



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Grahamstown • 6140 • South Africa

Honours and Masters Degree Scholarship Guidelines

Responsible Committee/Unit/Division/Faculty	Registrar's Division
Responsible Chairperson/Director/Manager	Registrar
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RHODES UNIVERSITY
HONOURS & MASTERS DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

HONOURS DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

1) OBJECTIVES:

- a) Main objective of this Scholarship is to **acknowledge the academic excellence** of the graduate in the subject for which they obtained a first class pass in the final year-end examinations.
- b) Secondary objective is to **encourage the student to return** to continue with a Honours degree at Rhodes University.

2) ELIGIBILITY:

- a) If the student obtains a **first class pass** (75% of greater) *in one of their majors*, they will automatically qualify for an Honours Degree Scholarship. Should they register for the Honours course in the subject in which a first class pass was not obtained, they may retain the award *on condition they obtain at least an upper second (70 – 74%) in the other major subject*. This is subject to the student having followed the set curriculum in the year of the award (see additional notes concerning the duration of the degree).
- b) Students transferring from other Universities, who obtain excellent grades in their final examinations, would be considered for a Honours degree Scholarship. Students must apply in writing, it is not an automatic process.
- c) Students registering for Postgraduate Diploma courses do not qualify as the Diplomas are not Honours degree courses, which lead to a Masters degree. *However, HDipACC is an exception on condition the scholar registers for Accounting 4 and received a first class pass in Accounting 3 in the year preceding the award.*
- d) Students registering for LLB 2 after BA/BSc 3 (ie graduated with BA/BSc etc), then if they obtain the Legal Theory 3 with distinction, they may retain the award for LLB2 as though it were an Honours year. The rules of retention of the award if the student obtains a 2A in Law and 1st in the other major, still apply.
- e) Degrees over 4 years: see additional notes

3) CONDITIONS:

This award is subject to **full-time registration in the one-year Honours course** for the year immediately after the undergraduate degree. Students registering for the Part-time Honours course or Honours over two years, will not receive the funding, although they will retain the award for CV and record purposes.

4) DEFERRAL:

Deferral for one year **will be considered** by the Director of Research upon receipt of a written motivation from the student concerned. A general guideline of acceptance for deferral would be due to some form of contractual obligation, and not personal choice to travel for a year, for example.

5) VALUE OF AWARD:

The **value of the award is 50% of the tuition fee** for the relevant Honours courses. Thus inflationary factors are taken into account annually.

The BBS4 is half the BBS 4 fee. Those entering the LLB route, the value of the award is ½ BA Honours fee.

6) JOINT HONOURS:

In the instances where a student registers for Joint Honours, but did not get a double first in their majors, the following applies:

- a) If the student does three papers in one subject (in which the 75% mark was obtained in the final degree examination) and two papers in the other subject (in which a first was not obtained), the award can stand.
- b) If the subject of distinction represents two papers in the Joint Honours, then the average of both subjects in the final examinations must be equal or greater than 75%.

7) CLOSELY ASSOCIATE SUBJECTS:

Awards may be retained in certain instances when the Honours subject is different from that of the undergraduate major subject. An example of this would be a Computer Science major followed by Information Systems Honours; Biochemistry major, Microbiology of Biotechnology Honours etc. Individual written motivations from HOD's and students will be considered by the Director of Research.

MASTERS DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

1) OBJECTIVES:

- a) Main objective of this Scholarship is to **acknowledge the first class pass** in the Honours examination, or the undergraduate four-year degree examination (awarded with distinction).
- b) Secondary objective is to **encourage the student to return** to continue with a Masters degree at Rhodes University.

2) ELIGIBILITY:

- a) If the student obtains a **first class pass** (75% or greater) in the Honours degree, they will automatically qualify for a Masters Degree Scholarship. This is subject to the student having followed the set curriculum in the year of the award.

Those having completed the Honours over two years, would *not normally* qualify for the award should they obtain a first class pass, *unless the Honours degree taken was offered as a part-time degree by the department concerned (ie: department ruling, not student's choice of part-time registration. An example: BEd, but would have to register full-time MEd to take up the award).*

- b) Students transferring from other Universities, who obtain excellent grades in their Honours examinations, would also be considered for a Masters degree Scholarship.
- c) Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Business Science, Bachelor of Journalism, Law degree and the Bachelor of Pharmacy graduates registering for a Masters degree must have obtained their preceding degree with Distinction as per the University Faculty regulations (ie: obtaining a few firsts in the course does not necessarily mean the award will be given).
- d) Bachelor of Fine Art: A distinction in either the practical 3-year credit or the Theory of Art 4, will result in the Masters Degree Scholarship being awarded. Preference is given to the practical subject, as this is their specialized medium, on condition they register for Full-time Masters in that subject.
- e) Honours via the alternate route are also considered, such as English and Afrikaans/Netherlandic Studies.
- f) Diploma courses do not qualify, as they do not normally lead to a Masters degree. *A first class pass in the HdipAcc should result in a Masters Degree scholarship due to the academic rating (National Qualification Framework) given for this course.*

3) CONDITIONS

This award is subject to **full-time registration in the Masters course** for the year immediately after the Honours degree. Students registering for the Part-time Masters course will not normally receive the funding, although they will retain the award for CV and record purposes.

Should a motivation be received from the Head of Department concerned, the status of the award would be reviewed. Eligibility would be focused around whether the department is able to offer the course as a part-time degree only, as opposed to the scholar choosing to register part-time due to teaching commitments within the department for example. If the award is approved, then half of the award is paid in the first year of registration, and the second half in the second year.

4) DEFERRAL:

Deferral for one year **will be considered** by the Director of Research upon receipt of a written motivation from the student concerned. A general guideline of acceptance for deferral would be due to some form of contractual obligation, and not personal choice to travel for a year, for example.

5) VALUE OF AWARD:

The value of the award is 75% of the Masters tuition fee for the first year of Masters study only. The percentage rate was adopted so that the value of the award addresses rising tuition costs, but is subject to the availability of funds.

6) CLOSELY ASSOCIATED SUBJECTS:

Awards may be retained in certain instances when the Masters subject is different from that of the Honours subject. An example of this would be a Computer Science Honours followed by Information Systems Masters; Biochemistry Honours or Microbiology Honours, followed by Biotechnology Masters etc. Individual written motivations from HOD's and students will be considered by the Director of Research.