

Research Training Scheme Ranking Metric 2008 Spring Session

This metric was designed by the UWS Research Studies Committee to rank applications for Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) and UWS Postgraduate Research Awards (UWSPRA) and Research Training Scheme (RTS) places.

Only RTS places will be offered in the 2008 spring session. The next round of APA and UWSPRA scholarships will be in 2009. Applications for scholarship and admission in 2009 will close on 31 October 2008.

APA scholarships are ranked on the basis of previous academic merit and performance using sections one, two and three of the metric: undergraduate GPA, level of B Hons or postgraduate award and research output. The highest possible score is 28. All applications are scored for these criteria and the highest ranked will be made an offer of APA scholarship and RTS place, subject to confirmation of the ranking by the UWS Research Studies Committee and confirmation by the College that there are adequate resources available for supervision and candidature.

UWSPRAs and RTS places without scholarship are allocated on a combination of the APA criteria above and a judgement about how the intended thesis topic complies with the aims of UWS strategic interests as defined by areas of research concentration and the UWS Research Plan. Applicants may also attain points for UWSPRAs and RTS places where they do not have Bachelor Honours or postgraduate qualifications, but do have extensive professional experience that is relevant to the intended area of study. Additional criteria for UWSPRAs and RTS places are under sections, four, five and six. Section seven, "GPA Equivalence for Overseas Qualifications", is available to all applicants with undergraduate qualifications gained overseas.

The ranked lists are used to determine the next offer where one is not accepted.

Applicants should read the application carefully for information on how to apply, closing dates, presentation of documentation, the process and timeline. It is critical that the application and all associated documentation in the format requested arrive by 5:00pm, on the closing date at the following address:

Postal: University of Western Sydney
Student Administration Postgraduate Research Office
Kingswood Campus, Building K.1.35
Locked Bag 1797
PENRITH SOUTH DC NSW 1797

Street: University of Western Sydney
Student Administration Postgraduate Research Office
Kingswood Campus, Building K.1.35
Second Avenue
KINGSWOOD NSW 2747

Applicants using overseas postal services are strongly advised to certify or register their application package to ensure timely delivery. The University will not accept the application form in any electronic format (e.g. email or fax). Applications received at the address above after 5:00pm on the closing date will not be considered. Additional documentation will also not be accepted after the closing date.

Scores for sections 1, 2 & 3 will be allocated by the Office of Research Services based on the documentation presented by the applicant. Scores for sections 4, 5, 6 & 7 will be determined by Colleges.

The final UWS ranked list for APAs, UWSPRAs and RTS places will be decided by the UWS Research Studies Committee and successful applicants will be notified in writing. For detailed information on the process, timeline and application form see:

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/degrees/prospective/applicationforms>

**SECTION 1
MAXIMUM POINTS FOR THIS SECTION - 4**

Studies below Honours Level (up to 4 points)

(1) Undergraduate Course for years <u>below</u> Honours.	Points
GPA Score >= 6.5	4
GPA Score >= 6.0	3
GPA Score >= 5.5	2
GPA Score >= 5.0	1

**SECTION 2
MAXIMUM POINTS FOR THIS SECTION - 20**

Honours/Postgraduate Study (up to 20 points)

Only for completed or completion pending qualifications (where verifiable grades – both thesis and coursework - are available). If more than one postgraduate qualification, only one may be scored.

(2) Honours/Postgraduate Study	Level Awarded	Points
Undergraduate Honours #	1	20
Undergraduate Honours #	2-I	18
Undergraduate Honours #	2-II	14
Masters by Research	Any	19
Masters by Coursework with research component equivalent to 25% or more	Any	15
Masters by Coursework	GPA >= 6.0	14
Masters by Coursework	GPA >= 5.0	13
Masters by Coursework with GPA<5.0 or embedded honours by weighted GPA		10
UWS Graduate Certificate in Research	Any	1

Any overseas qualification with an “honours” result will not automatically be considered comparable to an Australian Bachelor Honours degree and may not equate to the point allocation indicated here. Colleges will make a judgement on overseas qualifications based on the grades attained, NOOSR advice and discipline knowledge of the standing of the institution in the academic community.

**SECTION 3
MAXIMUM POINTS FOR THIS SECTION - 4**

Research Output

Maximum points for Research Output is 4 (irrespective of cumulative total).

Applicant's contribution to refereed research output. Applicants may be allocated up to four points from one or more of the following categories. Points will not be allocated where verification documents for each section have not been provided.

Refereed Publications	Category Value
Research Book/Monograph - authored research book (not theses) published by a recognised national/international publisher	3

Major Creative Works	Category Value
Solo exhibition in a major gallery, commercial or public – accompanied by a published catalogue identifying the individual works	3

Participation in Group exhibition in a major gallery, commercial or public – accompanied by a published catalogue	1
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Written or Recorded Creative Work	Category Value
Novels, books of poetry, published play or films scripts, published scores of musical works, recordings of live music, theatre or dance performances, films, multimedia productions or sound production, recorded or bound/packaged creative work for sale and commercial distribution	3

Refereed Papers	Category Value
Research Book Chapters in authored research publications	3
Refereed Journal Articles	3

Refereed Conference Proceedings	1
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**SECTION 4
MAXIMUM POINTS FOR THIS SECTION - 4**

Alignment with Research Concentration (up to 4 points)

Points allocated to applicants intending to conduct research in a UWS University Research Centre (URC) or Research Group (URG). The Centre Director or Group Leader must provide written advice that the project and supervision will be located within the Centre/Group. If allocated points in this section, the candidate will normally be expected to remain enrolled in the Centre/Group throughout the candidature.

May score for one Centre or Group only. No points for co-supervisors connected with the URC or URG.

(4) Alignment with UWS Research Concentration	Category Value
University Research Centre	4
University Research Group	1

**SECTION 5
MAXIMUM POINTS FOR THIS SECTION – 4**

Alignment with University Research Plan 2004-2008 (cumulative - up to 4 points)

Colleges will determine if the proposed topic complies with one or more of the following indicators and provide a statement justifying the point allocation. Supporting evidence should be attached to the Research Admission and Scholarship Application. Candidates are advised to seek advice from their proposed supervisor.

<p>Regional Engagement Formal arrangement with a partner in Greater Western Sydney that is of relevance and will generate benefits to UWS and the GWS community. Written evidence of the collaboration must be provided. For example an agreement giving the UWS candidate access to resources of the partner, or a letter from a partner confirming the details of the collaboration. This may include physical resources or co-supervision. Must relate to the candidature.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Collaboration with Industry/Government/Commerce Formal partnership relationship. Evidence of partnership must be provided, e.g. executed agreement or letter confirming the details of the collaboration. May include the placement of a candidate in an industry setting. Must relate to the candidature.</p>	1
<p>Interdisciplinary Focus The Application must provide evidence that the thesis topic will seek to integrate diverse research fields e.g. a project that seeks to integrate methodologies and discourses from Behaviour/Cognitive Science, Computer Science and Music. This interdisciplinary nature will also be reflected in the diverse discipline backgrounds of the supervisory team.</p> <p>As part of the College ranking process, the intended Principal Supervisor must nominate 2 or more Division codes (e.g. 380000 Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences and 280000 Information, Computing and Communication Sciences and 410000 The Arts) for the planned thesis topic from the Research Fields, Course and Disciplines Classification (RFCD) codes articulated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. A list of codes is available on the web:</p> <p>http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/rodevelopment/codes</p>	1
<p>Commercialisation opportunities Likely discovery of an innovative process, or viable development of a product that will be of commercial benefit to an external organisation and is likely to lead to a successful patent.</p>	1
<p>International Linkage Project requires or facilitates a partnership or collaboration with an international partner. E.g. co-supervision by an international organisation (which must be formalised) and/or provision of equipment and facilities. There may be an exchange of staff/candidates between UWS and the collaborating institution. Written evidence confirming the details of the partnership/collaboration must be provided.</p>	1

**SECTION 6
MAXIMUM POINTS FOR THIS SECTION - 5**

Academic Equivalence

For applicants who did not attract points in Section 2 of the Metric only (ie without Bachelor Honours or postgraduate qualifications) – based on their extensive professional experience and its relevance to the intended area of study.

(6) Academic Equivalence	Category Value
Equivalence – up to 5 points in this category	5

**SECTION 7
MAXIMUM POINTS FOR THIS SECTION - 4**

GPA Equivalence for Overseas Qualifications

To be used for applicants who have attained an overseas undergraduate qualification, to determine the equivalence of the awarded GPA in the Australian context. Colleges should be guided by the NOOSR judgement regarding the quality of individual institutions, the academic transcripts of the applicant and discipline knowledge of the academic standing of the institution.

(7) GPA Equivalence	Category Value
Equivalence – up to 4 points in this category	4

**Additional Information
Using the UWS Ranking Metric**

Section One - Studies Below Honours Level

Assessment based on certified copies of full academic transcript.

Section Two - Honours/Postgraduate Study

Assessment based on certified copies of full academic transcript.

All outstanding results (e.g. Bachelor Honours) must be provided no later than 30 November 2007. For applicants currently enrolled at UWS this will be arranged internally by the College and academic advisors. All other applicants must ensure that certified copies of results arrive at the University (see page 1) no later than 5:00pm on Friday, 30 November 2007. For the purposes of ranking it will be assumed that all pending honours results will be Honours One and rankings will be adjusted on confirmation of the official result. Where the result is not available by 30 November the points for that section of the metric will be reduced accordingly and the application re-ranked.

Section Three - Research Output

<i>Research Book/Monograph</i>	A copy of the introduction and frontispiece, photocopies of contents, preface, introduction, and pages showing all bibliographic information: ISBN author(s), publisher, all dates referring to copyright, publication, printing and distribution.
<i>Exhibitions</i>	Copy of catalogue contents, preface, introduction, ISBN (if applicable), name of exhibitor and curator, date and location of exhibition, total number of works in exhibition and total number of works by claiming artist. Copy of advertising, which should include name of publication and date advertised. Evidence that the gallery/museum is an independent public or commercial organisation (e.g. evidence of a governing board, is a financial concern, annual report extract, employs staff, is autonomous [ie. independent of the university])
<i>Recorded Creative Performance Work</i>	Including live music, theatre or dance performances, films, multimedia productions or sound production. Evidence to support commercial distribution (e.g. cover/notes) Evidence of running time Evidence of the role(s) of the claimant (e.g. writer, illustrator, producer, director, performer)
<i>Written Creative Work</i>	Including published novels, poetry, plays, film scripts, music scores. All bibliographical information (ISBN or ISSN, author(s), publisher, all dates referring to copyright, publication, printing and distribution).
<i>Refereed Papers</i>	A copy of the refereed paper and photocopies of contents, preface, introduction and pages showing all bibliographical information (ISBN or ISSN, author(s), publisher, all dates referring to copyright, publication, printing and distribution), evidence that the paper is refereed.
<i>Refereed Conference Proceedings</i>	Photocopy of the front page of proceedings, contents, preface and all bibliographic information (ISBN or ISSN, author(s), publisher, all dates referring to copyright, publication, printing and distribution). Evidence of refereeing (e.g. statement in preface, details of refereeing procedures and/or panel). Details of conference: conference title, date, venue, supporting/sponsoring information.

Section 4 - Alignment with Research Concentration

Will the proposed project be located within a University Research Centre (URC) or University Research Group (URG)? See - <http://www.uws.edu.au/research#2>

Section 5 - Alignment with University Research Plan 2004-2008

Does the topic meet the requirements of one or more of the following?

Regional engagement

Collaboration with industry/government/community

Interdisciplinary focus

Commercialisation opportunities

International linkage

See The UWS Research Plan 2004-2008 –

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/activitystrengths/landscape>

Section 6 - Academic Equivalence

The College may allocate up to 5 points where the applicant can prove an equivalence of skills and knowledge that would be attained in formal Bachelor Honours or postgraduate training. The evidence should address knowledge of research methodology and the ability to undertake academic writing and/or specialist knowledge and skills relevant to the area of study.

Section 7 - GPA Equivalence for Overseas Qualifications

Colleges will make a judgement on overseas undergraduate qualifications based on the grades attained, NOOSR advice and discipline knowledge of the standing of the institution in the academic community.