



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

Graduate Research School (M358)
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Graduate Research Scholarships for Commencement in 2021

Scholarship Ranking Process and Criteria

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1 Summary of ranking criteria and principles

1.1 Introduction

The following principles and criteria apply to ranking and managing graduate research scholarship applications at UWA. Scholarships for include Australian Government Research Training Program Stipends (RTPs), UWA International Fee Scholarships (UIFS), University Postgraduate Awards (UPAs), and full and top-up scholarships funded from bequests and other sources.

Key principles include:

- a) that selection of awardees is based on a framework that enables a comparative and competitive process;
- b) that ranking decisions made at one stage will not be overturned at a later stage without consultation and a record being made of the decision;
- c) that ranking criteria are applied consistently across schools and faculties to enable cross-faculty assessment and equitable consideration of applicants for competitive scholarships;
- d) that the same criteria are applied outside main scholarship rounds (for example for co-funded applications and allocation of SIRFs);
- e) that even if a candidate meets the selection criteria for a scholarship, a scholarship is awarded only if, in the opinion of the selection committee, there is a candidate of sufficient merit;
- f) that ranking decisions, while they may involve significant administrative support during the ranking process, remain an academic decision made by authorised academic committees.

1.2 Allocation of scholarships

The University Policy on the Establishment and Award of Scholarships (UP11/43), confirms that the university is committed to maximising scholarship opportunities for its students and optimising the distribution of scholarships.

The University Policy on Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships (UP17/4) sets out the principles governing the framework for management, allocation and administration of the Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarships. As noted in 1.4.5 of this policy, preference in recommendations for award of HDR scholarships may be given to commencing students and applicants who are not already receiving full scholarship support.

Each faculty will be given a notional quota of domestic scholarships calculated by a formula to be agreed and communicated to faculties each year. Allocations for 2021 are based on each faculty's share of weighted Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Completions over the previous three years (PhD and master completions are weighted 2:1 respectively. Other weightings used by Government are not considered).

Domestic RTP/UPA Stipends are initially allocated to faculties under the quota system, with the possibility that a central 'pool' be retained for allocation to highly-qualified applicants outside the quotas. The method of allocation of international stipend and fee scholarships depends on numbers in any given year. If a faculty does not have enough qualified applicants to fill its quota unused quota scholarships will return to the central pool for allocation by the HDR Scholarships Committee.

1.3 The Higher Degree Research Scholarship Committee

The Higher Degree Research (HDR) Scholarships Committee is currently a standing committee of the Academic Board/Academic Council. A recommendation has been submitted to re-establish the Committee as a standing committee of the Board of the Graduate Research School. It meets as required, and particularly around key central scholarship allocation periods. The Committee performs the final step in the scholarship allocation process by reviewing Faculty ranked lists, confirming scholarship offers and ensuring appropriate use of University and government scholarship funding to enable the strategic goals of the University to be met. The Committee is the Awarding Body for all UWA HDR Scholarships.

1.3.1 Role of the HDR Scholarships Committee

The role of the HDR Scholarships Committee with respect to scholarship ranking and award is to:

- monitor academic standards for the award of postgraduate research scholarships and ensure that all awards are allocated in accordance with University legislation and policy and the principles of merit, equity and open competition;
 - deal exclusively with all matters relating to the award of postgraduate research scholarships within the Deed of Gift and all postgraduate awards funded by Government and other external agencies;
- and
- recommend to the Board of the Graduate Research School, Academic Board or the faculties, as appropriate, any necessary action to ensure that appropriate standards and policies relating to any of the above are maintained.

1.3.2 Membership

In 2020, the committee comprises:

- a) the Dean of Graduate Research School as Chair;
- b) the Chair of the Academic Board or nominee;
- c) three appointees by election of the Academic Board;
- d) four members appointed by the Board of Graduate Research School;
- e) the Associate Director, Graduate Research School;
- f) the President of the Postgraduate Students' Association or nominee; and
- g) up to three co-opted members if required for balance or specific experience.
- h) the Graduate Scholarships Officer is a standing invitee to meetings of the committee.
- i) the committee elects a deputy chair from among its members.

2 Ranking and scoring processes

2.1 Selection criteria

Scholarships are awarded by the HDR Scholarships Committee, on the recommendation of schools and faculties, to eligible applicants on the basis of:

- a) academic achievement and capabilities as evidenced by their academic record and/or assessment tasks as set by the school/faculty, approved by the HDR Scholarship Committee and published;
- b) research potential, which is based on prior research output including publications and other research outputs and relevant non-degree research experience consistent with the University Policy on Adequate Research Preparation, and supported by academic referee reports, as applicable;
- c) related academic esteem indicators; and
- d) faculty strategic priorities.

In the competitive selection process, priority may be given to students who are enrolling internally, enrolling in a HDR for the first time, and students who have not:

- a) for a scholarship to undertake a doctorate, previously completed a Research Doctorate or equivalent;
- b) for a scholarship to undertake a master degree, already completed a Research Masters degree or equivalent;
- c) previously held an Australian Postgraduate Award, Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) Australian Government-funded Postgraduate Research Award (excluding an IPRS) or an Australian Government Research Training Program award previously unless it was terminated within six months of the commencement of benefits;
- d) previously been awarded, or currently be in receipt of, a full scholarship stipend allocated for at least 2 years; a UWA Scholarship for International Research Fees (SIRF) or other scholarship designed to offset international HDR fees.

2.2 Overview

This is a multi-stage process, underpinned by principles of integrity in decision making, using verifiable evidence in scoring and transparency, in which:

- a) each school ranks its applications into a single list using standard criteria;
- b) each faculty integrates the ranked lists of its schools into a single list using the same criteria, where possible preserving the rankings determined by each school; and
- c) the central HDR Scholarships Committee reviews Faculty ranked lists, discusses and makes determinations on complex cases and anomalies, confirms scholarship offers and ensures appropriate use of University and government scholarship funding to enable the strategic goals of the University to be met.

Stage (a) may be a discrete or blended process with stage (b); however, it is expected that each faculty oversees and evaluates the ranking of all its schools.

The key principles informing this process are outlined in 1.1 above.

Some scholarships, including the prestigious Hackett Scholarships, Jean Rogerson Scholarships, Robert and Maude Gledden Scholarships and the Dean's Excellence in Science and FABLE PhD Scholarships, can only be awarded to applicants who have obtained a First Class grade or Higher Distinction in their qualifying degree or equivalent performance achieved through substantial research experience.

UPAs and other scholarships may be awarded to applicants with an Upper Second Class grade or Distinction in their qualifying degree equivalent performance achieved through substantial research experience. Applicants with less than an Upper Second Class grade or Distinction in their qualifying degree are not normally eligible.

Co-funded or other scholarships awarded out of round are assessed by a small group of members of the HDR Scholarships Committee in consultation with the Chair, using the same principles outlined in 1.1 but with the additional consideration of the individual fit of the nominated applicant for the specific project.

2.3 School scoring and ranking criteria

Both standard and non-standard domestic and international applications will be ranked using a numerical method based on three primary elements:

- a) Thesis Mark in qualifying degree;
- b) Coursework Weighted Average Mark (WAM) for qualifying degree: for honours the coursework WAM applies to all coursework marks in the honours year only; the coursework WAM for other standard qualifying degrees is the average of all the coursework marks in the degree; and
- c) Candidate Aptitude and Research Potential (publications, relevant research experience, prestigious awards, patents and grants and alignment with faculty strategic priorities).

(a) and (b) pertain specifically to the most recently completed qualifying course.

Once all the scores have been entered, iAthena will use them to calculate an Indicative Ranking Score automatically, and this score determines the applicant's preliminary placement in the school's ranked list.

2.4 Scholarship ranking formula

The Scholarship Ranking Score is derived from the unweighted mean (simple average) of the Thesis Mark and the Coursework WAM in the qualifying degree (or equivalent prescribed scores for non-standard applicants). Where there is a notable discrepancy between the thesis and coursework WAM the applicant may be considered as non-standard. Up to 6 Candidate Aptitude and Research Potential (CARP) points may be added for research experience, research output and other academic and research-related achievements and alignment with faculty priorities.

3 Eligibility

3.1 Minimum scores

Applicants with a thesis plus coursework WAM average mark of below 75% are not eligible for these scholarships, but they may be considered for other scholarships with specific eligibility criteria, and/or enrolment without scholarships, if recommended by the school.

Please note that centrally-funded RTP/UPA scholarships, including Co-funded UPAs, will only be awarded to applicants with final iAthena Scholarship Ranking Scores above a score to be determined by the HDR Scholarships Committee for each round.

3.2 Research preparation

All applicants must have already completed, or expect to complete a degree at Bachelor level and provide evidence of scholarly work in at least one of the forms prescribed in the University Policy on Adequate Research Preparation (Policy no. UP 11/25), detailed on this UWA [web-page](#).

3.3 English language competency

All applicants for a higher research degree, including Australian applicants, must satisfy the requirements for English language competence set out on the relevant UWA [web-page](#).

3.4 Prior HDR candidature at UWA

The standard tenure of scholarships is two years for a Masters and three years for PhD. A student who has already completed part of the degree for which a scholarship is granted will have the maximum period of tenure reduced accordingly. UWA-funded scholarships are not awarded to applicants who would have less than a year of scholarship tenure remaining (not counting possible extension)

3.5 Residency

All HDR scholarship holders are normally expected to enrol as internal students and live close enough to the University to enable frequent and systematic use of University facilities, including use of physical resources, formal research training and frequent contact with supervisors.

4 Definitions and general information

4.1 Standard applicants

Standard applicants are those who have completed qualifying degrees for Higher Degree by Research enrolment in the last seven years, within Australia or New Zealand. For the standard scoring formula to be used it is not necessary for the thesis to have been completed in the final year, as long as actual coursework and thesis marks are available.

Actual marks should be entered for all standard applicants with degrees completed within the last seven years. Examples of 'standard' qualifications are Australian and New Zealand undergraduate and postgraduate degrees with a thesis component weighted at least 25% of a full year load, and for which marks are available at the time of scholarship ranking. These include, but are not limited to:

- four year Honours degrees;
- professional practice Masters degrees with a thesis component;
- Graduate Diplomas;
- Masters by Research;
- Masters by Thesis and Coursework;
- Masters by Coursework and Dissertation;

- completion of UWA Honours, following an undergraduate or coursework degree at this or another university; and
- completion of a minimum of 48 points in a UWA Higher Degree by Research Preliminary course, including a thesis component of at least 24 points.

4.1.1 Coursework Weighted Average Mark for standard applicants

This is the Weighted Average Mark (WAM) for the Honours year coursework (non-research) units undertaken, or for the whole course for all other qualifying degrees, for standard applicants who have completed undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

If the thesis comprises 100% of a full year of the qualifying degree, with no coursework units, the thesis mark should be entered in both the thesis mark and the coursework boxes.

4.1.2 Percentage value of thesis

Applicants are asked to specify the percentage value of the thesis component of the Honours year or other qualifying degree. The thesis is required to carry the equivalent credit of at least 25% of an annual full-time load to meet the research preparation requirements for HDR enrolment. The academic transcript must be checked before entering the percentage value of the thesis.

Information about the percentage value of the thesis entered by the school will assist in merging school and faculty lists but is not included in the school ranking score. For the unit that includes the thesis component, its value should be entered as a percentage of the Honours year or the percentage a full year's load in all other qualifying degrees, where this is available. For example, for a student who has completed a 24 point Research unit and four other 6-point units, this value is 50%, representing half of the year program. If this information is not available this box should be left blank.

4.2 Non-standard applicants

Non-standard applicants are:

- applicants who have completed qualifying degrees outside Australia or New Zealand;
- applicants who have completed qualifying degrees more than seven years ago;
- applicants with qualifications which cannot be equated to an Australian Honours or Masters degree, including applicants whose research preparation is wholly on the basis of publications or other research output;
- applicants who have completed fewer than 48 points of a UWA Higher Degree by Research Preliminary course; and
- applicants for whom actual marks are not available at the time of scholarship ranking.

Before deeming is applied, the applicant should have been interviewed by a panel with broad discipline expertise, including members other than the proposed supervisors. Interview questions should be developed in advance, criterion-referenced and as far as possible consistent between schools. A rubric for grading the interview should be developed in advance. Details of the interview questions and rubric should be provided to the HDR Scholarships Committee.

In addition, the thesis or other research output should be reviewed by someone without a conflict of interest with the applicant or supervisors (i.e. outside the prospective supervisory team).

4.3 Deemed marks for non-standard applicants

The prescribed UWA equivalent scores for non-standard applicants are determined by the deemed grade which is set out in the University Policy on [Courses - Coursework Dissertation \(Policy no. UP 15/6\)](#) and includes an assessment of both WAM and thesis equivalent grades. Schools are required to enter the UWA-equivalent Scholarship Ranking Score as both the Thesis Mark and the Coursework Weighted Average Mark for all non-standard applicants. Deeming should operate transparently; panel assessments post interview should be clearly articulated and documented. The prescribed non-standard scores should follow the marking bands laid out in the coursework dissertation policy:

- for First Class deemed equivalence, either HD (80) or HD+ (85) and HD ++ (90) (the latter to be used where there is evidence of exceptional performance); and
- for Second Class deemed equivalence either D- (70-74) or D+ (75-79).

Current PhD students who have achieved formal Confirmation of PhD candidature with a quantifiable research output may be deemed by the school to have achieved First Class equivalence with the reasons for the First Class deeming supplied – for example, successful publication in a high-quality journal, external recognition, etc. These applicants may be scored as non-standard applicants with the prescribed non-standard First Class score as above.

4.3.1 Deeming grading equivalence for non-standard applicants

The University may deem grade equivalence when it is satisfied that an applicant has demonstrated academic capability and ability to undertake supervised individual research at the level required for the award of Upper Second Class or First Class Honours or Masters at this University, in accordance with the University Policy on Adequate Research Preparation.

Graduate Research Coordinators or School representatives on the scholarship committee must confirm that each non-standard applicant's research output (thesis and/or scholarly publications) has been read and evaluated by a qualified academic staff member independent to the proposed supervisors to ratify marks or grades awarded by another university where relevant, or use UWA criteria to assess equivalence. NB, ratification of marks awarded by another university is not the same as re-marking. Marks or grades awarded by another university are not to be deemed equivalent to higher marks or grades at UWA.

Relativity of achievement to opportunity should always be considered in ranking applicants, and schools and faculties should take care to explain the basis for ranking decisions (e.g. the ranking of an excellent recently-graduated Honours graduate with no papers over a Masters applicant with papers in lesser journals, or someone who has published over a period of years). Candidate Aptitude and Research Potential (CARP) points can only be added for research experience, output and achievements obtained within the last five years.

Careful consideration is needed before deeming First Class or Upper Second equivalence for applicants who do not have either an Honours or a Masters but who have a different qualification, such as a Postgraduate Diploma, or substantial research experience. While some Postgraduate Diploma courses may be equivalent to the requirements of an Honours/Masters programme, sometimes the research component is minimal. Schools should refer to the University Policy on Adequate Research Preparation.

Similarly, care must be taken when deeming a First Class or Higher Distinction grade for applicants with multiple qualifying degrees, but where one of the degrees is graded Lower Second or less than Distinction. The most recent qualifying degree with a research component should be used.

4.4 Scoring for applicants who have completed UWA Higher Degree Research Preliminary units

Applicants who have completed a minimum of 48 points (including advanced standing for units undertaken at UWA) in a UWA Higher Degree Preliminary (HDR Prelim) course, including a thesis component of at least 24 points, should be scored as standard applicants if actual thesis and coursework marks are available at the time of scholarship ranking.

Applicants who have undertaken less than 48 points in a UWA HDR Prelim, or for whom actual marks for all units are not available, must be scored as non-standard.

The Upper Second or First Class equivalence deeming must take into account the applicant's overall past academic performance, including the actual Weighted Coursework Average Mark in the final year of the most recent degree, if available. The deeming of Upper Second or First Class equivalence should be based on the applicant's overall academic performance in degrees obtained within the last seven years, not solely on a single thesis mark obtained in the HDR Prelim.

4.5 Delayed results

Official results for non-standard applicants are sometimes not available until after ranking has started, but results may be available through direct contact with UWA course coordinators or academics in other universities. It is the responsibility of Graduate Research Coordinators or School scholarships ranking representatives to obtain accurate and up-to-date information on applicants whose results are being assessed in other universities.

Ranking should be based on current qualifications confirmed at the present time. Scholarships will not normally be reserved subject to results submitted later. However, applicants whose results are not yet available, for example because their Masters is currently under examination, may be assessed on the basis of previous qualifications, if relevant.

5 Candidate Aptitude and Research Potential (CARP)

5.1 General Criteria for Candidate Aptitude and Research Potential (CARP)

The CARP is the school and faculty's assessment of the applicant's aptitude and research potential as evidenced by relevant and recent research experience, research output and other research-related achievements, as well as the potential of the proposed research to align with areas of Faculty priority support. CARP points will not be awarded for additional degrees, current PhD candidature or university prizes.

The Candidate Aptitude and Research Potential score is a maximum of 6 points for various categories as outlined below.

Each category carries a maximum number of points as indicated to the maximum total of 6. Half points can be awarded.

- **Research publications within past 5 years - [maximum of 2 points]:**

For sole or primary authorship of, or significant intellectual contribution to, publications in peer-reviewed journals or published monographs. E1 peer-reviewed conference papers can also be assessed in this category. To count towards CARP points, publications and conference papers must be in a field relevant to the proposed research.

- **Relevant research experience within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**

For relevant research experience through employment with an appropriate level of autonomy plus output that may include junior authorship. Points cannot be allocated for non-research-related work experience.

- **Competitive prizes, patents and grants within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**

For competitive international and national prizes, such as those awarded by Learned Societies; patents, and international/national competitive travel or research grants. Points cannot be awarded for university prizes or any minor prizes.

- **Institutional esteem - [maximum of 1 point]:**

The applicant is a graduate of top 100 institution, top 50 discipline at an institution; ie: Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings, Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings or Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), or the applicant attended the most highly-ranked institution in their country.

- **Faculty strategic priorities - [maximum of 2 points]**

The applicant's research area and/or attributes support the faculty's strategic goals and priorities for HDR enrolments as outlined by the Faculty for that year and published, or funding body themed priorities. This category can include considerations of equity and diversity in relation to Faculty targets.

In determining the CARP score, the school or faculty may use information from a variety of sources such as the referees' reports, previous research candidature, documented research experience, list of refereed publications and so on.

Assessments should take into account the relative opportunities of different applicants. Thus it will not necessarily be the case that a student with a Masters degree (with or without published work) in addition to an Honours degree should be automatically assessed as having greater potential than a recently graduated Honours student. If Research Potential points are added, the question to be asked is whether or not the additional opportunities have allowed the applicant to demonstrate greater potential than was evident from their qualifying degree. To avoid double counting, points cannot be given for activity already incorporated into the deeming or for an activity that has been used to satisfy eligibility for candidature.

5.1.1 Research publications

Applicants are asked to list and scan the abstract or first page of any papers published, papers in press or finally accepted for publication in refereed journals over the last five years. If applicants are not the sole or primary author, they also need to upload a brief statement from the publication's first, corresponding, or supervising author, outlining the applicant's contribution to the paper.

Schools must include comments on the quality of the publications and the applicant's contribution to the work, as part of the justification of the rank order of applicants.

5.1.2 Relevant research experience

Applicants are asked to upload a Curriculum Vitae (CV) summarising their educational qualifications (including all incomplete degrees) and employment history, including relevant research-related employment. The exception is current UWA students, who do not need to attach a CV unless they wish to have research-related experience taken into account in their scholarship application.

Applicants enter details of any research-related employment and they are asked to upload reference letters from employers detailing the research undertaken and results achieved during the period of employment.

5.1.3 Competitive prizes, patents and grants

Applicants who have won competitive international and national prizes; patents, and international/national competitive travel or research grants are asked to provide a list. Points cannot be awarded for university prizes or any minor prizes.

5.1.4 Institutional esteem

The applicant is a graduate of top 100 institution, top 50 discipline at an institution (QS World University Rankings, Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE) or ARWU), or the applicant attended the most highly-ranked institution in their country.

5.1.5 Faculty strategic priorities

The applicant's research area and/or attributes support the faculty's strategic goals and priorities for HDR enrolments as outlined by the faculty for that year and published, or funding body themed priorities. This category can include considerations of equity and diversity in relation to faculty targets.

5.2 Faculty specific criteria for Candidate Aptitude and Research Potential Points

5.2.1 Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education (FABLE) CARP Points

- **Research publications within past 5 years – [maximum of 2 points]:**
 - i. Peer reviewed book or major creative work. Must meet ERA requirements for A1 or F1. (2 points)
 - ii. Chapter in peer reviewed book, sole or primary author. Must meet ERA requirements for B1. (0.5 points)
 - iii. Journal publications or standard creative works, sole or primary author. Must meet ERA requirements for C1 or any F2. (0.5 points):
 - if evidence is provided of a publication in an SI top 20% journal (0.5 points)
 - if evidence is provided of an H-index above 5 (0.5 points)
 - iv. Conference publication (E1):
 - National (0.25 points)
 - International (0.5 points)
 - (Local seminars and conferences do not receive credit).

- **Relevant research experience within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. Up to 1 year (0.25 points)
 - ii. Up to 2 years (0.5 point)
 - iii. Up to 4 years (0.75 points)
 - iv. Greater than 4 years (1 point).

Note: Calculation is based on full-time equivalence. Research experience needs to be demonstrably relevant to the proposed research project.
- **Competitive prizes, patents and grants within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. nationally competitive awards for prior, research-related academic performance in the area of the proposed research (0.5 points)
 - ii. Internationally competitive award for prior, research-related academic performance in the area of the proposed research (1 point).
- **Institutional esteem:**
 - i. No points are awarded by FABLE in this category.
- **FABLE Faculty strategic priorities - [maximum of 2 points]:**
 - i. The applicant's research area supports the Faculty's *strategic goals and priorities
 - ii. The strength of the research group and supervision team.
 - *The research centres, groups and entities within FABLE include dedicated teams working on social impact, Western Australian history, rock art conservation and management, Muslim studies, urban design, and more.

5.2.2 Faculty of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (EMS) CARP Points

- **Research publications within past 5 years – [maximum of 2 points]:**
 - i. Journals (0.5 point per publication)
 - * Journal must meet UWA requirements for journal publication points in Socrates, ie: C1 (WoS Q1-Q3)
 - ii. Conferences (0.3 point per publication)
 - *Paper must meet UWA requirements for conference publication points in Socrates, ie: E1 (publications, not the presentations)
 - iii. Evidence of significant contribution for other than first or sole author must be provided, eg: statement from first author or senior (supervising CI) author that outlines contribution or role of each author.
 - iv. Publication points will be weighted according to length of time since graduation (years 1 & 2 no weight, years 3 - 5 divided by 2)
- **Relevant research experience within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. Experience must be relevant with an appropriate level of autonomy plus output
 - ii. Evidence required, eg: reference from employer stating duties performed, or research output
 - iii. 0.5 point for 6 months to <1 year; 1 point for 1 year or above.
- **Competitive prizes, patents and grants within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. 0.5 point per prize or patent (primary or sole authorship)
 - ii. Prestigious international or national prize or award only
 - iii. University prizes and erasmus mundus not included.

- **Institutional esteem - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. Graduate of top 100 institution or top 50 discipline at an institution (QS, THE or ARWU)
 - ii. The applicant attended the most highly-ranked institution in their country.
- **EMS Faculty strategic priorities [No points are awarded by EMS in this category in the International Round. A maximum of 2 points may be awarded in the Domestic Round]:**
 - i. Up to 2 points may be awarded for strategic purposes in order to address gender imbalance of HDR scholarship recipients in the Faculty (Domestic round only).

5.2.3 Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences (HMS) CARP Points

- **Research publications within past 5 years – [maximum of 2 points]:**
 - i. First authored paper in top 20% of field (1 point)
 - ii. Other publications, including E1 peer-reviewed conference papers in a field relevant to the proposed research (0.5 points).
- **Relevant research experience within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. 1 point for 2 years or more
 - ii. 0.5 point for less than 2 years.
- **Competitive prizes, patents and grants within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. 1 point for national and international grants and awards
 - ii. 0.5 point for other grants and awards as recognised by the HMS Scholarships Committee.
- **Institutional esteem - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. 1 point for graduate of top 100 institution or top 50 discipline at an institution
 - ii. 0.5 point for graduate of the most highly-ranked institution in their country.
- **HMS Faculty strategic priorities – [maximum of 2 points]:**
 - i. Professional and/or accredited qualifications relevant to HMS Schools (Medicine, Biomed, Dentistry, Allied Health or Population Health)
 - ii. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
 - iii. Alignment with Faculty Strategic Plan / Priorities (inc. NHMRC or MRFF priority area so aligned)
 - iv. Fostering Multidisciplinary research collaboration
 - v. Equity & Diversity
 - vi. Past completion record of supervisory team.

5.2.4 Faculty of Science (SCIENCE) CARP Points

- **Research publications within past 5 years – [maximum of 2 points]:**
 - i. Publications awarded at a rate of 1 point per publication. Journal must meet UWA requirements for journal publication (e.g. C1 or E1) and be in a relevant field to the proposed research. The quality of publications must be noted on the assessment page (e.g. ISI, impact factor, journal ranking, i.e. Quartile).
 - ii. C1 publications in lower ranked journals (e.g. Q2-Q3) as primary author can be awarded 0.5 points per publication.

- iii. Quality C1 publications (e.g. Top 20%, Q1) where the applicant is a co-author and supported by the primary author statement establishing significant contribution can be awarded 0.5 points per publication.
- **Relevant research experience within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. Acknowledge full-time relevant research experience in academia or industry. This research experience needs to be fully documented, eg. references from employers indicating research results/outcomes and the experience needs to be clearly relevant to the proposed research project. Work counted must be undertaken post degree and for more than 6 months.
 - o Up to 1 year – 0.5 points
 - o Greater than 1 year – 1 point.
- **Competitive prizes, patents and grants within past 5 years - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. 0.5 points for every prestigious National or International Award
 - ii. 0.5 points for patent or plant breeders' rights

Minor prizes or university prizes are excluded.
- **Institutional esteem - [maximum of 1 point]:**
 - i. Applicant graduated from top 100 institution and/or top 50 discipline as indicated by ARWU, QS World University Rankings or the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, awarded 1 point,
 - ii. Applicant graduated from the most highly ranked institution in their country, awarded 1 point.
- **SCIENCE Faculty strategic priorities – [maximum of 2 points]:**
 - i. Applicant's research area and/or attributes support the Faculty's current *strategic priorities for HDR enrolments as published, or funding body themed priorities, and/or to support equity and diversity priorities,

*The current Science faculty strategic research themes are:

 - o Feeding the World
 - Thriving in harsh environments
 - Challenging climate change
 - Zero waste agriculture
 - o Thriving in the Indian Ocean Rim
 - Resourcing the future
 - Sustainable minerals and energy
 - Sustainable environments and biodiversity
 - o Healthy People in a Healthy Place
 - Maximising human potential
 - Fighting fatigue
 - Isolation and separation both physical and social.
 - ii. Points do not have to be awarded,
 - iii. Consideration needs to be given to the quality of the applicant and the value of HDR enrolments to Science's research activity, output and reputation,
 - iv. Examples of strategic investment include but are not limited to:
 - o supporting nationally competitive funded research including new DECRA or Future Fellowship awardees; and
 - o seeking improvements in reputation via the ERA.

5.3 Indicative ranking score and final school ranking score

The School Ranking Score is intended to be a relative measure of the school's confidence in each applicant's likelihood of timely completion. The School Ranking Score is the basis on which applicants are assessed at school level, in consultation with the faculty regarding the faculty's strategic goals and priorities.

iAthena will calculate an Indicative Ranking Score on the basis of the unweighted mean (simple average) of the Thesis Mark and the Coursework WAM (or equivalent prescribed scores for non-standard applicants) and the CARP.

Schools should not leave two or more applicants with the same ranking score, because in that case they will simply be ordered alphabetically. If two applicants have identical scores, the relative scores should be adjusted to ensure that all applicants are separated in the ranking scheme, even if it is only by 0.1.

The Scholarship Ranking Score can be changed at the Faculty Ranking Committee only on the basis of written justification by the Head of School or delegate.

5.4 Zero school ranking scores

If the School cannot rank the application or the applicant is not recommended for a scholarship a ranking Score of zero should be entered. An explanation should be provided. For example: "The School has not ranked this application because the research area is not relevant to the school, supervision is not available, the applicant does not have adequate research preparation or is not eligible for enrolment", etc.

A full explanation of the reasons for the zero ranking score will assist the HDR Scholarships Committee to distinguish between applications that are not supported by one school but may be ranked by another school and those applications that are not recommended or not eligible.

5.5 School comments and justification of school ranking score

Comments from the Head of School (or delegate) must be provided to justify the ranking score for all applicants. Rankings cannot be saved without data in this field. This information is used by the faculty and the Scholarships Committee in the central ranking process.

6. Faculty assessment

6.1 Integrating the school ranking lists

When all the schools have submitted their data, all the applicants for each faculty will automatically be sorted (provisionally interleaved) according to their relative School Ranking Scores.

Faculties are asked to then either endorse or manipulate this provisional interleaving. A key principle is that a faculty will not normally overturn the ranking decisions of any school. However, a faculty may amend the scores of a school without overturning its ranked order, and may scale the results of one or more schools against the others if necessary. If two or more applicants have identical scores which have not previously been adjusted, the faculty should adjust the relative scores to ensure that all applicants are separated in the ranking scheme, even if it is only by 0.1. Applicants with identical scores will otherwise be sorted alphabetically.

Faculty committees should ensure that there is academic parity in the rankings supplied by different schools, with attention to equivalent background, qualifications and evidence of research potential against opportunity.¹

Problems in achieving parity can be addressed in three ways:

6.1.1 Amending individual scores within a school rank

The faculty may choose to amend the school ranking scores of individuals if on the basis of the available evidence it deems that errors have been made or inappropriate points given. Where this may change the School's ranked list, consultation and agreement with the School is required as per 2.2(b).

6.1.2 Scaling school scores

The faculty may decide to raise or lower the ranked lists of schools with respect to each other, if it deems this appropriate on the available evidence. The scores of a whole school may be increased or decreased against the scores of the other schools in the faculty by using the Scaling function in iAthena.

6.1.3 Negotiating with schools to re-rank

A faculty may wish to request a school to amend its ranking order if, on the available evidence it is convinced that the school is in error, or there is new evidence that would justify a school ranking order being overturned.

The Associate Dean Research should contact the Head of School (or delegate) and seek agreement to the changes. Any changes in the school ranking order must be entered by the school, and resubmitted to the faculty.

6.2 Composition of Faculty Ranking Committees

Each faculty is requested to convene a committee for interleaving school ranking lists. The HDR Scholarships Committee recommends that Faculty Ranking Committees are chaired by the Associate Deans of Research and include each Graduate Research Coordinator or School scholarships ranking representative/Head of School (or department) or nominee. Associate Deans of Research may invite observers to the meeting to ensure a wider range of discipline expertise on ranking committees.

6.3 Faculty comments

Faculty comments must be entered to justify the faculty ranking scores for all applicants.

¹ Questions to ask include the following: (1) Have applicants from different schools who have equivalent background, qualifications and evidence of research potential been assigned similar scores by the schools? (2) Do applicants from different schools who have been assigned similar scores have equivalent background, qualifications and evidence of research potential? (3) Is the faculty satisfied that the relative rankings of applicants from different schools, as they appear in the provisional list, are a fair reflection of their relative merit?

6.4 Faculty recommendations for prestigious scholarships and other scholarships with specific eligibility criteria in the domestic round

These scholarships are awarded to the highest ranked eligible domestic applicants by the HDR Scholarships Committee, and they are allocated in addition to the faculty quota scholarships.

Faculties are asked to include recommendations in the Faculty Comments for prestigious scholarships (see the [UWA postgraduate research scholarships](#) webpage for up to date information). Prestigious scholarships are not available to students already enrolled in an HDR program at UWA.

The HDR Scholarships Committee will carefully consider the ranked order of the top 20 domestic applicants on the list for the prestigious general awards (such as Hackett and Jean Rogerson awards). The committee will review and compare the academic records of the top-ranked applicants across the four faculties and determine the order of the ranked merit list for these awards. For scholarships with specific eligibility criteria the HDR Scholarships Committee determines the ranked order of applicants based on the recommendations of the faculties and the relevance of the applicants' research to the terms of each prestigious scholarship.