

## Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Selection Process

### SELECTION PROCESS

Selection is based on academic merit and research experience. Applications are initially assessed by the Scholarships Office and reviewed by faculties. The Academic Board's Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Sub-Committee will consider all eligible applicants and determine the number of offers to be made.

Applicants are assessed based on a combination of, if applicable:

- Undergraduate degree, i.e. UG WAM,
- First class honours result (Honours 1 or H1),
- First class honours equivalent degree (H1E),
- Master by Research Degree,
- The world rankings of the institution that conferred the qualification above, and Research experience.

<p><b>1. UG WAM and First class Honours (H1) Mark</b></p>	<p>The undergraduate weighted average mark (average mark, weighted according to the relative credit point value of the individual units of study) is obtained by averaging the marks the applicant obtained in all units of study in the relevant degree. Some faculties will also calculate the WAM according to the year-levels (2 for second year, 3 for third year) of the units of study. The UG WAM of combined degrees will normally be calculated from all units except those in the first year and the honours subjects.</p> <p>H1 is the mark achieved in the First Class Honours (or equivalent) degree. The criteria for assessing Honours 1 equivalent qualifications are detailed in section 5.2 below.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of applicants to provide numerical marks of their academic results wherever possible. If the mark is not available or is unobtainable, the result will be entered at the respective <b>mid-point</b> for the equivalent Pass (i.e. 57) and Credit (i.e. 69.5) grades at the University of Sydney.</p> <p>A mark at the <b>lowest one-third</b> (i.e. 78.33) will be entered for the equivalent Distinction and the <b>lowest mark</b> (i.e. 85) for High Distinction grades. If the results are ungraded, applicants should provide information on the overall position in the class and/or thesis examiners reports if available.</p> <p>It is important to provide the grading system showing the range of marks or the minimum mark required for each grade and different levels of Honours. Grading system information is generally available on the back of an academic transcript. Scaling of marks will be made to account for a) a pass mark other than 50, and b) H1 cut off is other than 80.</p>
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## 2. Honours 1 Equivalence

Where applicants do not have an Honours 1 degree, they can be ranked as having an Honours 1 equivalent degree on the basis of an additional qualification under the following criteria:

- a) A completed Master of Philosophy (or equivalent) by thesis. The H1E Mark will be 83 unless a higher thesis mark has been recorded on the transcript.
- b) Overseas qualifications that are considered as equivalent to an Australian Honours 1 degree. The H1E WAM (average mark, weighted according to the relative credit point value of the individual units of study) is obtained by averaging the marks obtained in all second and third year units of study in the relevant degree.
- c) A completed Masters by coursework with a weighted average mark of at least 80 and a research component (requiring the completion of a dissertation, treatise, long essay or major report) of at least 12 credit points (where 48 credit points denotes a one-year full time course) of an equivalent full-time course. In this case, the weighted average mark in all units of study, including the dissertation, will be the H1E mark.
- d) A completed Masters by coursework with a weighted average mark of at least 80 and a research treatise of  $\geq 25,000$  words as a requirement of the course. In this case, the weighted average mark in all units of study, including the treatise, will be the H1E mark.
- e) A completed Masters by coursework with a weighted average mark of at least 80 and a research component verified by the Faculty Research Committee to be academically demanding and a relevant foundation in research training for the proposed PhD project. In this case, the weighted average mark in all units of study, including the treatise, will be the H1E mark.
- f) A completed Masters Preliminary or Graduate Diploma with a research component (as per (c) above) of at least 25% of an EFSTL, requirements and assessment equivalent to Fourth Year Honours at Honours 1 standard (a minimum mark of 80). In this case, the weighted average mark in all units of study, including the treatise, will be the H1E mark.
- g) Graduates who did not have an Honours 1 result but have attained membership or fellowship of prestigious learned professional organisations by advanced study, examination and professional practice may be eligible for H1E. The relevant Faculty will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of academic rigor. In all such cases, the H1E mark will be 80. In assessing whether membership or fellowship of a learned body confers the H1E status, consideration will be taken of the level of additional skills and training required for membership, the length of training required, and the academic level and pass rate of the entrance examination.



<b>3. Master by Research Degree</b>	A completed Master of Philosophy (or equivalent) by thesis. The H1E Mark will be 83 unless a higher thesis mark has been recorded on the transcript.
<b>4. The world rankings of the institution</b>	World rankings currently used are, Academic Ranking of World Universities, Times Higher Education World University Rankings, and QS World University Rankings. The ranking lists used may change from time to time.
<b>5. Research Experience</b>	<p>Research Experience may be recognised on the basis of demonstrated research performance, relevant professional and direct research experience as per the following criteria.</p> <p>Criteria</p> <p>a) Scholarly publications (must contain original work or substantial original analysis, be published or accepted for publication by a reputable publisher) in the relevant field of research within the last five years (at the time of scholarship application submission). Self-publishing, publications by vanity publisher or in publications which lack basic publishing standards will not be accepted.</p> <p>Academic journals must either be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• listed on Thomson Reuters' Master Journal (ISI) list <a href="http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com/mjl/">http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com/mjl/</a></li><li>or</li><li>• listed on the Scopus database <a href="http://www.scopus.com/home.url">http://www.scopus.com/home.url</a> and then verified as peer-reviewed on Ulrichsweb: <a href="http://ulrichsweb.serialssolutions.com/">http://ulrichsweb.serialssolutions.com/</a> i.e. 'Refereed – Yes'.</li><li>or</li><li>• listed on the Excellence in Research for Australia <a href="http://www.arc.gov.au/excellence-research-australia">http://www.arc.gov.au/excellence-research-australia</a></li></ul> <p>Conference publications must be in national and international conferences and not primarily arranged for research students and is listed on Scopus or ISI databases. If publication is not listed, applicant must provide a full copy of the paper and/or details of the conference for consideration.</p> <p>Examples of scholarly publications are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A published book or chapter in an edited book (not conference proceedings).</li><li>• A published research article in a refereed international journal.</li><li>• A published or refereed conference paper,</li><li>• A patent that has been granted by a government agency after an examination process.</li></ul> <p>Publications that are accepted by a reputable publisher but yet to be published can also be considered. A confirmation issued by the publisher is required as evidence of acceptance.</p>



**5. Research Experience  
(cont'd)**

Do not include the following as they will not be recognised as

**RPI/REP:**

- Publications that are not research (e.g. newspaper or magazine articles).
- Publications or outputs that are more than five years old.
- Publications that have been submitted or under consideration.
- Publications that have been considered but require revision before acceptance
- The same (or substantially the same) work being published/presented again in a book, journal or conference.
- Published book/literature review or a published research report/case study
- Prizes

Significant output in the art or music areas in the relevant field of research within the last five years. Examples are:

- An exhibition (with published catalogue) with multiple venues of international standard, or a series of performances of international standard, for which reviews in significant outlets are available.
- An exhibition in a Public Gallery or Museum with published catalogue (excluding regional galleries), or in a Private Gallery of standing in which the artist is asked to exhibit by invitation (subject to documentary evidence).
- Visual work(s) held in significant National and/or International Collections or commissioned by Government Bodies and/or the Corporate Sector.
- A significant published musical composition or a significant commercially published CD of a musical performance.
- Visual documentation of performance, installation and electronic creative works in significant National and/or International Collections.
- Participation (as presenting author or equivalent) in significant National or International Festivals or professional conventions.
- Relevant professional/research experience since graduation and not in a training situation of at least 1.5 years. This must be substantiated by a letter issued by the employer.

**Other**

- Participation in moots such as the Jessop International Law moot at an international level.

**Details and evidence required**

- It is the responsibility of the applicants to provide details and evidence of outputs or experience which meet the criteria in the form of an Appendix to their application. Please refer to Research Experience Information and Appendix Guide.