AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP) SCHOLARSHIPS
CRITERIA AND SCORING GUIDELINES

Scholarship applications will be ranked in accordance with the Australian Government Commonwealth Government Scholarship Guidelines (Research) 2017. Please note that applicants will need to ensure they meet the admission criteria as stipulated in the Award Rules in order to apply for a scholarship. Applicants are urged to consider whether they are eligible for entry into Masters by Research or PhD candidature before proceeding further with their application.

There will be two pools of applicants: Pool A and Pool B. Applicants that are unsuccessful in Pool A will be considered under Pool B. Applicants must indicate on the application form if they will be applying for Pool A or Pool B.

The intention of Pool A is to allow very recent First Class Honours and Research Masters graduates, i.e. those who have gained their degree in the last two years, the opportunity to secure a scholarship, whereas Pool B is open to all applicants who are eligible to be enrolled in a Higher Degree Research program at Southern Cross University.

For the 2023 round of Australian Government RTP scholarships, the number of scholarship places offered will be split, based on the quality of the applicants, between Pools A and B. For example, if it is determined that the number of candidates worthy of a scholarship in Pool B outweighs Pool A, then, at the discretion of the RTP Scholarships Committee,[1] scholarships that were intended to be allocated for Pool A can be added to Pool B.

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. This point scoring scheme is not designed to take into account other considerations that may be used in the allocation of these scholarships, such as the relationship of the applicant's proposed research with the strategic research priorities of the University.

Referee Reports will not be used in the scoring of Pool A or Pool B applicants. At the discretion of the RTP Scholarships Committee, they may also be used, in addition to an interview, to differentiate between applicants who are closely ranked and are on the cut-off point.

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[1] Comprised of the Dean, Graduate Studies, and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)

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CRICOS Provider 01241G

Pool A - Eligibility criteria for applicants in Pool A:

To be eligible for Pool A, applicants must have First Class Honours or an equivalent Research Masters in the past 2 years. Applicants must have a 3rd year undergraduate GPA of 6.0 or higher (out of 7) or must be able to demonstrate equivalency if their undergraduate studies were conducted in a country using a different GPA system. This undergraduate GPA *does not* include any Honours year.

The ranking of Pool A applicants.

All eligible Pool A applicants will be ranked initially according to their 3rd year undergraduate GPA.

Some applicants will not know if they will receive First Class Honours at time of application. To offset this, the Graduate School will determine beforehand the likelihood of achieving First Class Honours.

Considerations for closely ranked applicants in Pool A.

Satisfying the above criteria will entitle applicants to be considered for the allocation of a scholarship place in Pool A.

Where the number of suitable applicants is greater than the number of scholarships available in Pool A, closely ranked candidates will be separated out on the following criteria:

- Publications or creative works scored according to points allocated below in Category 7 (Publications or Creative works); and
- Category 8 (Bonus Points); and
- Referee reports.

NB: Pool A applicants who are unsuccessful in Pool A, or who are deemed to not satisfy the eligibility criteria of Pool A, will be transferred to Pool B at the discretion of the RTP Scholarships Committee. In this case, such applicants will be ranked according to the scoring system for Pool B applicants described below.

Pool B - Eligibility criteria for applicants in Pool B

Applicants applying for a PhD scholarship in Pool B must have, as a minimum, an Honours degree from an Australian university, or an international equivalent to an Australian Honours degree (i.e. undergraduate + a thesis/substantial research project component).[2]

Applicants applying for a Masters by Thesis scholarship must have, as a minimum, a Bachelor's degree from an Australian university, or an international equivalent to an Australian Bachelor's degree and have 3rd year GPA of 6.0.

The ranking of Pool B applicants.

Applicants will be allocated points for their ***highest relevant degree only*** in accordance with the allocation of points detailed below under Categories 1 to 6 below.

Candidates will be allocated points for publications or creative works in accordance with the allocation of points detailed below under Category 7.

Candidates will be allocated points if they have received a University Medal or Outstanding Thesis Award in accordance with the allocation of points detailed under Category 8.

Please note that Categories 1 to 6 are not cumulative, and it is only the applicant's highest qualification that will count towards their final score.

CATEGORY 1: 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's degree from this university with First Class Honours (with a relevant research component).

2. Possess a Masters degree that is equivalent to a Masters degree from this University, with a relevant research component. The research component of the qualification must be formally assessed (separate to any coursework), as being of outstanding quality. For example, graded at the highest possible grade, or ungraded with examiners' reports supplied, in which the thesis is specifically described by examiners in terms indicative of the standard normally expected of a first class Honours thesis (e.g. 'exceptional', 'outstanding', 'remarkable' or rank the thesis in the top 10% of contributions in the field, etc.)

POINTS: 20

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[2] The SCU International Office is able to advise if an international degree meets SCU Honours equivalence.

CATEGORY 2: AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH HONOURS (SECOND CLASS, DIVISION 1) OR EQUIVALENT, OR MASTERS BY THESIS

Equivalent qualifications are determined by the following criteria:

1. The Honours or equivalent qualification includes at least 25% of one academic year of research that is reported in a final thesis/dissertation. The Masters qualification includes at least 50% of one academic year of research that is reported in a final thesis/dissertation (The year may include seminar presentation, proposal, literature review and/or advanced research methodology coursework units.)

   If graded, the research component of the qualification achieved the second highest level possible.

   Includes ungraded Research Masters (not 'outstanding' but assessed as at least a 'satisfactory' Research Masters).

                                                                          POINTS: 18

CATEGORY 3: OTHER HONOURS/MASTERS WITH REDUCED RESEARCH COMPONENT (<25% RESEARCH FOR HONOURS; AT LEAST 25% BUT <50% FOR MASTERS)

Equivalent qualifications are determined by the following criteria:

1. The Honours or equivalent qualification includes a research component but this component is **less than 25%** of one academic year of research that is reported in a final thesis/dissertation/project. The Masters qualification is less than 50% of one academic year of research that is reported in a final thesis/dissertation/project. (The year may include seminar presentation, proposal, literature review and/or advanced research methodology coursework units.)

2. The grades awarded for this reduced research component are to be at the level above 'satisfactory' or 'pass'. Normally, **at least 25%** is the minimum research content for an Honours qualification for direct admission into PhD. However, some mixed-format Honours degrees in various fields may award 'degrees with Honours' with research/project components of less than 25%. They may be included here if they normally qualify for direct entry into PhD in that discipline.

   Normally, 50% is the minimum research content for a Masters qualification for direct admission into PhD.

                                                                          POINTS: 14

CATEGORY 4: MASTERS WITH REDUCED RESEARCH COMPONENT (<25% RESEARCH)

Equivalent qualifications are determined by the following criteria:

1. The qualification includes a research component but this component is of less than 25% of one academic year of research and is reported in a final thesis/dissertation/project. (The year may include seminar presentation, proposal, literature review and/or advanced research methodology coursework units.)

   The grades awarded for this reduced research component are at the level of 'satisfactory' or 'pass'.

   Normally, 50% is the minimum research content for a Masters qualification for direct admission into PhD.

   POINTS: 12

CATEGORY 5: MASTERS/PHD QUALIFIER AT SCU OR OTHER AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY

1. A Qualifier must include a research component in which a small research project is formally reported. As this course does qualify the applicant for direct entry into a postgraduate program, it is increased in value relative to coursework Masters.

   POINTS: 10

CATEGORY 6: COURSEWORK MASTERS/HONOURS

1. At least one full-time equivalent academic year (post-undergraduate).
   Less than 25% research component and would not normally qualify, on its own, for direct entry into a PhD.

   POINTS: 8

CATEGORY 7: PUBLICATIONS

A maximum of **five** publications/creative works in total will be considered toward the applicant's final score as part of their application, noting that these are the only publications that will be considered towards the 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.
Please note that only publications of up to ten years from their publication date will be considered. Publications older than ten years will not be counted.
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 category of publication is 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).

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First Author **POINTS: 6**
Co-Author/other Author **POINTS: 4**

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2. Book chapter in a Research 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).

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First Author **POINTS**: 5
Co-Author/other Author **POINTS**: 3

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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 in Ulrichs' database (http://ulrichsweb.serialssolutions.com). ***Verification documentation required***: article or post-print of article/contribution, pages showing bibliographic information (journal title, dates were not provided in the article or postprint), byline, evidence of being refereed/peer-reviewed (e.g. a copy of the Basic Description report for the journal from Ulrichs' database).

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First Author **POINTS**: 5
Co-Author/other Author **POINTS**: 3

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4. Other peer-reviewed research documents 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.

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

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

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POINTS: 0

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Creative Works Equivalences - The following information will be required in order to verify these submissions.

Please detail this information if applicable to your submission:
- Publisher (if applicable)
- Place and date of publication
- Type of work (e.g., interactive video installation, website, novel etc.)
- Extent (e.g., size, dimensions, duration, number of images/works)
- Standard number (e.g., ISBN, ISSN, ISMN)
- Relevant website links
- Other notes (if applicable) (e.g. venue name and type, venue commissioner, the role of creator, the selection process for creative work e.g. competition, application process etc.)

CREATIVE WORKS EQUIVALENCES (1 to 3 below only applicable to creative arts applicants).

1. **Visual Art**

		Equivalent to	Points
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

2. Contemporary Music

		Equivalent to	Points
A	A 70-minute CD 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

3. Creative Writing

		Equivalent to	Points
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

CATEGORY 8: BONUS POINTS

In addition to the points indicated under the identified categories 1–7, when the following circumstances are met, the following bonus points may be awarded:

1. Institution-wide awards for excellence in research such as University Medal or Outstanding Thesis Award.

   POINTS: 5

2. Discipline-specific awards for academic achievement.

   POINTS: 2