

## **School of Psychology**

### **Selection of PhD scholarship students**

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

#### **Selection criteria**

##### ***Essential criteria:***

To be considered for the scholarships, candidates must hold a good Honours degree (First or 2:1), or a Master's degree (merit or distinction) in Psychology (or closely allied discipline) from recognised institutions, with 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.

In the case of GTA scholarships, the panel must be satisfied that the candidates have demonstrated the ability and motivation to teach effectively.

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

- 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 Application form for PhD Scholarships.

This includes the following key fields:

**Title** (limited to 80 characters including spaces)

**Project Details** (limited to 8,000 characters, including spaces).

**Applicant Statement** (limited to 2,000 characters, including spaces).

**Supervisor statement of support** (limited to 2,000 characters, including spaces).

**Ability and motivation to teach** (limited to 1,500 characters, including spaces).

This is required if you wish to be considered for a GTA Scholarship

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 the submission deadline. 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

And four other staff (at minimum) 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 in the week after shortlisting. 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 to be put forward for SeNSS will be notified as soon as possible after interviews are complete (within one or two working days). At that point they must be contactable in order to progress with their application to SeNSS. Other candidates will be selected for GTA studentships and notified shortly thereafter (within days of interview). Still other candidates will be notified that they are placed on a waiting list. In previous years several wait-listed students have later been offered GTA studentships (and in several years, all wait-listed students), but unavoidably, this process can take weeks and even months, pending factors such as the outcome of SeNSS applications. 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.