School of Psychology

Research Scholarship September 2019

This document explains aspects of the selection criteria and process for the School of Psychology.

Selection criteria

Essential criteria:

To be considered for the scholarship, candidates must have at least a strong 2:1/Merit (or international equivalent) in an undergraduate degree and Master's level degree in Psychology (or closely allied discipline) from recognised institutions. They must also hold first-class marks in research dissertations or research methods. All candidates must have at least two supportive academic references, and a background in psychology or a methodologically relevant discipline. Applicants must also provide evidence that they satisfy the University's minimum English language requirements. The panel must also be satisfied that the candidate has demonstrated the ability and motivation to teach effectively, and will be able and is motivated to teach in the domain of social psychology or cognitive psychology.

Thereafter, selection of students shall proceed according to the following criteria:

Student profile

These criteria will be tested in the application, interview, and academic references.

Criteria to be considered include:

- marks across their degree(s), with particular attention to research dissertation and research methods marks
- the relevance of their degree(s) to the proposed project
- the quality of their degree programme, for example the ranking of their institution and the rigour of the academic programme
- demonstrated understanding and intellectual ownership of their proposed research project
- relevant research and academic experience
- professional experience and skills that will be of use in the research project

Quality of the project

These criteria will be tested in the application, interview, and academic references.

Criteria to be considered are:

- the feasibility of the project and clarity with which it is described
- the rationale for the project, including its originality and significance to the field of research
- the methodological rigour of the project

Document pertains to the competition with deadline 16 September 2019 only.

- its potential impact within academia, including psychology and other disciplines, or its impact outside academia

Supervisory arrangements

These criteria will be tested in the statement made by the proposed supervisor(s) that forms part of the application.

- the expertise, experience, and skills of your supervisor in relation to the proposed project
- how well the knowledge and expertise of supervisors and the resources and infrastructure of the School and/or external partners will work to enhance your project

Selection Process

1. Application

You should apply online via the KentVision online application form for a PhD place.

To this you should upload your PhD Scholarships Application Form for September 2019.

This includes the following key fields:

Title (limited to 80 characters including spaces)

Project Details (limited to4,000 characters, including spaces).

Applicant Statement (limited to 1,500 characters, including spaces).

Supervisor statement of support (limited to 1,500 characters, including spaces).

Ability and motivation to teach in general, and to teach social and/or cognitive psychology specifically (limited to 1,500 characters, including spaces).

We recommend that you edit the larger fields in separate documents before cutting and pasting into the fields. More information about what is needed in each field is provided under each heading

2. Shortlisting and interviewing

Shortlisted candidates will be notified within a week of submission. Candidates will be shortlisted according to the criteria described above.

The shortlisting and interviewing panels shall comprise the following personnel (or their delegates, approved by the Head of School):

Director of Graduate Studies – Research

Deputy Head of School

And one other staff selected to ensure balance of gender and subdisciplines. Personnel will have recruitment training and their workload allocation will be considered.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed on Friday 24 September. They will be required to prepare a brief (8 minute) presentation of their proposal including visual aids such as Powerpoint, and to field questions about their research from the panel. This presentation and further questions will be used to assess the student profile, the quality of the proposed research, and ability and motivation to teach effectively.

Candidates selected for GTA studentships by the panel must also await the approval of the Graduate School. We expect that a final outcome will be communicated within one week of the interview.

The award of GTA studentships may be affected by the extent to which your project is likely to contribute to the strategic research objectives of the School. Factors such as your proposed supervisor's current supervisory workload and allocation of GTA studentships may be taken into account.