2016 Scholarship Main Round – Assessment Summary

1. Selection Criteria – Hurdle System

Due to the volume of applications received in comparison to the number of government and Research and Innovation Division scholarships available and to recognise government scholarship eligibility criteria, applications will be assessed using the following hurdle system:

1.1. Closing Date

Applications not received by 31 August, 2015 or 31 October, 2015 (domestic) will be deemed ineligible and put into the 2017 round. All applications must be complete by the closing date. Supporting documentation received after the closing date may not be considered unless it is confirmation of a publication acceptance which can be accepted up until 3 November 2015.

1.2. English Proficiency

Applications (international and domestic) who have not demonstrated meeting UoN English requirements by the closing date will be deemed ineligible and not assessed for scholarship. There will be an opportunity to make a case for relaxation of the English requirement or to be included in the scholarship round if warranted.

1.3. Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculations

The GPA used for scholarship assessment for both domestic and international candidates will be taken directly from the applicant’s Bachelor transcript. The Office of Graduate Studies will scale the overall marks obtained and maximum marks available so that each applicant is given a GPA out of 7. Applications that do not achieve a minimum scaled GPA of 5.25 out of 7 will be deemed ineligible and not assessed for scholarship.

In exceptional circumstances, if the proposed supervisor and Head of School consider that this is not appropriate for a particular candidate, a case can be made to the Chair of the RHD Scholarship Ranking Committee for an alternative GPA score to be used. This proposed GPA score and justification should be submitted using the Alternate Scholarship GPA Score Form to the Senior Graduate Studies Officer – Research Recruitment, Admissions and Scholarships at least two weeks prior to the ranking meeting.

If an applicant has two Bachelor degrees, the most relevant rather than the most recent degree is used. Any applicant without a Bachelor degree will be deemed ineligible. The School has the responsibility for proposing an alternate GPA if appropriate which will then be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Dean of Graduate Studies or the RHD Scholarship Ranking Committee.

1.3.1. Master degrees in relation to GPA calculations.

Despite the master degree being the more recent academic study, only Bachelor degrees are used for the GPA component of the scholarship score for equity and accurate comparison purposes. Masters study is recognised in the scholarship assessment score as extra research attainments, where there is a significant research component.
1.4. Honours Class One or Equivalent

Applications that do not demonstrate any possible way of meeting Honours Class One equivalence e.g. have a low GPA and have no additional research attainments will be deemed ineligible and not assessed for scholarship as there are always excess numbers of applicants who are Honours 1 equivalent. These applications will be sent to the Faculty for assessment for admission only and given lower administrative priority than a complete scholarship application; in exceptional circumstances the Faculty may propose that a full scholarship assessment be conducted. Determination as to whether to proceed with a proposed assessment is at the discretion of the Dean of Graduate Studies based on the justification provided for the assessment.

1.5. Remaining Eligible Applicants

All remaining applicants will have a full scholarship assessment. Scholarship assessment forms will be pre-filled by OGS using information evidenced in the application package and will indicate whether the candidate is being assessed as a current/recent honours student or other (previous) honours student.

2. Scholarship Score Components

The scoring mechanism for the 2016 round will be:

i. International Current
   GPA converted to a score out of 17
   Publications out of 1.5
   Experience out of 1.5

ii. International Other
   GPA converted to a score out of 8
   Publications out of 6
   Experience out of 6

iii. Domestic Current
   GPA converted to a score out of 17
   Publications out of 1.5
   Experience out of 1.5

iv. Domestic Other
   GPA converted to a score out of 12
   Publications out of 4
   Experience out of 4

2.1. Publications

Scoring of publications and exhibitions will be as follows:

- International refereed journal article – 2 marks each
- National refereed journal article – 1 mark each
- Conference publication – 1 mark each (max 3)
- Research exhibition – 1 mark each

The scoring system described only applies to publications for which the applicant is first author. Half the points described above will be allocated for publications for which the applicant is only a contributing, rather than lead,
author. For instance, an international publication for which the applicant was third author will attract 1 mark. Students may be awarded a total of 3 points for publication for which they were not first author. For instance, a student who was a contributing author on 8 publications may only receive 3 marks; the student may though receive further marks for other publications for which they were lead author.

Where a discipline has a different publication authorship model (e.g. alphabetical), a case may be made by the supervisor with approval of the Head of School and ADRT to the Dean of Graduate Studies outlining the model as justification for full points. Such cases will be confirmed and then kept as a reference for future publication scoring by OGS.

2.2. Research Experience

Scoring of research experience will be as follows:

- Research master degree – 6 marks each
- Coursework master degree with 20% thesis component – 3 marks each
- Research work experience years – 1 mark per full-time year (max 3)

3. Honours Class One and Equivalence

Honours 1 or equivalent is the threshold for consideration for the award of a scholarship.

International qualifications

International qualifications will be assessed for comparability with Australian degrees on the basis of reference material from the National Office for Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) Guides, UK NARIC, the International Handbook of Universities and other available resources. These assessments will be undertaken by staff in OGS.

3.1. Qualifications that may meet equivalence requirements

Some applicants will present with a Bachelor degree as well as other qualifications. Standard Honours 1 equivalency measures include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equivalence</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Publications</td>
<td>2 or more refereed publications, exhibitions, conference publications etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/work Masters + 1 yr PhD or</td>
<td>Coursework Masters with min 20% thesis component plus 1 year satisfactory progress in a RHD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Res. Masters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/work Masters + 1 publication</td>
<td>Coursework Masters with min 20% thesis component plus one published refereed paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/work Masters + 2 yrs exp</td>
<td>Coursework Masters with min 20% thesis component plus 2 years research work experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA 6/7</td>
<td>For International Applicants only who did their Bachelor degree overseas, a Grade Point Average of 6 out of 7 or higher in a four year undergraduate degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters by Research</td>
<td>Master of Philosophy or any other Master’s program predominantly by research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/work Masters with Outstanding</td>
<td>Coursework Masters with min 1 semester full-time equivalent research project for which the student achieved a HD (or equivalent grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Detail to be provided by the proposed supervisor and confirmed by HOS and ADRT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Honours Class 1 Equiv.</td>
<td>Will not be eligible for a scholarship unless there are scholarships remaining and all candidates with H1 have a scholarship offer.</td>
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