

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP) SCHOLARSHIPS

CRITERIA AND SCORING GUIDELINES

Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship applicants are ranked based on selection criteria and scholarships are awarded to the top-ranked applicants as determined by the RTP Scholarship Committee. This Committee comprises the Dean, Graduate School, Associate Deans Research and the Higher Degree Research Directors in each Faculty. In most instances scholarships will be awarded to PhD applicants, but in exceptional circumstances scholarships can be awarded to exceptional Masters by Research Graduate Researchers where there is a strong likelihood they will qualify to convert to a PhD program during their candidature.

Mandatory Eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must meet the admission requirement of the award for which they are applying.
- Applicants must provide complete and sufficient documentary evidence.
- The proposed supervisors must have the capacity and necessary expertise to supervise the applicant in the proposed area of research.
- The University has the necessary resources and equipment required for the proposed research.
- International applicants will need to demonstrate that they meet the English language proficiency requirements for entry into candidature.

Selection Criteria

1. **Academic Qualifications** – strong academic record, undergraduate degree, first class honours, second class honours first division or equivalent, master's by research etc ([Rules Relating to Awards - Rule 9 - Doctor of Philosophy \(PhD\)](#); [Rules Relating to Awards - Rule 7 - Masters by Thesis](#) for admission criteria).
2. **Academic merit:** High GPA in previous degrees, particularly in the relevant research area.
3. **Refereed** publications if applicable.
4. **Research proposal:** A well-developed research proposal demonstrating a clear research question, methodology, and potential impact.
5. **Supervisor support:** A strong statement of support from a potential research supervisor.
6. **ADR's Recommendation:** Assessing how the research project aligns with the University and Faculty's research strategy, and its relevance to Australia.

www.scu.edu.au

Lismore

PO Box 157, Lismore NSW 2480 Australia
T +61 2 6620 3000 **F** +61 2 6620 3700

Coffs Harbour

Hogbin Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450 Australia
T +61 2 6659 3777

Gold Coast

Locked Mail Bag 4, Coolangatta QLD 4225 Australia
T +61 7 5589 3000 **F** +61 7 5589 3700

Graduate School

Weighting and Ranking criteria:

Scores will be allocated by the Scholarship Committee following the below weighting and ranking criteria. A maximum of 11 points can be allocated.

1. **Academic Qualifications (maximum of 3 points)**
 - Honours H1 – 3 points
 - Masters by Research – 3 points
 - Honours 2A – 2 points
 - Coursework masters with research component – 1 point
2. **Academic Merit (maximum of 1 point)**
 - GPA of 6.5 or more – 1 point
3. **Refereed publications (maximum of 2 points)**
 - Applicant must be 1st Author, **must be** peer reviewed and in a reputable academic journal. 1 point per article to a maximum of 2 articles. Conference proceedings and other submissions will be considered but not weighted.
4. **Research Proposal (maximum of 3 points)**
 - Quality of research proposal will be assessed as follows:
 - 1 point for clear strategic research question
 - 1 point for proposed methodology
 - 1 point for potential impact
5. **Supervisor support – 1 point**
6. **Recommendation from ADR – 1 point**