techne — the craft of research in the arts and humanities

2019/20 Application Form Guidance Notes

Deadline: **Please speak to the University at which you would like to study**

The *techne* application form has sections to be completed by
- the student
- the lead supervisor
- the referees
- the university *techne* Administrator

This guidance covers all sections separately, and also gives an outline of the processes used to assess the application form.

The latest version of this guidance, together with a Microsoft Word version of the application form, is available on the 'Applying to *techne*' page of the *techne* website.

Guidance for Students

Introduction

Studentships from *technē* are only available to students applying through one of the nine Universities in the *technē* consortium. Your University will want to review your application before it is formally submitted to *technē*. You will need to contact the University to find out about the early stages of the application process. Contacts are listed in the following table:

University	University *technē* Administrator	Email
Brighton	Fiona Sutton	f.j.sutton@brighton.ac.uk
Brunel	Emma Sigsworth	Emma.sigsworth@brunel.ac.uk
Kingston	Rachel Graham	rachel.graham@kingston.ac.uk
Loughborough London	Bryony Stewart-Seume	b.stewart-seume@lboro.ac.uk
Roehampton	Miles Purcell	techne@roehampton.ac.uk
Royal Holloway	Jane Gawthrope (*technē* Manager)	techne@rhul.ac.uk
	Carol Hughes (*technē* Administrator)	techne@rhul.ac.uk
Surrey	Shane Dowle	s.dowle@surrey.ac.uk
UAL	Jane Nobbs	researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk
Westminster	Richard McCormack	R.Mccormack@westminster.ac.uk

General Notes for Students

- Remember that it is your responsibility to complete the application. You should keep in regular contact with anyone providing information (supervisors, referees, administrators) to ensure that all parts are completed and submitted by the deadline specified by the University at which you wish to study. Incomplete applications will not be progressed.
- Wherever possible questions should be addressed to your University contact in the first instance; if this is not possible then please contact *technē* Administration at techne@rhul.ac.uk
- Note that if you are successful, certain information disclosed on the application form will be shared with the AHRC, and the AHRC will publish information drawn from the application form about you, the research project and supervisors on the 'Gateway to Research' web-based portal.
- Remember that you will also need to apply (separately) to your chosen University for a place on their PhD programme, using the relevant application process.

Preparing your application

- We recommend that you read the Application Assessment Criteria, which are provided at the end of these notes.
- You should seek advice from the University at which you would like to study, in order to identify a supervisory team, your future training needs, and how best to describe your proposed research.
- You will need scans of your Degree Transcripts or Certificates (as complete as are available) to attach to your application.
- You will need to ask two people if they will supply references for you. You should choose your two referees carefully. Together they should have a good knowledge of your academic record to date and your plans for the research project. They should be in a position to judge your suitability and preparedness for doctoral study. Only one of your two referees can be a member of your proposed (or actual) supervisory team. You may ask the supervisor of your Masters dissertation to be one of your referees. It is however not necessary for one of your referees to be a member of your supervisory team unless you have already started your PhD, in which case we would expect one of your references to be from your supervisor.

Using the Portal

- Please check with your University at what stage they wish you to complete an online application on the Portal.
- The Portal is available at https://techne.flexigrant.com. The Portal must be used to submit your application to *techne*, and *may* also be used for the University selection process that precedes formal submission to *techne*.
- You can save partially completed application forms on the Portal at any stage, and you can also print or create a PDF of your application at any stage.
- Only material submitted via the *techne* Portal will be considered. Additional items (such as a covering letter or a CV) will not be reviewed.

Guidance to the Application Form Questions for Students

01:   Will your research be in one of the techne subject areas?

Describe your research area in terms of the AHRC classification system
(use the drop-down lists on the online portal or see the embedded spreadsheet).

techne AHRC subject
areas.xlsx

02:   Do you have a Masters Degree?

To be eligible for a techne studentship, you must normally have a Masters or equivalent in a relevant discipline before you start your PhD. You may apply before you have completed your Masters.

If you will not have a Masters, but you do have other suitable qualifications or experience, then you can still apply. In this case techne will request the lead Supervisor for your PhD to confirm to techne that your qualifications or experience are equivalent to a Masters.

You should also have an undergraduate degree.

03:   The University where you will be studying

Note that you may only apply to one *techne* University for a *techne* studentship.

This application form is only for *techne*: you must also apply (separately) for a place on the PhD programme at your chosen University using the application process that they specify.

04:   Do you meet the Residence requirements?

The terms and conditions that apply to AHRC studentships are outlined in ''Terms and conditions of training grants'.

There are two types of studentship: *Full Fees and Maintenance* and *Fees Only*.

Your University will be asked to confirm to *techne* that you are eligible for the studentship you are applying for, so they may ask you for documentation to confirm your residence status.

Full Fees and Maintenance comprises:

- Your University tuition fees. These are paid in full directly to your University, and you will not be required to pay anything towards your fees.
- A tax-free maintenance stipend to pay your living costs. This is currently set at £14,777 per year. For those studying at Universities based in London, there is an additional £2,000 per year paid as London Weighting, reflecting the higher cost of living in London. (Note that you will not receive the London Weighting payment if you choose to live in London whilst studying at a University outside London).

Fees Only comprises:

- Your University tuition fees. These are paid in full directly to your University, and you will not be required to pay anything towards your fees.

The residence requirements can be summarised as follows:

For purposes of residence requirements, "the UK" includes the United Kingdom and Islands (i.e. the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).

To be eligible for Full Fees and Maintenance the student must have:

- Settled status in the UK, meaning they have no restrictions on how long they can stay

  And

- Been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for 3 years prior to the start of the studentship. This means they must have been normally residing in the UK (apart from temporary or occasional absences)

  And

- During those 3 years, not been residing in the UK wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education. (This does not apply to UK or EU nationals who were ordinarily resident in the UK prior to those 3 years).

To be eligible for a Fees-Only studentship:

- The student must be ordinarily resident in a member state of the EU; in the same way as described above that UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK.

05: Your Contact details

Please provide contact details covering the period from now to September 2019. The "Alternative details" are optional, for use where you might prefer us to use different contact addresses at different times.

By providing this information, you consent to *technē* sharing your email address with the AHRC/UKRI via the Student Data Portal (Je-S) if you are awarded a studentship.

06: Professional experience relevant to this application

Provide information about any employment, work or professional experience (research and /or practice-based) that is relevant to your proposed programme of study and will therefore strengthen your application.

07: Undergraduate Degree(s)

If you have more than one qualification at the same level, please provide details of each. Please upload transcripts.

08: Masters Degree(s)

If you have more than one qualification at the same level, please provide details of each and also include qualifications that you are currently studying for, uploading transcripts or certificates where available.

09: Other qualifications (e.g. PGCE, PhD)

Please include any other relevant qualifications obtained or being studied.

10: Have you already started your PhD?

10a: Funding period for PhD not yet started

Indicate whether you will be studying Full-time or Part-time. (Part-time must be 50% FTE.) Please discuss with your supervisor which mode is most suitable for you.

The core period of PhD funding for a full-time student is 3 years. This can be extended by a further 6 months if justified by your specific needs, the nature of the proposed PhD or the time for additional development opportunities such as placements. Note that full time students are expected to submit within 4 years of the start of their PhD regardless of the funding period.

The core period of PhD funding for a part-time student is 6 years at 50% of fees and stipend. This can be extended by a further year if justified by your specific needs, the nature of the proposed PhD or the time for additional development opportunities such as placements. Note that part time students are expected to submit within 8 years of the start of their PhD regardless of the funding period.

If you are applying for extended funding, please justify the extended 6-month period (or 12 month period at 50% part time).

10b: Funding period for PhD already started

Indicate whether you will be studying Full-time or Part-time. (Part-time must be 50% FTE). Please discuss with your supervisor which mode is most suitable for you.

If you have already started your PhD, *technē* will normally fund you for the remainder of the core period of the PhD (i.e. to the completion of 3 years of study). This should be at least 50% of the period i.e. 18 months (full-time equivalent). Please specify the period of core funding you are applying for (counted in months at full-time equivalent). For example, if you have done one year, you can apply for 24 months of funding. Please also provide an explanation of why you are seeking this period of funding for a started PhD.

Students may apply to extend funding beyond the core period by up to 6 months (full-time equivalent) if justified by your specific needs, the nature of the proposed PhD or the time for additional development opportunities such as placements. If applying for extended funding, please specify the number of months of extended funding and provide the justification for the additional period.

Note that regardless of the funding period, full time students are expected to submit within 4 years of the start of their PhD and part-time students are expected to submit within 8 years of the start of their PhD.

11: Research Project Description

You should discuss the content of this section with your proposed supervisor(s). The *techne* assessment process will look for evidence of high quality and strong potential for doctoral study (evidence of feasibility, intellectual purpose and originality, reasons for undertaking your proposed study, appropriateness of approach, awareness of the research context, etc.).

If your application is successful, then the Title and Synopsis will be used on the *techne* website and in reporting to the AHRC.

11a: Title

Please use a maximum of 20 words.

11b: Synopsis

Please write for a general (i.e. non-specialist) audience, and use no more than 300 words.

11c: Description

Use clear and concise language, avoiding jargon. Bear in mind that the *techne* reviewers assessing your application will not all be experts in your particular specialist field.

Describe the proposed research in terms of the following:
- Your research questions and why they are important or relevant. What contribution to knowledge will be made? What will be the outcomes of your research?
- Your knowledge of the subject area including key literature, people, and recent findings.
- Methods and approaches that will be used.
- Research plan, timetable and challenges.

If your research project is interdisciplinary, you should indicate your current level of expertise in the relevant disciplines. There is no expectation that you will be fully expert in all relevant disciplines, but *techne* will assess whether it is feasible for you to acquire any necessary new methodological knowledge and understanding in the time available.

The word limit for this section is 1200 words.

11d: Bibliographic References

Please insert bibliographic references here rather than using footnotes in 11c. Please enter no more than 20 references.

11e: Website links

Optionally provide up to four links to websites with images/audio/film that support your application. Be aware that *techne* reviewers have strict deadlines to complete their assessment of your application, and therefore will have limited time to review linked material.

12: Are you applying for a Collaborative Doctoral Award?

Please indicate here if you have been previously notified that you are a Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) applicant. If so, you will be asked to list the partner organisations here.

13: Resources required

Please describe any study trips, facilities, access to libraries, archives or similar, which are integral to your research. This will enable *techne* reviewers to determine whether these can be provided or supported. This information may also be passed on to *techne* Partner organisations if appropriate.

Note that *techne* cannot guarantee availability or access to the resources you have identified. Note also that if your studentship is approved, it does not necessarily mean that *techne* will fund expenses associated with accessing the resources you identify here.

14: Additional Training needs

You are advised to discuss this section with your proposed supervisor(s).

This section will be used to inform the cross-institutional training which *techne* coordinates. Therefore you do not need to list on this application the training that will be provided as standard at your University.

Please give an indication of the training needs for both support of your research project and for development of your future career, and outline how and where you plan to undertake it.

15: Student Personal Statement

Please explain why you have chosen to put forward an application to *techne*. You might outline how you would take advantage of the training and development opportunities and what you might contribute to your fellow *techne* students. You could also describe how your proposal fits with the *techne* philosophy (www.techne.ac.uk) and what you see as the benefits of working in a Doctoral Training Partnership context.

16: Equal Opportunities Monitoring

Both *techne* and the AHRC are committed to ensuring that students are selected on the basis of merit. Completion of the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will help us to ensure that our policies and procedures are effective in avoiding discrimination and promoting equal opportunities in awarding studentships. Your answers will be used to evaluate the effective operation of our Equal Opportunities Policy and to report (anonymously) to the AHRC.

Your answers will not affect your application in any way. The information will not be seen by *techne* reviewers, your referees or potential supervisors.

We have made this section mandatory because providing equal opportunity is important to us. If you prefer not to disclose this type of information, you are given the option on each question to state this.

Please check with your University *techne* administrator – they may wish you to leave this page blank until you have provided them with a PDF of your application form.

17: Student's declaration

Please review carefully, as this section applies to the whole of your period of study.

You can attach one or both references here (see the note below about nominating your referees and supervisor).

Please note that although questions 18-32 are completed by others, you are responsible for contacting them (via email addresses entered in the *techne* portal if applying online) and for ensuring these sections of the application are completed.

Nominating your Referees and Supervisor

Your application form needs input from two referees and your lead supervisor. You will need to confirm with your University *techne* administrator which of the following options apply in your situation.

There are three options for referees:
a) You can attach references yourself at the end of question 17 if you have them
b) Your University *techne* administrator can attach references
c) You can use the portal to request your referees to supply their references

(There is also the possibility of using different options for each of the two referees)

For all options for references, please consult the notes in the next section (questions 18 & 19).

Your supervisor must be agreed by your University. There are two options for the supervisor:
a) Your University *techne* administrator can invite the supervisor
b) You can invite the supervisor (after checking with the administrator)

If you are going to nominate referees and/or the supervisor, then you will need to click on "Return to Summary" and then click on the 'Participants' tab as highlighted in the screenshot below:

18: Reference 1 and
19: Reference 2

Your application must be supported by two references.

You should choose your two referees carefully. Together they should have a good knowledge of your academic record to date and your plans for the research project. They should be in a position to judge your suitability and preparedness for doctoral study. Only one of your two referees can be a member of your proposed (or actual) supervisory team. You may ask the supervisor of your Masters dissertation to be one of your referees. It is however not necessary for either of your referees to be a member of your supervisory team unless you have already started your PhD, in which case we would expect one of your references to be from your supervisor.

There is no *technē* template for references but referees should include:
- The referee's name and their relationship to you
- Comment on your previous performance/achievements
- Comment on your preparedness for doctoral study
- Your predicted or actual degree result if appropriate

The *technē* Portal will automatically email your referees using the contact details you provide, and provide them a link to record their reference. However, please note that it is your responsibility to monitor the progress of the references and check that they are completed on time. Neither *technē* nor your chosen University will chase up references on your behalf. You may wish to alert referees to expect a request and to check their junk mail.

Guidance for Supervisors

Please consult your university *technē* administrator about the process for completing the Supervisor's section in the early stages of the application process.

At the stage of submitting to technē (if not before) you will receive an email from the technē Portal with a link to enable you to register and complete your section of the application form. The Portal will also enable you to view the relevant sections of the student's part of the form. However, it will not allow you to edit anything the student has entered, so you will need to ask the student to make any updates that may be required.

Please give full details of the supervisory team. At least one supervisor must have successfully supervised a student to completion of their PhD or have equivalent experience. If the student is planning to work with a non-Higher Education partner then details should be given of the supervisor from the collaborative partner.

Cross-institutional supervisory teams are welcomed and encouraged by technē, though they are not obligatory. Where relevant, please enter the name of a staff member at another technē University or technē Partner who is willing to join the supervisory team. This person must have been approached prior to their name being entered.

20: Lead Supervisor

Enter your own details here.

21: Second Supervisor

The supervisory team must include at least 2 supervisors.

22: Cross-institutional supervisor (if relevant)

If a cross-supervisor is named, the student should be made aware that this does not imply that the student will be registered at the second institution, or will be entitled to use resources at the second institution. Joint supervision does not constitute a joint registration. The second institution is not entitled to a percentage of the student fee, although it may invoice the home institution for its usual fee for external supervision.

23: Potential Cross-institutional supervisor

If it would benefit the supervisory team to have additional expertise, complete this section describing the area of expertise so that *technē* may suggest names where possible.

24: Partner Organisation Supervisor

This item is only required if the student is planning to work with a non-Higher Education partner, in which case details should be given here of the supervisor from the collaborative partner.

25: Recommended further training

Describe any further training (clarifying or extending that identified by the student in question 14) that is needed to support the student's research or career development. This section is intended to identify where *techne* may need to develop training, therefore do not include generic PhD training that is available to all students through your University.

An assessment of anticipated challenges, practicalities and feasibility of training the student during their research should be indicated, such as requirements for training at international institutions or subject-specific research training needs especially those involving non-Higher Educational environments. All interdisciplinary training recommendations should be detailed for referral to the *techne* Training Group which plans interdisciplinary training provision for the consortium.

26: Ethical issues

Significant ethical issues which may arise during the course of the student's research should be flagged and details given on how they will be addressed. Consideration should be given to issues such as
- Potentially vulnerable participants
- Safeguarding/child protection
- Risks to participants
- Risks to the researcher
- Methods of research anticipated
- Confidentiality

The *techne* reviewers will be looking for evidence of suitable planning for training and appropriate supervisory expertise in relation to the ethics identified.

27: Other Supervision Points

Optional, specific relevant points that are not covered by any other section of the application.

These may include, inter alia:
- Fit with the Supervisory Team's research areas and expertise
- Comments on a student's interview performance if it diverges from their written application
- Notes about how resource-intensive projects will be supported by the University

You may also review the resources identified by the student (question 13), and identify cases where use of a particular resource is critical to the research project.

Please flag if any of the resources mentioned are available at a *techne* member University or *techne* organisational Partner. If such a resource is at a *techne* Partner organisation, you should check on the availability of the resource with the *techne* Partner concerned. (A list of *techne* Partners and contacts can be found under 'Members, Partners and Students' at www.techne.ac.uk.) The *techne* Partners have requested that such checks are made and will expect enquiries of this nature. The outcome of the discussion with the Partner should be noted here.

28: Lead Supervisor's declaration

Please review carefully.

Note that although the portal will allow you to edit questions 29-31, please ignore this and leave those questions for the University *techne* administrator.

Guidance for Referees

You will receive an email from the *technē* Portal with a link to enable you to register and provide your reference. It may be necessary to check your junk mail.

The Portal will enable you to view the relevant sections of the student's application form (e.g. the details of the research project) and will accept either text directly typed into the Portal or an uploaded reference as an attachment (e.g. a PDF).

Please include the following items as appropriate:

- Your relationship to the student
- Comments on their previous performance and achievements
- Comments on their preparedness for doctoral study
- Their predicted or actual degree result if applicable

Guidance for University *technē* Administrators

You will need to be a registered user on the Portal. All portal users are identified by their email address, and therefore we recommend that if possible you create a *technē* email account (e.g. techne@myUni.ac.uk) so that you can easily give access to a deputy if required. Once you have registered, we will enhance your account with the ability to see all the applications connected to your University.

You are responsible for questions 29-32. However, you will be able to see and edit all sections of the application forms linked to your University, including the references. Both you and the student are able to invite the supervisor (and you can revoke the student's invitation if necessary).

Both you and the student applicant will be able to submit the application to *technē* once all the mandatory questions have been answered. Please note that once submitted, nobody will be able to make any changes unless a *technē* administrator resets the application form for you. To prevent submission of applications before your checking is complete, you may wish to leave mandatory question 32 unanswered until you are completely satisfied that all is in order.

For your University's local review of applications prior to formal submission to *technē*, you can request that students either:

a) Use the Portal.
b) Use the Word document version of the *technē* application form, available from the *technē* website.
c) Use your own process, for example using the university application form.

If using option a), you, the supervisor or the student will be able to create a PDF of the application forms for use in your internal reviews. PDFs can be created at any point in the process, regardless of whether all questions have been completed. **Please note that if the student creates a PDF for you, then they should be advised to leave page 7 blank (it is the Equal Opportunities monitoring page, which is hidden if you or the supervisor create the PDF).** Also, if using option a) then please allow time to contact students or supervisors should you need them to make updates to their sections of the application form following your review process.

If using option b), please make students aware that the Word document version will not be accepted by *technē*, so if they are successful with your University selection process, they will need to transfer the details into the Portal.

29: The *technē* Subject Group

See the embedded spreadsheet for the mapping of AHRC descriptors to *technē* Subject Groups. The university has a quota for applications to *technē* from each Subject Group (see question 30 following).

techne AHRC subject
areas.xlsx

30: Ranking

Please see the blue column in the table below for the University quotas for applications.

Note that CDA applications are not included in these quotas. There will be a separate Subject Group to review CDA applications.

Subject Group	Indicative Subjects	Members	Number of members	Appns per member	Number of appns considered by Subject Group**
Cultures & Heritage (C)	law, politics and international relations, cultural geography, conservation, media, journalism & publishing, cultural studies, development, ethnography & anthropology	all	9	3	27
History (H)	history, classics, philosophy, theology	RHUL, Kingston, Brighton, Brunel, Roehampton	5	3	15
Languages and Literatures (L)	English and modern languages, interpreting and translation	RHUL, Kingston, Surrey, Brighton, Brunel, Roehampton, Westminster	7	3	21
Performing & Creative Arts (P)	music, creative writing, dance, drama	RHUL, Brunel, Kingston, Surrey, Brighton, UAL, Roehampton	7	3	21
Visual Arts (V)	theory and practice; design; architecture, art history	RHUL, UAL, Westminster, Brunel, Kingston, Brighton, L'boro London, Roehampton	8	2	16

31: Administrator's Additional Information

Optionally add any useful information not included elsewhere in the application form. This is just to save you writing an email and us having to attach it to the application form.

31b: Administrator's attachments

Optionally upload any useful attachments. For example, if one or both references have been supplied for a previous stage of the competition, these can be attached here in order to avoid referees being asked to supply the same reference twice.

32: University *technē* Administrator's confirmation

Please see the notes on question 4 above for guidance on the Residence requirements, but be aware that these are only a summary and the full conditions (including further information, for example about refugees, migrant workers, residence for education and EEA nationals) are on the government website here: Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007.

Guide to the Assessment Process

Applications will be assessed firstly by selection panels in the University to which the student has applied. This process is defined by the University. Students will be informed by early February by the University whether they have been successful in the first stage of the competition and whether their application will go forward to *technē*. [NB: This stage does not apply to CDA students, who are selected in a separate process].

Applications shortlisted for submission to *technē* must be completed and submitted on the technē Portal by 23:59 on 21st February 2019.

The *technē* assessment is performed as follows:

a) **Peer Review completed by 20th March 2019** - Three independent reviewers from the *technē* Peer Review College will consider applications using the Application Assessment Criteria and Grade Descriptors shown in the table at the end of this document.
b) **Subject Group review on 3rd April 2019** – Peer Review College scoring is reviewed and moderated by a Subject Group comprising two representatives from each University with an interest in related disciplines.
c) **Management Group review on 10th April 2019** - The final review and ranking of all applications.

Studentships are awarded for the best applications, regardless of subject area or University.

Students will be sent an offer by *technē* administration in April if they have been successful. Acceptance will be requested by a specified date; if no answer is received by that date it will be assumed that the offer has been declined. Note that the offer is also dependent on the student completing registration at their *technē* member university.

Note that in line with an agreement between DTPs, students cannot hold more than one AHRC DTP offer at a time, so if a student receiving a *technē* offer already holds an offer from another DTP, they must decline one of the offers.

Application Assessment Criteria

	Quality of student 33%	Quality of Proposal 33%	Feasibility of Proposal 33%
	Assessment criteria: • Past academic achievement • Contribution of academic and professional experience to preparedness for doctoral study • How doctoral study will contribute to long term career aims As evidenced in 06 Professional Experience, 07 – 09 Higher Education 15 Personal Statement 18 Reference 1 19 Reference 2 27 Other Supervision Points	Assessment criteria: • Ideas underpinning the proposal • Concept and design of research • Fit of the project with the *technē* philosophy As evidenced in 11 Research Project Description 13 Resources required 15 Personal Statement 27 Other Supervision Points	Assessment criteria : • Coherence and quality of research plan • Feasibility of research being completed in the timeframe • Advancement of work in the current field • Potential impact • Expertise of potential supervisors • Feasibility of necessary training, fieldwork or study trips As evidenced in 11 Research Project Description 13 Resources required 14 Additional Training Needs 20 - 24 Supervisory Team 25 Recommended Further Training 26 Ethical Issues 27 Other Supervision Points
Score			
6	A student of outstanding quality, who is outstandingly well prepared to undertake the proposed postgraduate study.	An outstanding proposal in all of the following: studentship, originality, quality, significance and openness to diverse approaches. It provides full and consistent evidence and justification for the proposal in terms of concept and design. The proposal merits the very highest priority for funding.	The research plan is coherent, clear and convincing and the project has strong potential for impact. The project will significantly advance work in the current field and is undoubtedly capable of timely completion. There is an excellent fit between the project and the expertise of the supervisors. Resourcing of training or fieldwork is unproblematic.
5	A student of excellent quality, who is exceptionally well prepared to undertake the proposed postgraduate study.	An excellent proposal in all of the following: studentship, originality, quality, significance and openness to diverse approaches. It provides full and consistent evidence and justification for the proposal. The proposal should be funded as a matter of priority, but does not merit the very highest priority rating.	The research plan is coherent, clear and convincing and the project has strong potential for impact. The project will advance work in the current field and is capable of timely completion. There is a good fit between the project and the expertise of the supervisors. . Resourcing of training or fieldwork is unproblematic
4	A student of good quality, who is well prepared to undertake the proposed postgraduate study.	A very good proposal in all of the following: studentship, originality, quality, significance and openness to diverse approaches. It provides very good evidence and justification for the proposal. It is worthy of consideration for funding.	The research plan is coherent, clear and convincing and the project has some potential for impact. The project will advance work in the current field and is capable of timely completion. There is an adequate fit between the project and the expertise of the supervisors. Resourcing of training or fieldwork is unproblematic.
3	A student of satisfactory quality, who is prepared to undertake the proposed postgraduate study.	A satisfactory proposal in terms of the overall standard of studentship and quality but which is more limited in terms of originality, significance, its contribution to the research field or openness to diverse approaches. In a competitive context the proposal is not considered of a sufficient quality to recommend for funding.	The research plan is adequate. The project may advance work in the current field and it may be possible to complete it within the timeframe. There is an adequate fit between the project and the expertise of the supervisors. Resourcing of training or fieldwork may present some problems.
2	The quality of the student is inconsistent. The student may be of insufficient quality or may not be well prepared to undertake and complete the proposed postgraduate study.	A proposal of inconsistent quality which has some strengths, innovative ideas and/or good components or dimensions but also has significant weaknesses or flaws in one or more of the following: conceptualisation, design, methodology. As a result of the flaws or weaknesses identified, the proposal is not considered to be of fundable quality.	There are significant weaknesses or flaws in the management of the project and it would be unlikely to be completed within the timeframe or to advance work in the field. The fit between the project and supervisors is inadequate. Resourcing of training or fieldwork is likely to be problematic.
1	A student of an unsatisfactory quality who is not well prepared to undertake and complete the proposed postgraduate study.	A proposal of an unsatisfactory quality which: • Has unsatisfactory levels of originality, quality and/or significance • Contains insufficient evidence and justification for the proposal • Displays limited potential to advance the research field It is not suitable for funding.	The project is unconvincing in terms of its management or capacity to deliver the proposed outcomes or its contribution to the field. The fit between the project and supervisors is inadequate. Resourcing of training or fieldwork is likely to be problematic.