

Graduate Research Pathways FAQ'S

Students

Scholarships:

Am I eligible to apply for a scholarship?

If you are applying to transfer into a Masters by research degree from the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) you will be able to apply for a Graduate Research Pathways Scholarship. If applying for a PhD scholarship, check your eligibility [here](#).

Can I apply for both a Graduate Research Pathways Scholarship and a PhD scholarship?

Yes, you will need to submit a separate application for the PhD scholarship. For details on how to submit the PhD application, see our [How to Apply](#) page.

How long is the scholarship for?

10 months if you are transferring from Honours into a Masters degree (Graduate Research Pathways Scholarship). If you are applying for a PhD scholarship, this is available for 3 ½ years.

Transfers:

How do I transfer from Honours to Masters?

If you are currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) you will be contacted in the coming months inviting you to express your interest in transferring to the relevant Masters by Research degree. At this time you will be provided with a short application form to complete and will be able to also apply for a scholarship.

Will I graduate with an Honours degree and a Masters degree?

No, if transferring you will end up graduating with a Masters by research degree as you will not have officially completed the Honours degree.

I completed my Honours degree last year/a few years ago, am I able to apply for just the second year of the Masters?

No, you will need to apply to start the Masters from the first year. You can however, apply for exemption from any compulsory coursework if you undertook similar subjects during your Honours year.

I'm in my Honours year at another University, can I apply to transfer into the second year of the Masters?

No, you will need to apply to start the Masters from the first year. You can however, apply for exemption from any compulsory coursework if you undertook similar subjects during your Honours year.

What are the deadlines for applications for transfer?

Please see the Transfer Process outline [here](#).

What if I change my mind?

It will be possible to still graduate with your Bachelor (Honours) however, let the GRS know as soon as possible so that this can be arranged.

Can I still transfer from a Masters by Research into a PhD?

Only if you accepted your Masters offer of candidature before 12 June 2019. If you accepted your offer after this date you will need to complete your Masters degree before applying for the PhD.

Can I apply to transfer from Honours to Masters as well as for direct entry into the PhD?

Yes, you will need to submit a separate application for the PhD. For details on how to submit the PhD application, see our [How to Apply](#) page.

What if I start my PhD and find its too hard?

You can apply to transfer to the Master of Philosophy and submit a masters thesis for examination.

Pathways into research:**I don't have research experience, but I'm interested in research what can I do?**

If you have completed a Bachelor of Arts, you can apply for the Master of Arts by research which includes advanced coursework and research training needed to complete a masters thesis. If you have completed a degree in another area you will most likely need to complete an honours year or a Masters by coursework that involves a research subject/minor thesis.

Academic Staff

Eligibility requirements:

Are graduates from PGCW degrees eligible to apply for a scholarship for the second year of the Masters if they have 3/8 research component?

PGCW graduates can apply for a full two year Masters by research scholarship. They will be assessed for honours equivalence.

Will existing PGCW students be able to transfer into the Master of Arts/Science in a similar way as Honours students IF they have the 3/8 research component?

PGCW students can enrol in the research-only stream of the MA or MSc if they have done the equivalent coursework elsewhere or if they have met the course entry requirements.

Will existing PGCW students be eligible for scholarships, presumably through demonstrating Honours equivalence?

Scholarships are for research (HDR) students only. PGCW students can apply for the Masters (Research) scholarships if they meet the entry requirements.

Will past graduates of Bachelor of Arts or Science (Hons) from La Trobe and other universities be eligible for entry into the 2nd year of the Master of Arts/Science?

BA/BSc (Hons) graduates can apply for a full two year Masters candidature and scholarship. In the MA, they can apply for the research-only specialisation if they don't need or want to complete a coursework specialisation.

Scholarship Ranking:

Have dates for this years scholarship ranking been set?

Yes, scholarship dates are available on the GRS ASSC and SHE Unite pages.

If there are two rounds/year, how will equity be maintained across rounds? There may be different standards in each scholarship round depending on who applies, as is the case with different PhD scholarship rounds now.

There are likely to be many more Masters applicants at the end of the year than mid-year (as is the case with Honours), so competition for scholarships will be greater than mid-year. Schools will have a single allocation across the December/May rounds, so will be able to offer scholarships more in December in keeping with the likely number of applicants.

Will there be minimum mark below which a scholarship cannot be awarded?

No, however the Graduate Research and RTP Scholarships Policy notes that BGR will continue to prioritise applicants with an H1 Honours. The course entry requirement must also be met, i.e. a Masters by research at assessed at an LTU 70.

Can allocated scholarships be held over from one round to the next?

Schools will be allocated a number of scholarships to offer in each round (i.e. they will not be returned to the central pool if an applicant withdraws/declined). Scholarships may be carried over from November to the following mid-year round.

Will Master scholarships remaining after the mid-year round be held in the School for the following November round?

No.

Can Schools have a single ranking list for the November round, so that 1st Class Honours graduates who are unsuccessful in gaining a PhD scholarship can be offered a scholarship for the 2nd year of the Masters?

No, because applicants will be ranked according to different standards. Honours graduates may appear on both Masters and Doctoral ranking lists with an MRes equivalence for their doctoral application where required.

Scholarship applications:**Can students simultaneously apply for a scholarship for a Masters by research and PhD?**

Yes. Students applying for the Masters by research scholarship (through transfer from BA or BSc (Hons)) will have a shorter application form. They will then also need to apply for the PhD through the usual application process.

For students applying for both Masters and PhD, would they need to apply with separate topics and research proposals?

In most cases separate topics would be expected, but not mandated.

What are the deadlines for applications?

30 September is the planned deadline for Honours students transferring into Semester 1, 2020. 2nd semester intake closing date TBC. For PhD scholarships, deadline is 31 October for domestic applicants and 30 September for international applicants.

If students are unsuccessful in an application for a PhD and haven't applied for a scholarship for the Masters by research, can an offer be made? Or do we advise everyone that students should apply for both?

No – anyone who would like to be considered for both should be advised to apply for both.

Packaged Offers:**Can packaged offers be made to sponsored international students? (that include the statement of successful completion of the Masters?)**

Yes – noting that these are candidature offers only and there is no guarantee of a scholarship in the PhD.

Can packaged offers be made to non-sponsored international students? And to domestic students?

Yes, if there is genuine demand – noting that these are candidature offers only and there is no guarantee of a scholarship in the PhD.