**Postgraduate Research Scholarships shortlisting criteria – Faculty of Social Sciences and Law**

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|  | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1 (unfundable)** |
| **Potential for academic excellence**  | Academically outstanding candidate (e.g. academic achievements assessed via CV, personal statement and references), and/or demonstrating significant potential and experience from outside academia (e.g. work experience) | Academically strong candidate, and/or demonstrating strong potential and experience from outside academia  | Academically average candidate, including on potential and experience from outside academia | Academically weaker candidate (only meets the minimum admissions criteria) | Does not meet minimum admissions criteria |
| **Project alignment with strategic priorities, or demonstration of inter-/ cross-disciplinarity (depending on the scholarship)** | Strategic priority is clear and project aligns outstandingly with the strategic research priorities outlined in the scholarship brief (or, inter-/ cross-disciplinarity is very clear) | Strategic priority is clear and there is strong alignment between the project and the strategic research priorities outlined in the scholarship brief (or, inter-/ cross-disciplinarity is clear) | Strategic priority is reasonably clear (or can be divined from the information provided), and/or the project aligns reasonably well with the strategic research priorities outlined in the scholarship brief (or, inter-/ cross-disciplinarity is reasonably clear) | Strategic priority is not clear, and/or there is weak alignment between the project and the strategic research priorities outlined in the scholarship brief (or, inter-/ cross-disciplinarity is not clear) | Information missing |
| **Research proposal** | Outstanding proposal: demonstrates clarity of understanding of the research field, outlines gaps in the literature, a clear research question (and theoretical framework, where applicable), considers originality of the project and ethical implications (where relevant), and outlines appropriate research methods to answer the research question | Strong proposal, but slightly weaker on clarity and/or understanding for the criteria outlined in the first box | Average proposal, but weaker on clarity and/or understanding, and/or addresses some of the criteria outlined in the first box reasonably well, but others less so  | Less than average proposal, weaker on clarity and/or understanding, and/or addresses fewer criteria outlined in the first box well | Information missing, and/or the proposal is inadequate.  |

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| **Project fit** | Outstanding ‘synergy’ with supervisors, School/ Research Centre | Strong ‘synergy’ with supervisors, School/ Research Centre | ‘Synergy’ with supervisors, School/ Research Centre is reasonably clear (or can be divined from the information provided), and/or the project aligns reasonably well | ‘Synergy’ with supervisors, School/ Research Centre is not clear, and/or there is weak synergy | Information missing |
| **Project feasibility** | Outstanding demonstration of feasibility in the 4-year funding period (e.g. acknowledgment of anticipated challenges and reporting of contingency plans) | Strong demonstration of feasibility in the 4-year funding period  | Feasibility is reasonably clear, and/or the project feasibility can be divined from the information provided  | Feasibility is not clear, and/or anticipated challenges and contingencies are not expanded upon | Information missing, or overly ambitious project with no consideration of challenges and contingency plans |

**Scoring**

The scores for each category will be summed, and the score will then be divided by 5; the final score will therefore range from 1 to 5.

**Total score =5, outstanding (fundable); total score=4, strong (fundable); total score=3, average (fundable but in the middle range); total score=2, weaker/ less than average (would be fundable if budget was infinite); total score =1, unfundable**

**Additional criteria (not scored)**

Candidates applying for the ‘Bristol Postgraduate Research Scholarships for candidates of Black and mixed Black heritage, who are UK domiciled with Home fee status’ should declare in the [online form](https://forms.office.com/e/cr9Ef0knjZ) that they self-identify as meeting this criterion. Proposals for this scholarship do not have to demonstrate alignment with strategic priorities, though they may wish to do so.