

Scoring Procedure for 2021 Competitive JCU Scholarships

Scope

Every year James Cook University via the Graduate Research School awards scholarships to candidates of exceptional research potential undertaking a Higher Degree by Research (Doctorate or Masters by Research) at James Cook University. The scholarships are provided to assist with the general living costs of the candidate.

This document contains the procedure for scoring and ranking competitive JCU scholarship applications to commence in 2021.

James Cook University offers several types of competitive scholarship including:

- **Indigenous RTPS Scholarships (RTPSI)** for applicants who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- **Research Training Program Scholarships**, for both domestic (RTPS) and international (IRTPS) applicants
- **JCU Postgraduate Research Scholarship (JCUPRS)**, for both domestic and international applicants
- **AIMS@JCU Scholarship** for both domestic and international applicants

Definitions

- *Honours degree* – A Bachelor degree with an additional honours year or component that included an advanced level project which resulted in the production of a thesis or dissertation which was formally examined. Note: This does not automatically include the “UK Honours” degree.
- *Honours First Class – Outstanding performance* – An Honours Class I with outstanding examiners’ reports or a statement from the honours co-coordinator indicating that the work was outstanding and/or University Medal. Note: This does not automatically include the “UK Honours” degree.
- *Masters by Research* – A Masters degree that included an advanced level research project of at least 12 months full-time or equivalent and resulted in the production of a thesis or dissertation which was formally examined.
- *Masters by Research – Outstanding performance* – Outstanding examiners’ reports or degree awarded with Cum Laude or Honours 1.
- *Postgraduate degree with significant research component* – A Masters, Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate which included an advanced level research project of at least six months full-time or equivalent which resulted in the production of a thesis or dissertation which was formally examined and completion of a Research Training Subject.
- *Research Training Subject* – a formally taught and examined subject comprising at least 0.125 of an annual full-time load (e.g. one subject out of eight equally weighted subjects completed in a year of full time enrolment) which provided training in research e.g. literature review, qualitative methods, statistics, epidemiology.

Procedure

1. Scholarship applications will be received at any time during the year. The deadline for being assessed to commence in 2021 will be 30 September 2020.
2. The process for submitting an application for scholarship can be found at “How to Apply” <https://www.jcu.edu.au/graduate-research-school/how-to-apply>
3. Applications can score a maximum of 42.5 points based on three possible components:
 - Degree and Performance (maximum 25 points, see appendix 1)
 - Publications Scoring (maximum 10 points, see appendix 2)
 - Professional Experience (maximum 7.5 points, see appendix 3)
4. Each application will be scored by the ADRE from the relevant college and an ADRE from another college. Any application with a discrepancy between the two ADRE scores will be scored by an Independent scorer. No individual can score an application more than once.
5. Where two or more applicants have received the same final overall score, but there are not sufficient scholarships to award to all applicants on that score, the applications will be ranked by two Associate Deans of Research Educations from Colleges other than that of the applicant, according to the following criteria which will be used in the order listed below:
 - The project is supported by secured, dedicated Government or External Grant funding.
 - The GPA of the most recently completed year of coursework, based on a full time load or equivalent.
6. ADREs cannot score an application for a candidate whom they are on the current or proposed Advisory Panel.
7. Where the Final Score received by an applicant is questioned, an Associate Dean of Research Education from a different College than the applicant will review the scoring.
8. Changes to a Final Score will only be made where a genuine mistake has been made (e.g. data entered incorrectly).
9. The scoring for the Publication section is undertaken by the Library and Information Services team.
10. The scoring for the Professional Experience section is undertaken by a single academic staff member (not an ADRE) to ensure consistency of scoring between applications.
11. The number of scholarships available will be determined by the Research Education Sub-Committee upon budget advice provided by the Graduate Research School.
12. Applications for scholarships from Research Masters applicants/candidates will be ranked in a separate order of merit list. Up to ten scholarships will be available to Master of Philosophy applicants.
13. Applicants who obtain a score marked with an * in Appendix 1, and who graduated (or will graduate) from JCU with the degree for which that score was awarded, will be offered a scholarship, contingent upon approval from the College. These are Honours Class I, Master of Philosophy, or Postgraduate degree (coursework Masters, Grad cert/dip research methods) with a research component of 6 months FTE and a course GPA of 85-100% with 85-100% for the thesis component. Note that a JCU GPA of 6 out of a maximum of 7 is equivalent to 85%. Note that if there are more candidates that fall into this category than there are scholarships available, the competitive process via ranking on the order of merit list will apply.

14. The Supervision Procedure Ruling that 'Advisor Mentor' level advisors should not be the Primary Advisor of more than seven Higher Degree by Research Candidates, and 'Primary Advisor' level advisors should not be the Primary Advisor of more than three Higher Degree by Research Candidates (as at December 1 in the awarding year) will be enforced when awarding scholarships. These totals will exclude Higher Degree by Research candidates who are under examination but include candidates who are on a leave of absence.
15. While an academic staff member may be named as a primary supervisor on more than two applications, a maximum of only two scholarships will be awarded per primary advisor for the year.
16. Primary advisors may identify their preferred eligible applicants if they have more than two eligible scholarship applicants.
17. The outcome of scholarship applications will be sent only by the Graduate Research School, usually between December and February although occasionally at other times.
18. All correspondence relating to Scholarship Outcomes should be directed to grs@jcu.edu.au.
19. No individual applicant's score will be released to any party.
20. Associate Deans Research Education and Primary Advisors will be notified by the Graduate Research School when scholarship offers are made to candidates of their College

Appendix 1

The Degree and Performance score is allocated according to the criteria below:

Qualifying Degree and Performance	Score
Masters of Philosophy (> two thirds research)	25*
Postgraduate Degree with significant Research Component, eg Masters by Coursework with a Thesis Component. Must have done a research project of no less than 6 months FTE and completed a thesis/dissertation with an overall grade point average of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 65-75% ➤ 75-85% ➤ 85-100% ➤ 85-100% PLUS GPA of 85-100% for the 6 month research component 	17.5 20 22.5 25*
Honours Class 1	25*
Honours Class IIA	20
Honours Class IIB	10
Bachelor Degree (at least 3 years) or Postgraduate Degree (at least 6 months) with Extensive Professional Research Experience	15
(For Candidates Applying for an MPhil Only) Postgraduate Degree of at least 6 months FTE with an overall grade point average of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 65-75% ➤ 65-75% with a research component < 6 months 	12.5 15

➤ 75-85%	15
➤ 75-85% with a research component < 6 months	17.5
➤ 85-100%	17.5
➤ 85-100% with a research component < 6 months	20
(For Candidates Applying for an MPhil Only) Bachelor Degree with minimum GPA of 78.5% (JCU 5.5)	10
(For Candidates Applying for an MPhil Only) Bachelor Degree with minimum GPA of 78.5% (JCU 5.5) with Research Methods Subject	12.5

- Only one Degree and Performance criterion can be used i.e. the scores from two or more components cannot be summed. Where an applicant is eligible for to be more than one score for the Degree and Performance component, the higher of the scores will always be used.

Appendix 2

A maximum score of 10 can be obtained for this section.

Publications that can contribute towards the scholarship score must be:

- Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) eligible publications. Publications **must be PUBLISHED or ACCEPTED** (provide evidence) journal articles, book chapters, books and conference proceedings. “ERA eligible” means that the publication must meet specific criteria, such as being based on research, peer-reviewed and published in a reputable journal. A link to Excellence for Research in Australia criteria can be found at: <http://libguides.jcu.edu.au/publishing/ERA>
- Published technical reports including program evaluation, professional research reports, policy analyses and non-peer reviewed publications in professional association journals.

Please use the Publication Table Form to provide the details of your publications. You do not need to provide copies of the publications. For a publication to be considered it must be published or accepted for publication by the scholarship deadline. Publications will be scored as follows:

Publication	Score (per publication)
First author of ERA eligible publication	5
Non-first author ERA eligible publication	2.5
First author of Published Technical Report	2.5

Appendix 3

The professional experience score is based on the evidence supplied that demonstrates the applicant’s skills in the following categories which have been developed through ***professional experience in the last 10 years in the proposed area of research***. The professional experience must have been conducted for a minimum of 3 months full time equivalent.

Scoring categories	
Methodological skills required for proposed project (max. 2.5)	
Applicant has mastered (considerable experience) the skills required	2.5
Applicant has mastered some of the skills required and has knowledge of the remainder	1.5
Applicant has practical experience of using some of the skills required	0.5
Applicant will need to learn all skills required	0
Analytical skills required for proposed project (max. 2.5)	
Applicant has mastered (considerable experience) the skills required	2.5
Applicant has mastered some of the skills required and has knowledge of the remainder	1.5
Applicant has practical experience of using some of the skills required	0.5
Applicant will need to learn all skills required	0
Project management skills (max. 2.5)	
Applicant has mastered (considerable experience, over time) the skills required	2.5
Applicant has mastered some of the skills required and has knowledge of the remainder	1.5
Applicant has some relevant project management experience	0.5
Applicant has no relevant project management experience	0

Approval Details

Procedure custodian:	Dean, Graduate Research
Approval authority:	DVC Research
Version no.:	19-1
Date for next review:	April 2021

Modification History

Version no.	Approval date	Implementation date	Details
16-1	20 May 2016	1 July 2016	New procedure for scholarship Applications 2017
17-1	29 June 2017	4 July 2017	New procedure for scholarship Applications 2018
18-1	21/6/18	21/6/18	New procedure for scholarship Applications 2019

19-1	12/6/19	13/6/19	Domestic Prestige scholarships disestablished, not fit for purpose. Funds used for MPhil or "Equity" group scholarships or top ups. Confirmation of Candidature removed as a scoring mechanism, current students scored as per others
20-1	15/7/20	15/7/20	Review for 2021 Scholarships