Research Degrees Scholarship Allocation Guidelines: Competitive Commonwealth and University of South Australia funded scholarships

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REFERENCE AUTHORITY: Director: Student and Academic Services

Preamble

These Guidelines provide prospective Higher Degree by Research students with information about the allocation of Commonwealth and University of South Australia (UniSA) - funded scholarships.

Scope

These Guidelines apply to Higher Degree by Research scholarship applicants.

Guidelines for the Admission and Assessment process

1. Admission into a research degree at UniSA is based on a prospective student meeting the admission criteria and minimum English language entry requirements.

2. The assessment and allocation of scholarships is a competitive process based on the merit of an application as demonstrated through the Quality Assessment Model, and on UniSA areas of research priority and research strength.

3. Some discretion exists in the assessment and allocation of scholarships according to the academic judgement of Division Scholarships Panel.

4. UniSA reserves the right to decline an application for admission and/or scholarship where the intended research does not align with university research priorities or where appropriate supervision is not available.

Admission Criteria

5. The admission criteria for research degrees are explained in Section 1 of the *Academic Regulations for Higher Degrees by Research*.

6. Local areas of UniSA may apply additional quality standards when assessing applications for admission.

7. UniSA uses the National Recognition of Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) and the Australian National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) frameworks to assess the equivalence of international qualifications against UniSA admission criteria.

8. UniSA assesses the equivalence of Honours qualifications against UniSA admission criteria if required.

English Language Requirements

9. International applicants from non-English speaking backgrounds are expected to meet UniSA English language proficiency standards.

10. UniSA recognises the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and other standards, as explained in the UniSA English Language proficiency requirements.

11. Scholarship applicants are required to demonstrate that they have met the required level of proficiency by the closing date for scholarship applications.

Scholarship Rounds

12. UniSA normally undertakes two major scholarship rounds each year. Closing dates will be advertised on the University's Research Degrees website.

   12.1   The international scholarship round includes the Research Training Program international (RTPi) scholarships and University President's Scholarships (UPS).

   12.2   The domestic scholarship round includes the Research Training Program domestic (RTPd)) and UniSA Postgraduate Awards (USAPA).

13. UniSA also offers other scholarships, which are advertised on the 'Scholarships' pages of the UniSA website.

Applying for a Commonwealth or UniSA-funded Scholarship

14. Students must submit their application and supporting documents by the closing date for applications for scholarship rounds.

15. Applications that do not include relevant supporting documents will not proceed to assessment for a scholarship.

16. Supporting documents for all qualifications listed in the application must be certified before an unconditional offer can be made. Certified documents display the institution letterhead, seal, or official logo. Unofficial documents are not accepted. Interim transcripts that show a final grade are acceptable if the student has not yet received an official transcript.

17. Applications that rely on falsified supporting documents will be immediately terminated and referred to UniSA compliance services for action with external authorities.

Stages of Assessment

18. Applications for scholarships and supporting documents are submitted via the online application system by the closing date.

19. An initial Merit List is generated according to the Quality Assessment Model for each scholarship. Each Division Scholarships Panel assesses the Merit List and may make a local adjustment of the initial assessment, based on: the quality of the applicant's academic and research history including the quality of their degree and/or publications, and the strength of their research proposal. The Division Scholarships Panel will be chaired by the Division's Pro Vice Chancellor or nominee and include the Dean: Graduate Studies, Associate Dean: Research Education (or equivalent), Manager Admissions: Student and Academic Services (or nominee), a representative from the relevant Schools, and a Division Research Coordinator (or equivalent).

20. Recommended applicants are approved by the Division Pro Vice Chancellor and final allocations reported to Research Degrees Committee.

21. All applicants are informed about the outcome of their application.

22. An applicant may appeal the outcome of an application assessment by writing to the Manager: Admissions, Student and Academic Services within 20 days of receiving notification about the outcome of their scholarship application. The appeal must be supported by the relevant Research Education Portfolio Leader (or equivalent) and relevant Associate Dean: Research Education (or equivalent).

23. The Dean: Graduate Studies will review and respond to the appeal within 20 working days, indicating either: that the application should be re-assessed, or that the application was initially correctly assessed and therefore should not be re-assessed. The Dean's decision is the final avenue of appeal within UniSA.

Quality Assessment Model

24. UniSA rates each scholarship application according to the following parameters: grades obtained in undergraduate degree, referees' reports, proposed area of research, and supervisor report.

25. Applicants who are applying for a research degree scholarship after having undertaken any study beyond their first degree are also rated according to their achievement in their relevant highest degree, and any publications obtained.

26. Applicants who are returning to study after obtaining some professional experience are also rated according to their relevant professional experience, and any publications obtained.