



University Overseas Research Scholarships Guidelines

1. THE UNIVERSITY OVERSEAS RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME

Funding will be available to provide research scholarships to strengthen the INSTITUTE's recruitment of outstanding postgraduate research (PGR) students from overseas (foreign nationalities) to support their PhD studies and research. The scheme is intended to enhance the Institute's PGR population with the best calibre students.

Full-Time PhD Research Studentships: **Full-time PhD studentships** are available, tenable for a maximum of three years. In addition to the coverage of the tuition fees at the University, the scholarship will also provide a maintenance allowance which is payable currently at the basic rate (50,000 RMB/per year), plus partial subsidies for accommodation within the university campus.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

- Students must hold or be expected to receive
 - a first degree with first class honours from a reputable institution with taught programmes in English, or
 - a Masters degree with distinction or overseas qualification deemed to be equivalent.
- Preference will be given to students with research experiences and recognized publications.
- For applicants who have not been taught in English, IELTS 6.0 or equivalent is required.
- Applications will not be accepted for students who are already registered as research students at Shenzhen University.

3. CONSIDERATIONS TO BE NOTED PRIOR TO THE NOMINATION OF AN APPLICANT

(a) Purpose of the scheme

- The Overseas Research Scholarship scheme is primarily aimed to attract overseas students of outstanding research potential to Shenzhen University and thus 'excellence' is the primary adjudicator. Excellence forms one of the five criteria used for assessing applications.
- The likelihood of the applicant taking up the award should be considered and set out in the commentary to be provided on the application form by the potential supervisor

within the Research Institute. Again, this issue forms one of the five criteria used for assessing applications.

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

(a) The application form and supporting papers

Applications must be made on the University Research Scholarship application form, which is available from the Research Institute's WEB site: <http://futuremedia.szu.edu.cn>.

No additional materials should be attached to the application except

- a curriculum vitae, and
- further details of overseas academic qualifications (copies of academic transcripts, degree certificates or diplomas etc.).

Any other pages attached to the form will not be circulated to the Committee members.

(b) Signatures

The application submitted to the Research Institute should be signed by the proposed student.

5. CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING APPLICATIONS

The attention of all parties – proposed students, potential supervisors, Research Institute authorities and the Sub-Committee reviewers – is drawn to the criteria used for assessing applications. These criteria are emphasised on the application form and are set out below:

(1) the **excellence of the proposed student**, as evidenced by:

- qualifications
- prizes
- other marks of esteem, and
- evidence of research potential.

(2) the **funding package** proposed and evidence of any matching funding.

(3) the application's **fit with the research strategy** of the Research Institute and the University.

(4) the **added value** to the University – for example:

- the application's fit with key research projects
- its multi-disciplinary context
- existing track record of academic publications, especially SCI journal papers etc.

(5) the **likelihood of the applicant taking up the award**.

Applicants and the potential supervisors should ensure that the above criteria are taken into account when completing the application form.

6. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Applications received by the Research Institute will be assessed by a review panel comprising potential supervisors and head of corresponding research groups.

Each permitted reviewer will score each application using the above five criteria.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

It is expected that the Committee members will assess and identify the successful applications once every three months throughout the academic year. Where appropriate, the offer of an award to successful applicants will be subject to the student's examination results, or to other conditions specified by the Assessment Committee.

Successful applicants will usually be given just one month to accept any offer. At the end of this period, the offer will be withdrawn. Supervisors should make sure that the proposed student is contactable during the period when an award might be offered.

A reserve list of scholarship nominees will be maintained to make use of any funds which become available because successful applicants prove unable to take up their offer.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

Enquiries about The Research Scholarships at the Research Institute should be directed to:

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