

# Operational Research PGT Scholarship Policy

There are a limited number of scholarships available on a competitive basis to applicants who accept places on MSc Operational Research, MSc Operational Research and Finance, MSc Operational Research and Statistics.

Deadline for submission of application forms: before 13 March of the academic year in which the application is made (it is not necessary for references to have been received by this date).

In what follows, the term “International” refers to those students who are paying full International fees and the term “Faculty” refers to the Faculty of Social, Human and Mathematical Sciences. All of the dates refer to the academic year during which the application is made. This policy applies to those postgraduate applicants who enter the University on or after the academic year 2017/18.

## ***Rules regarding the awarding of scholarships***

### **How decisions are reached**

1. This policy has been approved by the Faculty Executive Group, which reserves the right to alter the conditions below for the benefit of individual students in exceptional circumstances.
2. Students wishing to be considered for a scholarship should submit the standard University application form before 13 March.
3. A decision on whether an applicant will be awarded a conditional scholarship and the value of such scholarship will normally be made by 13 April or earlier.
4. A decision on whether an applicant is eligible for a scholarship will normally be made as soon as final results from undergraduate or equivalent studies are known (e.g., after any appeals have been considered) and the selection process has been completed.
5. Decisions will be based only on academic considerations, examination results and performance at interview. Personal, family and financial circumstances will not be considered, and no supporting documentation beyond an academic transcript or equivalent will be allowed.
6. Any privately funded student who is accepted onto one of the Faculty’s three postgraduate degree programmes involving operational research will be considered for a scholarship. The number and value of these scholarships is as follows:
  - a) Five scholarships of £9000 available to UK/EU applicants, awarded on a competitive basis, provided they are not receiving another scholarship from the University of Southampton<sup>1</sup>. Candidates must have a first-class honours degree (or equivalent) in a numerate subject, and candidates requiring an English qualification for entry should have already achieved 7.5 IELTS, with 7.0 minimum for all scores. Other equivalent qualifications of a similar standard to an undergraduate degree will be considered on merit.
  - b) Three scholarships of £3000 available to all applicants, awarded on a competitive basis, provided they are not receiving another scholarship from the University of Southampton<sup>1</sup>. Candidates must have a first-class honours degree

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<sup>1</sup> The 10% reduction in fees for students who studied for an undergraduate degree at the University of Southampton and achieved a first class honours result does not count as a scholarship, although an offer of a £9000 scholarship for such candidates will be reduced to £8100.

- (or equivalent) in a numerate subject, and candidates requiring an English qualification for entry should have already achieved 7.5 IELTS, with 7.0 minimum for all scores. Other equivalent qualifications of a similar standard to an undergraduate degree will be considered on merit.
- c) One scholarship of £1500 available to all UK applicants, awarded on a competitive basis, provided they are not receiving another scholarship from the University of Southampton<sup>1</sup>. Candidates must have a first-class honours degree (or equivalent) in a numerate subject. Other equivalent qualifications of a similar standard to an undergraduate degree will be considered on merit.
7. An interview will be used to assess communication skills.
    - a) Candidates must be predicted or have achieved a first-class honours degree (or equivalent) to be invited for interview and, where necessary, have already achieved 7.5 IELTS, with 7.0 minimum for all scores.
    - b) Interviews will be conducted by two members of academic staff, one of which being the Programme Director of a degree programme to which the candidate has applied.
    - c) Interviews will be conducted by tele- or video-conference only. The interview will be conducted in a timely manner after the application has been received.
  8. Two meetings will be held to allocate conditional scholarships. After 1 December, those candidates who have already been interviewed will be ranked on the basis of their academic results and communication skills by a group consisting of the Programme Directors of the MSc Operational Research, MSc Operational Research and Finance, MSc Operational Research and Statistics, and the Head of the Operational Research Group, or their representatives.
  9. At most three scholarships of £9000 and at most two scholarships of £3000 will be awarded to the best candidates at this stage, provided they have exceptional academic merits and perform outstandingly in the interview.
  10. After all interviews for suitably qualified candidates applying have been conducted, all candidates not yet allocated a scholarship will be ranked, and all remaining scholarships will be offered to the best candidates available, provided that they meet the minimum academic and language criteria given above. No appeals against the allocation of scholarships may be made, except on procedural grounds.
  11. Offers following interviews will be conditional on students achieving the academic criteria before starting the MSc programme.
  12. If a student rejects an offer of a scholarship and there are students remaining who meet the academic criteria given above, we will offer a scholarship to the next highest qualified candidate, as determined by the group identified in item 8 above.

### **When will decisions be made**

13. Conditional offers for scholarships will normally be decided by 13 April.
14. A decision on whether an applicant has met the criteria for a scholarship will be reached as soon as possible after all the relevant documents become available. Any candidate who does not hold an unconditional accepted offer when the decisions are made will not be eligible for these scholarships. Successful applicants will be informed as soon as possible thereafter and in any case by the time of registration.

### **Period of tenure of scholarships**

15. Applicants who defer entry to a subsequent year will receive a scholarship during the year of entry.

## **Eligibility to hold scholarships**

16. There is no separate application form for any of these scholarships. Every applicant will automatically be considered.
17. A recipient of a scholarship must be self-funding their studies.
18. A recipient of a scholarship should not be in receipt of another scholarship from the University of Southampton. The 10% reduction in fees for students who studied for an undergraduate degree at the University of Southampton and achieved first-class honours does not count as a scholarship, although the £9000 scholarships will be reduced to £8100 for such applicants.

## **Payment of scholarships**

19. Normally, scholarships are used to pay or contribute towards fees, without any payment being made to the student. The rate of such payment or contribution for part-time students will be 50% for each year of their studies.
20. In some cases, scholarships will be paid in one instalment at the start of semester 2 and paid directly into the student's bank account, but only after written submission to and at the discretion of the Head of Mathematical Sciences.
21. Payment of the scholarship may be delayed if the student has an outstanding fees balance or other debt to the University (not withstanding item 15 above).
22. If a student has been paid all or part of a scholarship and subsequently withdraws from the Faculty, then repayment of all or part of any scholarship may be required at the discretion of the Faculty Admissions Controller.
23. If a student has their registration suspended, then payment of a scholarship will normally be suspended accordingly. However if a scholarship or part of a scholarship has been paid in advance, then it may be required to be repaid.

## **Exclusions**

24. These scholarships will be offered only across MSc Operational Research, MSc Operational Research and Finance, and MSc Operational Research and Statistics (for full-time and part-time study).

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