

School of Arts

Guidelines for Applicants: Higher Degree by Research



Applications for admission to the PhD program in the School of Arts will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. ACADEMIC MERIT

- GPA
- Honours grade or credit for postgraduate studies

2. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Relevant research work experience

3. RESEARCH POTENTIAL

- Publications
- Quality of thesis proposal

Notes for applicants

(i) **Relevant research work experience**

It is not necessary to have relevant work experience. Candidates who have had at least twelve months' experience in a relevant job and who wish to have this experience taken into account should provide a statement showing how the work relates to capacity to undertake research (up to 200 words).

(ii) **Publications**

It is not necessary to have publications. If candidates list publications in their applications, the School will assess them according to the quality of outlets in which the publications appear, and relevance to the research proposal.

(iii) **Thesis proposal**

The thesis proposal is an important part of your application. You should write approximately 500 words setting out your aims, explaining your research question and situating your work in the relevant literature. In addition, you should attach a reference list of relevant scholarly works and/or source materials. The proposal will be assessed on its intellectual coherence, level of detail and the evidence it provides of your potential for advanced theoretical, conceptual and empirical work. In writing the research proposal, candidates are advised to seek help from a potential supervisor or other mentor. The proposal will then be assessed independently by a School of Arts committee.