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: 30 April.

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 2018/19.

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 30 April.
3. A decision on whether an applicant will be awarded a conditional scholarship and the value of such scholarship will normally be made by 31 May or earlier.
4. A decision on whether an applicant is eligible for a scholarship will normally be made as soon as final results are known (e.g. after any appeals are decided) 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:
   Three scholarships of £4625 available to UK/EU applicants, awarded on a competitive basis, provided they are not receiving another scholarship from the University of Southampton1. 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.
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.

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1 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.
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 videoconference only. The interview will be conducted in a timely manner after the application has been received.

8. A meeting will be held to allocate conditional scholarships after all interviews for suitably qualified candidates applying before the deadline of 30 April have been conducted. Candidates will be ranked by a committee consisting of the programme directors of MSc Operational Research, MSc Operational Research and Finance, MSc Operational Research and Statistics, and the Head of the Operational Research Group, based on their academic results, motivation and their communication skills.

9. Scholarships will be offered to the best candidates available, provided that they meet the minimum academic and language criteria given above.

10. Offers following interview will be conditional on students achieving the academic criteria before starting the MSc programme.

11. 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 committee defined in item 8 above.

When will decisions be made

12. Conditional offers for scholarships will be decided by 31 May.

13. 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 are made 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

14. Applicants who defer entry to a subsequent year will be reconsidered for a scholarship during the year of entry, if such scholarships are being offered.

Eligibility to hold scholarships

15. There is no separate application form for any of these scholarships. Every applicant will automatically be considered.

16. A recipient of a scholarship must be self-funding their studies.

17. 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 scholarship will be reduced to £4163 for such applicants.

Payment of scholarships

18. 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.

19. 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.
20. Payment of the scholarship may be delayed if the student has an outstanding fees balance or other debt to the University (not withstanding item 16 above).

21. 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 scholarships may be required at the discretion of the Faculty Admissions Controller.

22. 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

23. 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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