

## NHMRC Appendix C. Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme 2019 Category Descriptors – Modified for UNSW Gupta Scholarship

### Category Descriptors for assessing Postgraduate Scholarship applications

The following scoring descriptors are to be used as a guide to score an application against each of the assessment criteria. The category descriptors are indicative, rather than definitive or exhaustive. Evaluation of performance will take into account opportunity, research discipline and overall summation of research contribution.

#### Assessing Indigenous Contributions

It is recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants often make additional valuable contributions to policy development, clinical/public health leadership and/or service delivery, community activities and linkages, and are often representatives on key committees. If applicable, these contributions should be considered when assessing research output and track record.

**Please note:** The criteria and weighting have been modified for the purposes of assessing the *UNSW Jagdish & Lalitha Gupta Scholarship in Paediatric Research*.

Score	Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3
	Research Environment and Mentor 60%	Academic Record and Research Achievement – Relative to Opportunity 20%	Research Project 20%
<p><b>7 Exemplary</b></p> <p><i>An application which clearly and strongly supports the aims of the scheme and meets all the assessment criteria with no weaknesses.</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that the top 2% of applications would be ranked in this category.</i></p>	<p><b>The Research Environment And Mentor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are <b>extremely well matched</b> to the applicant’s proposed project</li> <li>provide <b>exemplary</b> mentoring and training arrangements</li> <li>include <b>extremely high quality</b> research support systems for the applicant</li> <li>offer <b>exceptional</b> collaborative opportunities for the applicant offer <b>exemplary</b> opportunity to extend the applicant’s knowledge and skills.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exemplary Academic Merit for Field/Discipline (e.g. MBBS, Public Health), signified by (for example):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>academic record</li> <li>medals, prizes and awards</li> <li>quantity and quality of research publications in their field</li> <li>presentations, including posters and seminars</li> <li>postgraduate/research training and/or research/professional experience</li> <li>broader community engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Research Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is <b>aligned</b> with the Research stream applied for</li> <li>has objectives that are <b>extremely well-defined</b></li> <li>is <b>flawless</b> by design</li> <li>will be achieved</li> <li>will make an <b>exemplary</b> contribution to the applicant’s future career aspirations.</li> </ul>

<p><b>6 Outstanding</b></p> <p><i>An application which clearly and strongly supports the aims of the scheme and meets all the assessment criteria with negligible weaknesses.</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that the top 15% of applications would be ranked in this category or higher.</i></p>	<p><b>The Research Environment And Mentor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are <b>very well matched</b> to the applicant's proposed project</li> <li>• include <b>outstanding</b> mentoring and training arrangements</li> <li>• offer <b>very high quality</b> research support systems for the applicant</li> <li>• offer <b>outstanding</b> collaborative opportunities for the applicant offer <b>outstanding</b> potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outstanding Academic Merit for Field/Discipline (e.g. MBBS, Public Health), signified by (for example):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• academic record</li> <li>• medals, prizes and awards</li> <li>• research achievement and productivity commensurate with authorship of research publications, book chapters and presentations</li> <li>• postgraduate/research training and/or research/professional experience broader community engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Research Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is <b>aligned</b> with the Research stream applied for</li> <li>• has objectives that are <b>very well-defined</b></li> <li>• is <b>nearly flawless</b> by design</li> <li>• is <b>highly feasible</b> will make an <b>outstanding</b> contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Excellent</b></p> <p><i>An application which supports the aims of the scheme and meets the assessment criteria with only some minor weaknesses.</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that the top 35% of applications would be ranked in this category or higher.</i></p>	<p><b>The Research Environment And Mentor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are <b>well matched</b> to the applicant's proposed project</li> <li>• are <b>very well suited to</b> with the research stream applied for</li> <li>• Include <b>excellent</b> mentoring and training arrangements</li> <li>• offer <b>high quality</b> research support systems for the applicant</li> <li>• offer <b>excellent</b> collaborative opportunities for the applicant offer <b>excellent</b> potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Excellent Academic Merit for Field/Discipline (e.g. MBBS, Public Health), signified by (for example):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• academic record</li> <li>• medals, prizes and awards</li> <li>• research achievement and productivity commensurate with authorship of research publications, book chapters and presentations.</li> <li>• postgraduate/research training and/or research/professional experience broader community engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Research Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is <b>aligned</b> with the Research stream applied for</li> <li>• has objectives that are <b>well-defined</b></li> <li>• is <b>very well designed</b></li> <li>• is <b>highly feasible</b> will make an <b>excellent</b> contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 Very good</b></p> <p><i>An application which supports the aims of the scheme and meets the assessment criteria, but with numerous minor weaknesses</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that the top 65% of applications would be ranked in this category or higher.</i></p>	<p><b>The Research Environment And Mentor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are <b>suited</b> to the applicant's proposed project</li> <li>• are <b>well suited to</b> the research stream applied for Includes <b>very good quality</b> mentoring and training arrangements</li> <li>• offer <b>very good quality</b> research support systems for the applicant</li> <li>• offer <b>very good</b> collaborative opportunities for the applicant offer <b>very good</b> potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Very Good Academic Merit for Field/Discipline (e.g. MBBS, Public Health), signified by (for example):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• academic record</li> <li>• medals, prizes and awards Research achievement and productivity commensurate with authorship of research publications, book chapters and presentations.</li> <li>• postgraduate/research training and/or research/professional experience broader community engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Research Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is <b>aligned</b> with the Research stream applied for</li> <li>• has objectives that are <b>clear</b></li> <li>• is <b>well designed</b> is <b>feasible</b> will make a <b>very good</b> contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations.</li> </ul>

<p><b>3 Good</b></p> <p><i>An application which supports the aims of the scheme and meets the assessment criteria, but with at least one moderate weakness</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that the bottom 35% of applications would be ranked in this category or lower.</i></p>	<p><b>The Research Environment And Mentor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are <b>adequate</b> to the applicant's proposed project</li> <li>• are <b>suited</b> to the research stream applied for</li> <li>• includes <b>good quality</b> mentoring and training arrangements</li> <li>• offer <b>good quality</b> research support systems for the applicant</li> <li>• offer <b>good</b> collaborative opportunities for the applicant offer <b>good</b> potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Good Academic Merit for Field/Discipline (e.g. MBBS, Public Health), signified by (for example):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• academic record</li> <li>• medals, prizes and awards</li> <li>• research achievement and productivity commensurate with authorship of research publications, book chapters and presentations.</li> <li>• postgraduate/research training and/or research/professional experience broader community engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Research Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is <b>aligned</b> with the Research stream applied for</li> <li>• has objectives that are <b>adequately defined</b></li> <li>• is <b>overall clear</b> in respects to design</li> <li>• is <b>likely to be achieved</b> will make a <b>good</b> contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 Satisfactory</b></p> <p><i>An application which partly meets the aims of the scheme or assessment criteria with noticeable deficiencies or shortcomings evident by some moderate weaknesses</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that the bottom 15% of applications would be ranked in this category or lower.</i></p>	<p><b>The Research Environment And Mentor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are <b>somewhat suited</b> to the applicant's proposed project</li> <li>• are <b>somewhat suited</b> to the research stream applied for</li> <li>• Includes <b>satisfactory</b> mentoring and training arrangements</li> <li>• offer <b>satisfactory</b> research support systems for the applicant</li> <li>• offer <b>satisfactory</b> collaborative opportunities for the applicant offer <b>satisfactory</b> potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sound Academic Merit for Field/Discipline (e.g. MBBS, Public Health), signified by (for example):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• academic record</li> <li>• medals, prizes and awards</li> <li>• research achievement and productivity commensurate with authorship of research publications, book chapters and presentations.</li> <li>• postgraduate/research training and/or research/professional experience broader community engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Research Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is <b>aligned</b> with the Research stream applied for</li> <li>• has objectives that are <b>somewhat unclearly defined</b></li> <li>• <b>raises some concerns</b> with respect to research design</li> <li>• <b>raises some concerns</b> with respect to feasibility will make a <b>satisfactory</b> contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1 Weak</b></p> <p><i>An application which marginally meets the aims of the scheme or assessment criteria. Shortcomings or deficiencies against most criteria or aims predominate</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that the bottom 5% of applications would be ranked in this category.</i></p>	<p><b>The Research Environment And Mentor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are <b>not ideal</b> to the applicant's proposed project</li> <li>• are <b>not suited</b> to the research stream applied for</li> <li>• Includes <b>limited</b> mentoring and training arrangements</li> <li>• offer <b>limited</b> research support systems for the applicant</li> <li>• offer <b>limited</b> collaborative opportunities for the applicant offer <b>limited</b> potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Limited Academic Merit for Field/Discipline (e.g. MBBS, Public Health), signified by (for example):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• academic record</li> <li>• medals, prizes and awards</li> <li>• research achievement and productivity commensurate with authorship of research publications, book chapters and presentations.</li> <li>• postgraduate/research training and/or research/professional experience broader community engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Research Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is <b>not aligned</b> with the Research stream applied for</li> <li>• has objectives that are <b>unclear</b></li> <li>• <b>raises major concerns</b> with respect to research design</li> <li>• <b>raises major concerns</b> with respect to feasibility will make a <b>limited</b> contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations.</li> </ul>