a) Complex caring responsibilities
- b) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and/or
- c) Disability or medical reasons

POINTS: 1

SECTION 4 : RANKING BY THE LAST 36 UNITS OF GPA

This procedure will be conducted by the Scholarships Office.

NB: any non-Flinders GPA will be converted to a Flinders GPA out of 7.

ELIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS | PATHWAY B

THE RANKING OF PATHWAY B APPLICANTS.

1. Applicants will be allocated points for their **Honours or an equivalent Research Masters** in accordance with the allocation of points detailed below under Sections 1 to 4 below.
2. Sections 1 to 4 scores are **cumulative**.

SECTION 1 : QUALIFICATIONS

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH HONOURS (FIRST CLASS) OR EQUIVALENT

Equivalent qualifications are determined by the following criteria:

1. Possess a degree that is the equivalent to a Bachelor degree with **First Class Honours** (with a relevant research component).
2. Possess a Master degree that the research component of the qualification must be formally assessed (separate to any coursework), as being of outstanding quality and received a **High Distinction**.
3. Or must be able to **demonstrate equivalency of a High Distinction level output**. For example, in courses that use Non-Graded Pass or if their undergraduate studies were conducted in a country using a different GPA system. Refer to Appendices for equivalence scoring in courses with Appendix 1: Non-Graded Pass and Appendix 2: NTRO guidelines.

POINTS: 20

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH HONOURS (SECOND CLASS) OR EQUIVALENT, OR MASTERS BY THESIS

1. Possess a degree that is the equivalent to a Bachelor degree with **Second Class Honours** (with a relevant research component).
2. Possess a Master degree that the research component of the qualification must be formally assessed (separate to any coursework), as being of outstanding quality and received a **Distinction**.
3. Or must be able to **demonstrate equivalency of a Distinction level output**. For example, in courses that use Non-Graded Pass or if their undergraduate studies were conducted in a country using a different GPA system. Refer to Appendices for equivalence scoring in courses with Appendix 1: Non-Graded Pass and Appendix 2: NTRO guidelines.

POINTS: 18

OTHER HONOURS/MASTERS WITH REDUCED RESEARCH COMPONENT

1. **The Honours qualification** includes a research component **less than 25%** of one academic year of research that is reported in a final thesis/dissertation/project as in some embedded Honours programs. The *minimum achievement* is a **second-class Honours or Distinction**.
2. **The Masters qualification** is less than 50% of one academic year of research that is reported in a final thesis/dissertation/project. The *minimum achievement* for the research component is a **Distinction**.

POINTS: 18

ELIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS | PATHWAY B

SECTION 2 : AUTHORED WORKS / PUBLICATIONS

A maximum of **four** publications/creative works in total will be considered toward the applicant's final score. All publications listed must meet the eligibility criteria for one of the publication types below and will be verified according to the [Excellence in Research for Australian \(ERA\) guidelines](#). Publications of up to *ten* years from their publication date will be considered. Publications older than ten years will not be counted.

Research output must be refereed, and the quality of the publisher must be confirmed (i.e. commercial or academic vs. predatory or vanity press) by a reputable source such as Scopus, Ulrichsweb or Flinders University Library. Publications in predatory journals will be excluded for assessment.

Applicants are asked to provide a copy of the publication which includes evidence of where the publication was published, date of publication etc. If a copy of the publication is not available, then a URL to the publication must be provided. It should be noted that where a copy of the publication or a URL is not provided, the publication will not be considered as part of the application. The criteria for each pathway of publication are detailed below:

1. **The book** must be a major work of scholarship, offered for sale, have an ISBN, be written by a single author or joint authors who share responsibility for the book, have been published by a reputable publisher or with evidence of peer review if published online only. **Verification documentation required:** contents, preface and introduction and pages showing all bibliographic information (ISBN, authors, publishers, all dates referring to copyright, publication, printing and distribution).

First Author **POINTS: 6**

Co-Author/other Author **POINTS: 4**

2. **Book chapter in a Book** must be a contribution consisting of substantially new material, to an edited compilation in which the material is subject to editorial scrutiny. It must be in a book offered for sale, have an ISBN and has been published by a reputable publisher, or with evidence of peer review if published online only. **Verification documentation required:** book chapter, contents, preface and introduction and pages showing all bibliographic information (ISBN, authors, publishers, all dates referring to copyright, publication, printing and distribution).

First Author **POINTS: 5**

Co-Author/other Author **POINTS: 3**

3. **Refereed Journal Articles** must be a research article published in a scholarly peer-reviewed journal with an ISSN and listed as being refereed/peer-reviewed article. **Verification documentation required:** article or post-print of article/contribution, pages showing bibliographic information (journal title, dates were not provided in the article or post print), byline, evidence of being refereed/peer-reviewed.

First Author **POINTS: 6**

Co-Author/other Author **POINTS: 4**

ELIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS | PATHWAY B

4. **Technical Reports.** A technical report must be a report that contributes to new research scholarship¹ that is produced for government agencies, non-profit, non-governmental organisations, commercial companies or educational institutions. It can be commissioned or not and can be written by a single author or joint authors who share responsibility for the technical report. The following examples are unlikely to be eligible for inclusion: Submissions to public inquiries and consultations, including government or parliamentary inquiries and policy blogs or online commentaries/articles. **Verification documentation required:** who the report is produced for, whether commissioned or not, length of report (ie. number of pages), how report is used (e.g. cited in government documents), whether peer-reviewed or not², and a copy of full report including table of contents, preface, introduction and other bibliographic information (ISBN, authors, publishers, all dates referring to copyright, publication, printing and distribution). We acknowledge that some technical reports are authored solely by the institution. In such instances applicants will be required to produce evidence of authorship along with the role of the applicant e.g. data gathering, analysis and write up.

Analytic report: **POINTS: 4**
Descriptive report: **POINTS: 2**

OR

First author: **POINTS: 4**
Other author: **POINTS: 2**

5. **Other peer-reviewed research documents and peer reviewed conference abstracts** in the public domain. **Verification documentation required:** article, contents, preface and relevant bibliographic details (ISBN, title, editor, authors, publisher, dates), proof of national or international significance if applicable, evidence that document has been peer-reviewed.

First Author **POINTS: 2**
Co-Author/other Author **POINTS: 1**

6. **Non-refereed works**, conference abstracts (non-refereed), papers, reports or other works which have been submitted.

First Author **POINTS: 1**
Co-Author/other Author **POINTS: 0.5**

7. **PATENTS** for specific products or processes that have been granted for the first time to the applicant.

POINTS: 1

¹ Definition of new research: creation of new knowledge and/or use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions, and understandings.

² NB. We have not made peer review a condition for technical reports as it is not common practice to record this even when reports have been peer reviewed.

ELIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS | PATHWAY B

8. CREATIVE WORKS (below only applicable to creative arts or NTROs applicants).

A. Visual Art

<i>Equivalent to</i>		<i>Points</i>	
A	Solo exhibition in a major commercial gallery, e.g., a gallery that is a member of the Commercial Galleries Association of Australia. It would normally take 1 year to 18 months to produce such a body of original work.	Book	6
B	Solo exhibition in a competitive venue, e.g. regional public gallery or a university gallery.	Refereed Publication	5
C	Participation in a group exhibition at the highest institutional level that has national/international significance. Highest level of curated process or jury.		4
D	Participation in a group exhibition at a creditable venue that has a substantially curated or juried process, e.g., a regional art gallery or a major prize.		2
E	Curator of a substantial exhibition in a Gallery, e.g., regional art gallery or a major institution.		2

B. Contemporary Music

<i>Equivalent to</i>		<i>Points</i>	
A	A 70-minute digital representation of original music, commercially released on a major label.	Book	6
B	Twenty minutes of original music, commercially released or grant funded, or receiving public airplay on commercial or public radio, or performed live at a recognised venue or festival, or used in a film or video with a television broadcast or theatrical release	Refereed Publication	5
C	The original music of fewer than 20 minutes' duration (as in B above).	Other peer-reviewed research	2

C. Creative Writing/Film/Performance

<i>Equivalent to</i>		<i>Points</i>	
A	A single-authored book, film script, documentary or series published by an industry recognised publishing, production or broadcasting company. (typically 3-7 years' work)	Book	6
B	Book chapter, essay or creative work, including a series of poems, prose fiction or short biographical piece published in a refereed journal or anthology of writings.	Refereed Publication	5
C	Creative work, script, documentary or drama published in an anthology or performance equivalent, in a recognised publishing company, community broadcaster or theatre. Includes editing a refereed anthology.	Other peer-reviewed research documents	2

ELIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS | PATHWAY B

SECTION 3 : BONUS POINTS

In addition to the points indicated under the identified sections 1–4, when the following circumstances are met, the following bonus points may be awarded:

National, International, or Institution-wide awards for excellence in research such as a:

- a) Australian research award in the discipline
- b) Outstanding Thesis Award
- c) Internationally recognised award – conference presentation or international organisation

Evidence of such award must be included in the application.

POINTS: 1

SECTION 4 : EQUITY ASSESSMENT

Applicants that performed less well in studies prior to commencing a Higher Degree by research due to reasons beyond their control can be considered for an additional point. The applicant may include a statement (maximum 250-words) addressed to the Chair of the Scholarships Committee that describes the situation that affected their study. Further evidence may be requested by the scholarships committee.

For example but not restricted to:

- a) Complex caring responsibilities.
- b) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; and/or
- c) Disability or medical reasons.

POINTS: 1

SECTION 5 : RANKING BY THE LAST 36 UNITS OF GPA

This procedure will be conducted by the Scholarships Office.

NB: any non-Flinders GPA will be converted to a Flinders GPA out of 7.

APPENDIX 1 : EQUIVALENCE FIRST CLASS HONOURS

AHPRA REGISTERED AND REGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS APPLICANTS

First Class Honours Equivalence for applicants that meet criteria for registration with Australian Health Professionals Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registered applicants and SELF REGULATED Health Professionals need to provide evidence of:

Research training during their degree (e.g. Advanced Studies, any form of assessable thesis work, or evidence of *specialty college fellowship training* with research experience);

PLUS

They can demonstrate at least **one peer-reviewed research output** as a **first author** (manuscript either accepted or already published with evidence); OR

They can demonstrate at **least three peer-reviewed research outputs** as a **secondary author** (manuscript either accepted or already published with evidence), along with a clear narrative of involvement with a research group (this can include a referee report stating the applicant's role in the manuscript/s).

Application of GPA scoring:

Context: Applicants from clinical backgrounds may have undergraduate sequences which are solely NGP (non-graded pass). This should not disadvantage clinician PhDs from accessing scholarships, as there is an expectation of Academic Excellence throughout undergraduate medical degrees, which is not awarded an NGP if it is not achieved. To address this and apply a GPA score, refer to the following.

Clinicians who meet criteria for registration with AHPRA and have an undergraduate sequence which includes **Graded** topics, shall have these topics applied for GPA calculations.

OR

Clinicians who meet criteria for registration with AHPRA and have an undergraduate or graduate degree program for which **Non-Graded** results are provided, shall receive a *default GPA of 6* (distinction equivalent) for assessment of any GPA scoring.

APPENDIX 2 : FIRST CLASS HONOURS EQUIVALENCE NON-TRADITIONAL OUTPUTS (NTROs)

First Class Honours Equivalence for applicants in Non-Traditional Outputs is only relevant to creative arts or NTROs applicants - need to provide evidence of:

Research training during their degree and any of assessable thesis work

PLUS

They can demonstrate a **creative non-traditional output** as an individual output that achieves a point *scoring of 5 for quantity and 5 for quality* according to the NTRO guidelines.

AND

A demonstration of exegesis potential through an account of the NTROs or Industry-led Research Practice as research.

ELIGIBLE NON-TRADITIONAL RESEARCH OUTPUT TYPES POINTS

Points: Non-Traditional Research

Outputs	Quantity Points	Quality
Major Individual Output	5	5
Minor Individual Output	1	1
Major Portfolio	5	5
Minor Portfolio	1	1

OUTPUT SCALE

(i) brief descriptors of each NTRO area and NTROs may be submitted as a single item or as an individual creative work (equal to one research output); or as a portfolio of works exhibited as a cohesive/thematic collection of the work of a single creator (also equal to one research output). Refer to [Excellence in Research for Australia Non Traditional Outputs](#) (NTROS)

Decisions about whether a single item or portfolio is 'Major' or 'Minor', 'quality' or 'N/A' will be guided by

(ii) a database of historical examples of points allocated.

Major: Individual Output

The creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings must be substantial.

Individual Output	Details	Possible Examples
Film and Digital Media	<p>The creation of a new screen, media or moving-image work of complexity and sophistication in technique, scope and scale and in which the researcher is considered the 'chief investigator'.</p> <p>'New screen work' may include narrative feature film, feature-length documentary, experimental or avant-garde work or work intended for gallery exhibition that is of a highly complex nature, that is sustained.</p> <p>May screen on a recognised streaming platform, in a major national or international festival or showcase, or major recognised gallery, and/or may be acknowledged through national/international prizes and awards.</p> <p>May show significant audience interaction through online platforms.</p> <p>As a guideline, the work should reflect more than a year of sustained work.</p>	<p>Dan O'Connell, dir., and Gwenda Young, prod. <i>Movie Memories</i> [documentary film]. Dublin: Creative Ireland/UCC, 2018. http://corkmoviememories.com/</p> <p>Amos Gebhardt, <i>Divided Worlds</i> [video installation]. Adelaide: Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, 2018. https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/2018-adelaide-biennial-australian-art-divided-worlds/</p> <p>Richard Jasek, dir. <i>Getting Their Acts Together</i> [documentary film]. Adelaide: SLA Films, 2020.</p>
Creative Writing	<p>A professionally edited novel, volume of poetry, collection of short stories, work of literary non-fiction or script for a major play or film.</p> <p>May be published in print or spoken word by a commercial publisher or a recognised specialist independent publisher, staged by a recognised theatre company or performed at a recognised national or international festival, or screened at a recognised national or international festival.</p> <p>As a guideline, the outcome should reflect more than a year of sustained work.</p>	<p>Sean Williams. <i>Her Perilous Mansion</i>. Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2020.</p> <p>Alex Vickery-Howe. <i>Watchlist</i>. Sydney: Currency Press, 2020.</p> <p>(Amy Matthews writing as) Tess LeSue. <i>Bound for Glory</i>. New York: Penguin/Berkley, 2019.</p>
Translation	<p>A translation of a novel, volume of poetry, collection of short stories, major play or work of non-fiction.</p> <p>May be published by a recognised commercial publisher or a recognised independent publisher specialising in literary translation.</p> <p>As a guideline, the publication should reflect more than a year of sustained work.</p>	
Theatre and Performance	<p>Performance in/creation of a new work involving complexity and sophistication in technique, scope or scale and in which the researcher is considered the 'chief investigator'.</p> <p>May be programmed by a recognised company/national/international festival/venue; acknowledged</p>	<p>Sarah Peters. <i>Blister</i> [play]. 80 mins duration. Performed at Holden Street Theatres, 31 July–3 August, 2019. http://holdenstreettheatres.com/index.php/What-s-On/history/blister</p>

	through national/international prizes/awards; nationally or internationally broadcast; an ongoing series of significant site-specific events.	
Music	<p>Major composition of 30 minutes or more performed at a recognised venue, published by a recognised publisher or released by a recognised music label.</p> <p>May be acknowledged through national/international prizes/awards; a work nationally or internationally broadcast.</p>	(Sean Williams under the name) Theadelphiaan. <i>Isolation</i> [album]. Portland: Projekt Records, 2020.
Visual Arts	<p>Visual artwork in an appropriate medium expressing ideas that lead to new knowledge and/or advance the development and understanding of the creative arts.</p> <p>May offer a new contribution to broader cultural debates and/or develop or extend art historical/theoretical debates surrounding specific genres of creative production (e.g., painting, video, ceramics).</p> <p>May be acknowledged through national/international prizes/awards; nationally or internationally broadcast; presented in a venue recognised nationally or internationally by peers in the discipline (e.g., a major festival/gallery location); commissioned/funded by a distinguished public or private body.</p>	