Application Guidelines for Prospective Students

Before you consider submitting an application, please ensure you satisfy our requirements in three areas: 1) formal academic qualifications, 2) a viable research proposal, and 3) access to adequate supervision.

1) Formal academic qualifications
For those who completed their undergraduate degree in Australia and are seeking direct entry into a PhD, we require a First Class (High Distinction) Honours degree or a Masters by Research.

For entry into an MA by Research degree (which may then be 'upgraded' to a PhD, subject to review at the end of your first year), we require a First or Upper-Second Class (Distinction) Honours degree, or a Masters (Coursework) degree with a Distinction average (75% or over) and a significant research component, meaning a research project of at least 10,000 words making up at least 1/8 of the total assessment for the degree.

For those seeking to apply with degrees from abroad, we require the equivalent to the Australian results above. We understand that to establish equivalence can be difficult and that different places use different marking scales. To give you a guide, a First Class Honours degree in our School is awarded at 85% or above, an Upper-Second Class degree at 75-84%. Please send us a copy (scanned files) of your academic transcripts for our initial perusal, and if necessary be prepared to demonstrate how your results compare to Australian Honours results.

Applicants from abroad also need to be able to demonstrate that they have previous experience of independent research, through the writing of a thesis of at least 10,000 words, with a result for the thesis equivalent to the Honours results outlined above.

Students from most countries are also required to pass an English proficiency test. Please check with the Graduate Research School as to whether you are required to sit the IELTS or equivalent test - [http://www.unsw.edu.au/futureStudents/undergrad/sad/engregpolicy.html](http://www.unsw.edu.au/futureStudents/undergrad/sad/engregpolicy.html)

2) Viable research proposal
Your prospective application should be accompanied by a research proposal of 1000-1500 words (Please format it in MS Word if possible, with the font-size 12 and the line-spacing 1.5). The proposal should give a tentative title, a brief outline of the research questions you intend to address (including why they are important and original), the methodology you intend employing, a brief review of the relevant literature, a short description of the theoretical approach envisaged, and an outline of the research materials you will use.

You should also attach a short curriculum vitae focusing on your professional experience and tertiary education. Your professional experience, if relevant to the field of proposed study, should be included, especially any research undertaken. If you have any publications please also include the details in your CV.

3) Supervision
If we are satisfied that you have the formal academic qualifications and have submitted a research proposal along the lines just described, we will circulate your proposal to potential supervisors and endeavour to find a supervisor for the project. We will then ask you to contact that supervisor, to obtain his or her final consent to the supervision of your thesis.
That might entail doing further work on the research proposal in response to the prospective supervisor’s comments.

A list of staff with their research interests can be found at http://languages.arts.unsw.edu.au/staff/. Please look through that list and feel free to suggest to us a member of staff who you think would make a good supervisor for your thesis.

Please be aware that members of staff might not be available for supervision, even if they work in the area of your proposal. They may have other commitments, including a full quota of research students.

4) Application
If all the above requirements have been met, you can apply by downloading the relevant application forms from the University's Graduate Research School Website: http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/futurestudents/futurehome.html

Fill in the application forms with all necessary documentation and APPLY.

Once we receive your application (please attach your research proposal) it will be subject to a formal assessment process before it is possible to admit you and welcome you to our School.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns. Also the GRS website is extremely useful and you should consult it. All Scholarship details are on the GRS website. It is important to note that Scholarships are very difficult to obtain due to the very limited number available.

Contact:
Postgraduate Research Coordinators:
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Useful websites to consult
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

School of Languages and Linguistics
http://languages.arts.unsw.edu.au/

School of Languages and Linguistics (Staff listing)
http://languages.arts.unsw.edu.au/staff/

Graduate Research School
http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/futurestudents/futurehome.html

Scholarship information:
http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/scholarships/scholarshipshome.html

If you are applying as an International student, you should also read the relevant information at:

UNSW International Office
http://www.international.unsw.edu.au