

29/05/2017 – Questions and Answers

Q - Will all projects go forward (or will all projects listed on the website automatically be successful)?

A – No, you now need to find a quality candidate to nominate for consideration of the SHARPEst Committee. Students will be assessed against the selection criteria.

Q - Are all projects selected in the EOI process going forward to be advertised?

A - Yes. All projects are currently being promoted for students to express their interest. It will now be a competitive process for the Supervisors to select their best two candidates to be invited to apply.

Q - Do applicants see selection criteria?

A – Yes it is available in the Guidelines see: <http://www.2025.unsw.edu.au/apply/node/69/>

Q – Do students need to do an English proficiency test?

A – Students need to meet UNSW English policy. <https://www.unsw.edu.au/english-requirements-policy>

Q - Can students also apply or be given a top up scholarship?

A - Yes, they can be awarded a Top-up but can't apply for RTP

Q – What are the chances of being successful?

A – There are 125 scholarships available in the 2018 round. There are 199 projects listed on the website and each project can nominate a maximum of 2 students so a total of up to 398 students could compete for 125 scholarships

Q – The single strategic area seems limiting.

A – Applicants will be able to search via keywords, faculty as well as strategic research area

Q – What is the process for allocating the scholarships, does the research quality of schools count?

A – The applicants will be considered on merit but the allocation will also be based on Faculty performance. Indigenous and Interdisciplinary projects will be prioritised.

Q – Will the applications be moderated at the faculty level or drilled down?

A – Each application will be individually assessed; moderators will be assessing the faculty assigned scores and then agreeing or reviewing the scoring.

Q – Will scholarships be allocated via the 9 research areas?

A – Yes however there are priority areas, Indigenous gets 5; interdisciplinary are a high priority

Q – Can students who have been offered an RTP (old APA) be offered a Scientia Scholarship as well?

A – No, these scholarships are only available to students without a scholarship, students will be expected to give up the RTP offer.

Q – Can students transfer into a Scientia Scholarship

A – No, students wishing to take up a Scientia Scholarship must start a new project

Q - Why not offer one large pool of RTP and Scientia together?

A – The Scientia Scholarship is different from the standard RTP, it has different eligibility and different assessment criteria.

Q – If both my students are successful, do I need change my supervisory team?

A – No the supervisory team should stay the same.

Q – Can I add additional supervisors if the student looks capable of interdisciplinary research

A – Yes, but you must ensure they are quality supervisors (and need ARDT sign off)?

Q - Will examples of successful candidates be provided?

A - Yes they will be sent to you soon

Q – Are there diversity targets?

A – Yes there are, these include Women in STEMM, indigenous

Q – Are UNSW graduates disadvantaged?

A – No, there are no limits on domestic vs international; we just want the best candidates

Q – What criteria is different for Scientia students when it comes to admission documents?

A – One additional document: the applicants will need to complete the application form along with the standard documents required for admission to a PhD.

Q - Will there be wording provided for unsuccessful, successful applicants

A – Yes you will be sent wording you can use, we are also tracking applications via website

Q – Is the timing of this scholarship process going to mean UNSW missing out on quality students?

A – No we don't think so and quality students can also be considered out of round.

Q - Can we change the link to be sent to something else, not the faculty page?

A - We can look to change this in the future. If you have a more relevant link then please send it to the Scientia Team and we will have a look at it.

Q – Is there preferred text for marketing mail list or can supervisors create own?

A – Scientia team can provide support for marketing to your networks, please contact us