

The Research Student Conference Travel Grants have been established by the University to subsidise attendance by research higher degree candidates at conferences in order to present a paper or poster that will result in a significant improvement to the quality of the thesis.

The University provides limited funds for assistance on a competitive basis for travel to conferences by postgraduate research students. This award will be titled the Research Student Overseas Conference Travel Grant. The Scholarships Committee will call for applications for conference travel support in October, for attendance at conferences in January-June of the following year; and April, for attendance at conferences in July-December of the same year.

Eligibility

Candidates for Research Student Conference Travel Grants must:

- normally be enrolled in the University in the second year full-time equivalent of a Masters degree by research or in the third or fourth year full-time equivalent of a Doctorate by research; and, be presenting a paper or poster at a conference; and
- have the unqualified support of his/her supervisor; and, not be members of staff eligible for AOU travel funds; and,
- not have been in previous receipt of conference travel assistance funded by the University in their current candidature.

Selection

1. The quality and international standing of the conference. Indicators may include the relationship of the conference to professional associations or journals; the reputation of the organisers; the reputation of invited or keynote speakers; the history and frequency of the conference; a description of the peer review process; information on whether and how conference proceeding will be published and whether these comprise full paper or abstracts.
2. Relevance of the conference to the candidates study. Indicate how well the conference is focussed on the area of the candidates study or if the conference has a wide scope, if there are specific components such as special sessions or workshops closely related to the study.
3. The progress the student has made toward completion and research outputs. Indicators may include a list of significant milestones completed compared to ones still to be achieved; a list accepted publications (please provide full citations); positive contributions to the study resulting from attendance at previous conferences.
4. Expected impact on the thesis. Presenting work at a conference benefits the student by providing exposure, obtaining feedback from experts, meeting researchers with common interests, and becoming aware of current trends and direction in the field. These benefits are taken as self-evident and need not be reiterated. Instead, please describe any further expected benefits to thesis specific to the conference.

Scope of Support

Assistance will normally be limited to the cost of return economy or concession airfare to the location of the conference. Subject to the availability of funds, only a portion of these costs may be covered. The Scholarships Committee may reduce the value of a conference travel grant where there are other resources available to an applicant for conference attendance.

Applications

Applications for conference travel must be accompanied by an abstract of the paper/poster to be presented. Written confirmation that the paper/poster has been accepted should also be enclosed with the application or forwarded to the Higher Degree Administration and Scholarships as soon as it is available. Acceptance of the work by the conference is not required in order to apply. The committee will assume that acceptance is forthcoming. However, funds will not be awarded until evidence of acceptance is received.

Additional Requirements

Recipients who receive a Research Student Conference Travel Grant are required to: remain enrolled at the University for at least six months after attending a conference, or they will be required to refund the amount allocated to them. This provision will not apply to students who are in the last six months of their candidature and will submit their thesis in that time. Successful recipients must provide a brief written report to their supervisor and the Scholarships Committee on return from the conference; and be available to present a verbal report to the Scholarships Committee upon request; and present to the Scholarships Office the original receipts up to the amount awarded.

Advertising

The availability of the Scholarship will be advertised on the University's website.