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. In 2021, PRSS cannot be used to support travel to conferences overseas, but access to specialist services, fieldwork costs (including domestic travel), specialist references, software or equipment, registration for virtual or domestic conferences, travel to domestic conferences*) and limited thesis production costs can still be awarded as direct research costs.

Students who commenced from July 2020 onwards who have not yet passed probation by the time the round has closed will need to provide evidence that they have completed preliminary appraisal activities. This must be an email/letter from the Lead Supervisor attesting that all activities required in preliminary appraisal have been completed.

For students that commenced from January 2021 onwards, the preliminary appraisal milestone may be completed in RECS. In this case a printout of this milestone completion (with approval from supervisor) will be sufficient in place of a formal letter/email.

As per the PRSS procedures, students more advanced in their candidature must have had a progress review prior to their application, and this review must have received at least a satisfactory outcome (students with marginal and unsatisfactory outcomes will be considered ineligible).

**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. If an APR has been completed, last APR must have an outcome of ‘meets or exceeds objectives’. 
2. 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.

3. Applications can be retrospective but must be for expenditure within the same calendar year as the application.

4. Application must clarify the relevance of the activity for which funding is sought to the candidate's research.

5. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

6. School Panels must have a minimum of 2 people with no joint supervision of a single student by the whole panel.

7. Supervisors will not decide on their own student applications.

8. The Faculty will adopt HDRAC processes for expenditure rules and accounting requirements.

9. Students will be awarded funding only once per calendar year.

10. Schools may determine funding priorities for application categories.

11. Students can apply to up to 2 categories only, unless otherwise specified by the School, and should indicate their priority.

12. 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**
- No additional criteria

**Geoscience**
- No additional criteria

**History and Philosophy of Science**
- No additional criteria

**Life and Environmental Sciences**
1. Students will get the highest proportion of what they asked for (up to max entitled for the category of request) the first time they ask.
2. Students get a lower proportion for later requests (only 2/3 for the second time, 1/3 for the third time).
3. We have two rounds of the scheme, 70% of total fund allocated to the first round, 30% or the remaining funds if higher to a later round.

**Mathematics and Statistics**
- No additional criteria
Physics

No additional criteria

Psychology

1. Any request for conference expenses must make a clear case for how conference attendance will be feasible given the current University, state and national travel restrictions.
2. In terms of research expenses: When applications and available funds are known, the sub-committee will determine the percentage of each request that the School can afford to fund, and this percentage will be applied equitably across the applications.
3. In situations where both conference and research costs are claimed in the same year, the student should order these costs explicitly. Decisions whether or not to fund the lower priority cost will be made on the basis of funds available and relative need.

Veterinary Science

No additional criteria

*Domestic travel will be supported, however, students must complete a full risk assessment, consistent with their School’s procedures prior to travel. Students also must assume the risk of any additional cost incurred as a result of any quarantine imposed during travel.