SCORING SYSTEM
for the distribution of postgraduate research scholarships
and for determining RTS Places for 2014 applicants

UTS: Faculty of Science

This Scoring System comprises 3 components (refer to numbered end-notes for clarifications on specific items): (1) Academic Merit; (2) Undergraduate Performance OR Relevant Professional Achievement; (3) Research Output. Each component lists the points for all the items against which the Applicant’s performance is measured. Each Applicant is scored by adding the total points accrued for all components. Applicants are ranked in order of decreasing score (i.e., highest to lowest). Postgraduate Research Scholarships are awarded to the top scoring Applicants.

(1) **Academic Merit:** only one item to be selected, it being the highest award obtained by the Applicant.

*Admission to Doctoral Program:*
- Bachelor’s degree, First Class Honours with University Medal (5 pts for Medal) 26 pts
- Bachelor’s degree, First Class Honours without University Medal 21 pts
- Masters by Research degree (would have ≥ 66% research component) 20 pts (+1 if outstanding thesis)
- Bachelor’s degree, Second Class Honours, Division 1 18 pts

*Admission to Masters Degree by Research Program:*
- Bachelor’s degree, Second Class Honours, Division 2 10 pts
- Bachelor’s degree, Pass 5 pts

**NOTE:** International or Applicants with academic paths leading to degrees different from those above must contact the Faculty of Science to demonstrate equivalency of their qualifications.

**Successful Completion of Doctoral/Masters Assessment**
One (1) point will be awarded for a currently enrolled research student who has successfully completed her/his doctoral/masters assessment within the first year of candidature.

(2-A) **Undergraduate Performance:** based on Grade Point Average (GPA – 4 point scale) calculated on the entire undergraduate degree (excluding Honours).

- GPA > 3.5 8 pts
- GPA = 3.0 – 3.5 6 pts
- GPA = 2.5 – 2.99 3 pts
- GPA = 2.0 – 2.49 1 pts
- GPA < 2.0 0 pts

(2-B) **Relevant Professional Experience:** scores are cumulative (multiple items are applicable). Scores for each employment item are for full time employment; part time employment will accrue fractions of scores. Scores must not exceed the values in the right-hand column.

- Full time employment as Research Assistant in a research group / lab (3 pt/yr) 8 pts
- Full time employment as Professional Technical Officer in a relevant field (3 pt/yr) 6 pts
- Full time employment in any relevant professional field (0.5 pt/yr) 2 pts
- Peer-reviewed publications (not included in component 3) 2 pts

(3) **Research Output:** calculated on all items that apply. Only items published in the two years prior to this application are counted. The scores indicated in the right-hand column are multiplied by the number of entries in the specific category.

- Book chapter in a peer-reviewed volume in a relevant field of which the Applicant is first 3.0 pts
Journal article (cat. C1: peer-reviewed) in a relevant field, of which the Applicant is first author 3.0 pts
Journal article (cat. C1: peer-reviewed) in a relevant field, of which the Applicant is not first author 1.0 pts
Peer-reviewed article in Conference Proceedings (cat. E1: published in a volume with a bibliographic ISBN/ISSN reference, and including declaration from the Editor/s that the papers included in the volume are peer-reviewed) 0.5 pt

Computer software (cat. G: major application) 1.0 pt
Patent (cat. I: In a team, Applicant must be principal contributor) 2.0 pts
Conference Abstracts, Non-refereed Articles, Industry Reports (not to exceed a total of 1.0 pts) 0.1 pt

DISCRETIONARY POINTS: FOR THE FACULTY TO ATTRIBUTE

- Students with a disability who score within two points of the cut-off for UTS Doctoral Scholarships will be among those ‘high scoring’ applicants deemed eligible to receive a scholarship.

- Where there is evidence of outstanding contribution of the Applicant in a relevant field not listed in the scoring system components, the Faculty will attribute points (max. 2) against that contribution. Outstanding contributions must be of international calibre, such as the award to the Applicant of an international prize involving a competitive selection process carried out by government, professional agencies, or international panels of experts and must be based on the recognition of a substantive piece of work (e.g., peer-reviewed journal article of which the Applicant is the first author, or internationally award winning thesis), or early-career contributions recognised by international learned society medals or fellowships. This item excludes everything else (e.g., conference prize for best student poster or presentation; industry sponsored prizes, etc...).

END-NOTES:

1. To accrue points in the Undergraduate Performance component all Applicants must ensure that their academic transcripts include the Grade Point Average (GPA) calculated on their entire Undergraduate Studies. UTS uses a 4 point system. If the Applicant conducted his/her undergraduate studies in a university using a different scale, the GPA in the Applicant’s transcripts will be adjusted to correspond to the UTS scale.

2. The Undergraduate Performance and Relevant Professional Achievement strands are mutually exclusive. The Faculty of Science will score Applicants based on the strand most favourable to the Applicant.

3. One extra point is added to the MSc Research Degree score of 20 if the Applicant provides evidence for the outstanding quality of his/her thesis. This must be demonstrated by including the examiner’s reports of the thesis for evaluation by the Faculty of Science.

4. The Applicant can submit in this item a list of all peer-reviewed journal articles or peer-reviewed book chapters published in the period up to two years prior to submitting this application. The publications are evaluated by the Faculty of Science based on their significance for the relevant field of research and the contribution of the Applicant to the work (e.g., order of authorship), in any case not to exceed the maximum possible score for this item.

5. Together with the title and authorship of the publication and the name of the journal or book-title in which the work is published or in press (accepted), Applicants must also provide the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or volume and page number, as evidence of publication.

6. The “published 2 years prior to application” rule is suspended where the applicant provides evidence of significant career interruption for demonstrated and justifiable reasons. In these cases items published for a total of two years prior to career interruption will be included in the calculation of points for component (3).