

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

1 April 2026

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT SCHEME FACULTY RANKING CRITERIA

PRSS

The Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS) provides University funding to HDR students to support a range of travel, services or products, essential to the student's research but not normally provided during candidature. Funding may be requested for direct research costs including travel to conferences overseas, travel to domestic conferences or fieldwork-related travel costs, specialist services, specialist references, software or equipment, registration for virtual conferences, and limited thesis production costs.

If you are in your first year of candidature, you need to provide evidence that you have completed all required preliminary appraisal activities. Your application may not be considered if you do not provide this evidence with your application. The preliminary appraisal milestone must be completed in RECS. A printout of this milestone completion (with approval from your lead supervisor) will be sufficient.

As per the PRSS procedures, students under suspension are eligible to apply in the research period immediately prior to their return to candidature and can receive funding if enrolment is recommenced prior to the allocation of funding.

FACULTY PRSS RANKING GUIDELINES

Principles:

- Consistency across the Schools is aspirational, recognizing that each school is likely to have some differences in their needs and priorities.
- Schools can use School funding for any gaps created by the PRSS policy, but the terms of this funding will need to be managed separately to the PRSS guidelines.
- School guidelines will be approved by the Faculty Committee that includes student representation.
- Schools to have 2 weeks to submit any additional selection criteria.

Allocation criteria

Faculty of Science criteria:

1. Research activities must be scheduled to take place before 3.5 FTE years of a PhD candidature and before 1.75 years of an MPhil candidature.
2. Applications can be retrospective but must be for expenditure within the same calendar year as the application.

3. Application must clarify the relevance of the activity for which funding is sought to the candidate's research.
4. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
5. School Panels must have a minimum of 2 people with no joint supervision of a single student by the whole panel.
6. Supervisors will not decide on their own student applications.
7. The Faculty will adopt HDRAC processes for expenditure rules and accounting requirements
8. Students will be awarded funding only once per calendar year.
9. Schools may determine funding priorities for application categories.
10. Students can apply to up to 2 categories only, unless otherwise specified by the School, and should indicate their priority.
11. Funding will be allocated across the different categories according to the number of applications received and the total amount of funding available. It is unlikely that requests will be funded in full (historically the total amount of funding requested has significantly exceeded the amount of funding available).

Additional School Criteria:

Chemistry

1. The only categories supported are conference travel, research visits, fieldwork, and specialist services.
2. Students may only seek support in one category and only one item within the category (e.g. one conference, one research visit, or one fieldwork trip).
3. Depending on the available funding, the School is likely to offer equal support to all students attending a conference in Australia or New Zealand and equal support to all students attending a conference overseas. Overseas conferences will attract greater support.
4. Students seeking support for conference travel only need to provide as evidence the acceptance of their abstract, and not receipts, quotes, or detailed justifications. Students seeking other forms of support should provide evidence of costs.

Geosciences

No additional criteria

History and Philosophy of Science

No additional criteria

Life and Environmental Sciences

1. We have two rounds of the scheme. 70% of the total fund is allocated to the first round, 30% or the remaining funds if higher to a later round.
2. The only categories supported are conference travel, research visits, fieldwork, and specialist services.
3. Students may only seek support in one category (based on the primary reason for their travel), with a limit of one item within a category for conference travel, research visits and specialist services (e.g. one conference, or one research visit).

4. For conference travel, all conferences in Australia or New Zealand will be awarded the same funding (up to a maximum of \$1,500) and all overseas conference will be awarded the same funding (up to a maximum of \$3,500).
5. Students seeking support for conference travel need to provide as evidence the acceptance of their abstract or conference registration. For conference travel do not include receipts, quotes, or detailed justifications.
6. Requests for funding for research visits, fieldwork or specialist services are limited to a maximum of \$1,500 and must be accompanied by evidence of costs. Acceptable evidence includes quotes and/or invoices. Estimates are not acceptable evidence.

Mathematics and Statistics

No additional criteria

Physics

1. Students may apply in more than 2 categories.

Psychology

No additional criteria

Veterinary Science

No additional criteria