

AUT Doctoral Scholarship Applicant Ranking



Applicants for funded PhD places at AUT will be assessed and ranked using the following three criteria.

1. GPA¹

When feasible a standard GPA will be calculated for each applicant as follows:

A	Applicants applying with a four year undergraduate or Honours degree only	GPA of the equivalent of at least 120 points of 4 th year papers or above will be used.
B	Honours or taught master's (or postgraduate Diploma) plus one year thesis (the equivalent of ≥ 90 points)	$GPA = (.7 \times A) + (.3 \times B)$ where A = the thesis component and B = course work. The equivalent of two full years or 240pts.
C	Honours plus a one year taught or professional masters or 180-240 point equivalent master's programme with a research component < 90 .	GPA across a minimum of 180 and a maximum of 240 points will be used with no weighting of the thesis.
D	Prerequisite degree with an ungraded thesis or a one year master's course	GPA of the equivalent of at least 120 points of coursework at the highest level available 4 th or 5 th year equivalent

The GPA calculation provided to faculties will also take into consideration the following principles:

- i. The GPA is calculated using a scale of 1-9 where A+ = 9.0. The calculation must be corrected for point value of the papers
- ii. The GPA calculation will take no account of courses which are surplus to the requirements of the prerequisite degree qualification. All courses at postgraduate level that form part of the relevant prerequisite degree will be taken into account. Courses that are obviously not attributed to this qualification or are not at postgraduate level will be excluded. Whether or not the student was part-time or full time is irrelevant to the final GPA calculation but could be taken into account in the comments.
- iii. Provisional grades for work not completed will be considered *only* if confirmed and requested by the relevant Associate Dean. If the grade is from an institution other than AUT the provisional grade must also be signed off by an appropriate person from that institution. Any offer based on an unconfirmed grade will be conditional on the anticipated grade being achieved and formally confirmed.
- iv. If a thesis is ungraded official verification from the awarding University on the position the applicant occupies within the cohort or in comparison with past students, or a brief, verified report from the supervisor on research capacity can be requested.

2. Other measures of academic merit:

The following other measures may also be considered when ranking candidates:

- Research experience
- Professional or industry experience
- University or discipline ranking²
- Publications including creative works³

- Strength of referee's statements and AUT statement of support
- Significant academic or professional awards

3. Strategic Importance

The strategic importance of the research to the University, Faculty, School or Institute may also be considered when ranking candidates. Faculties should consider the following points:

- The availability of supervisory support.
- Is the research in an area considered to be directly related to the Faculty Research Plan or School priority areas?
- Is the research in an area considered to be a priority for the University?
- Will the research develop supervisory skill in the academic(s) supervising the PhD student?
- Would the research assist to develop a cohort of students to support a strategic academic or research appointment?
- Will the research be interdisciplinary and develop collaboration across disciplines of strategic importance to the University?
- Will the research develop an external collaboration of strategic importance to the university?
- Equity -Maori and Pacific peoples are identified in the Tertiary Education Strategy as priority groups.

Notes:

The Associate Dean Postgraduate and/or the Faculty Scholarship Committee Chair will ensure that both GPA and the other factors listed by the Faculty in the ranking of their candidates are considered equitably.

1. GPA

- The GPA based on the criteria above will be calculated by the Head of the Scholarships Office. The reference documentation used has been compiled in consultation with other New Zealand Universities. Therefore the grade equivalencies used for PhD scholarship assessment are consistent with those used by other assessors in the sector.

2. Examples of world University rankings considered may be one of:

- Times Higher Education – World University rankings <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/>
- QS World University Rankings <http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings>
- Academic Ranking of World Universities <http://www.arwu.org/>

3. Considered publications include publications as defined in the PBRF Definitions of Research as listed below.

Publication Category

Authored Book - Research
Authored Book – Other
Edited Book - Research
Edited Book - Other
Chapter in Book - Research

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The logo for AUT (Auckland University of Technology) is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a black rectangular background.

Chapter in Book – Other
Journal – Research Article
Journal – Research Other
Journal – Professional & Other Non-Research Articles
Conference Contribution – Full paper in published conference proceedings
Conference Contribution – Abstract of paper in published conference proceedings
Conference Contribution – Edited volume of conference proceedings
Conference Contribution – Poster Presentation
Conference Contribution – Verbal presentation and other Conference outputs
Intellectual Property
Software
Commissioned Report for External Body
Performance
Composition / Musical Score
Design
Exhibition
Artefact/Object/Craftwork
Film/Video/CD Rom
Creative Work
Working Paper; Discussion Paper; Technical Report

To evaluate the quality of the research publications, the ARC/ERA journal/conference ranking can be used as an indicator (http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_journal_list.htm)

Philippa Hay
Head of the AUT Scholarships Office