

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**

**Board of Graduate Studies**

**Graduate Awards and Nominations Sub-Committee**

Minutes of the Graduate Awards and Nominations Sub-Committee at 13.00 on Monday 25 February 2013 in CMR 1.0, University House.

Present: Professor J Labbe (in the Chair), Dr C Bilton, Professor R Earle, Dr J Kidd, Professor D Leadley, Ms A Stewart, Professor J Neelands, Professor G Hartshorne

Apologies: Professor F Griffiths, Dr A Cristea

In attendance: Mr D Pearson, Mrs N Ellis-Thomas

1. Minutes

RESOLVED:

The minutes from the last meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 24 May 2012 (GANC 1/13)

2. Terms of Reference

REPORTED:

That the terms of reference for the Committee are as follows:

- (a) To exercise delegated authority on behalf of the Board of Graduate Studies to award scholarships via centrally administered competitions to the most academically able applicants and students for postgraduate taught and research degrees;
- (b) To contribute towards the ranking and scoring of applications to scholarship competitions not administered via central competitions;
- (c) To review the operation and criteria for postgraduate scholarship competitions on an annual basis and make recommendations to the Board of Graduate Studies regarding changes, where appropriate;
- (d) To secure the integrity and probity of the award of postgraduate scholarships at Warwick.
- (e) To respond to University directives concerning the awarding of University funds and advise BGS accordingly.

3. Membership

- (a) Chancellor's, Chancellor's International (CIS), DARO, Wolfson Foundation and AHRC Doctoral Awards Scoring

REPORTED:

That the Chancellor's/ CIS/ DARO/ Wolfson/ AHRC Doctoral Award Faculty scorers for 2012-13 academic year were:

Arts: Dr C Bilton, Professor R Earle, Dr R Dias, Dr D Lines

Medicine: Dr J Kidd, Professor F Griffiths, Professor G Hartshorne, Professor J Davey

Science: Professor D Leadley, Dr K Neailey, Dr A Cristea, Dr M Leeson

Social Sciences: Ms A Stewart, Professor P Poellner, Professor J Neelands, Dr K Richards

(b) PGT Combined Competition Awards Scoring

REPORTED:

(i) That the PGT combined competition included the AHRC Masters, Santander, International Office and Li Xiaoming scholarships.

(ii) That the scorers for the above in 2012-13 academic year were:

Arts: Dr C Bilton, Professor R Earle, Dr R Dias, Dr D Lines

Medicine: Dr J Kidd, Professor F Griffiths, Professor G Hartshorne, Professor J Davey

Science: Professor D Leadley, Dr K Neailey, Dr A Cristea, Dr M Leeson

Social Sciences: Ms A Stewart, Professor P Poellner, Professor J Neelands, Dr K Richards

(c) University of Warwick/Open Society Foundation Master's Scholarships Scoring

REPORTED:

That the scorers for the above in the 2012-13 academic year were Professor J Labbe and Dr K Astbury

4. Wolfson Foundation Funding

REPORTED:

That the University had received funding from the Wolfson Foundation, which had been topped up with funding from the University to create an additional award for 2013/14 entry.

5. DARO Funding

REPORTED:

The Disbursement Group allocated a one-off sum of £200k to PG scholarships for disbursement this year; which leveraged three additional PhD scholarships at Home/ EU level.

6. AHRC Funding

REPORTED:

That the AHRC had reduced funding for the BGP 1 studentships planned for 2013/14. To ensure that no awards would be lost for 2013/14, the University would co-fund three AHRC Doctoral awards.

7. Chancellor's Scholarships, Chancellor's International Scholarships, DARO, Wolfson Foundation and Arts and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Awards

RECEIVED:

a) Amalgamated Form and Applications Received

REPORTED:

- (i) That 1259 scholarship applications were received in the 2012-13 academic year.
- (ii) That 213 nominations were made in the 2012-13 academic year.
- (iii) Awards were to be allocated in the following order:
  - i. DARO Awards
  - ii. Wolfson Foundation Scholarships
  - iii. AHRC Doctoral Awards
  - iv. Chancellor's International Scholarships (CIS)/ Chancellor's Scholarships
  - v. Chancellor's International Fees Scholarships (CIS)/ Chancellor's Fees Scholarships

(b) BGS Working Group

REPORTED:

- (i) That a cross faculty working group had met to consider the advantages of a faculty led scholarships model.
- (ii) That recommendations from this Group were to be communicated to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and reported back to the Board of Graduate Studies at its meeting in May.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the minutes from the BGS Working Group were to be circulated to members of GANC.

(c) Nominated Applicants

REPORTED:

- (i) That the applications were scored and nominated for consideration by departments, and were each subsequently divided according to their research grouping and reviewed by three faculty scorers.
- (ii) That the scores allocated to each applicant by both the department and the faculty are set out in a separate paper (GANC. 2/13), noting that the average score “average score”.
- a. (by Professor J Labbe)  
It was noted that the average score for each application was presented in a column labeled ‘Average Score’.
- (iii) That 17 Chancellor’s International Scholarships, paying the full overseas fee and a maintenance stipend at the RCUK rate, were awarded to the highest-scoring applicants classified as ‘overseas’ for fees purposes. There were 35 full Chancellors Scholarships paying fees at Home/ EU rate and a maintenance stipend at RCUK rate. Followed by 18 fees only Chancellors International Scholarships paying the full overseas fee and 15 fees only Chancellors Scholarships paying fees at the Home/ EU rate. This is a total of 85 awards for 2012-13 for Chancellors and Chancellors International Scholarships.
- (iv) That there were three DARO/ Giving to Warwick awards available for 2012-13.
- (v) That there were four Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarships in the Humanities across the disciplines of History, Literature, and languages for 2012-13. The Doctoral awards will be worth £26,000 per year per student.
- (vi) That the following AHRC doctoral awards were available for 2012-13:
- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| Theatre and Performance Studies:          | 1 award  |
| English and Comparative Literary Studies: | 1 award  |
| Film & TV:                                | 3 awards |
| History:                                  | 2 awards |
| History of Art:                           | 1 award  |
| Italian Studies:                          | 1 award  |
| Philosophy:                               | 2 awards |
- (i) That the Faculty of Science were awarded less scholarships than in previous years as an overall percentage. That GANC had discussed possible reasons why this had occurred.
- (vii) (by Professor D Leadley)  
That discrepancies between scorers and internal ranking of nominated applicants by departments could be a factor in the Faculty of Science receiving fewer awards.
- (viii) (By The Chair)  
That three of four faculty scorers in the Science Faculty were new.

(ix) (By The Chair)

That the high scoring of applicants meant that a difference in average score of just 0.26 existed between the four faculties.

(x) (By The Chair)

That the initial allocation of awards was unlikely to be static, noting that a deadline of 20 March 2013 had been set for the acceptance of awards.

CONSIDERED:

The list of candidates who were nominated by their departments and scored by the relevant faculty as outlined above, to determine:

(i) which candidates should be made Chancellor's, CIS, DARO, Wolfson Foundation, and AHRC Doctoral awards;

RESOLVED:

(ii) That funding be awarded in order to maximise awards in the best possible way. Noting that there would be:

- i. 29 Full Chancellor's Awards
- ii. 24 Full Chancellor's International Awards
- iii. 17 Chancellor's Fee Only Award
- iv. 18 Chancellor's International Fee Only Award

(iii) That priority is to 'top up' fees only awards, rather than allocate funding to lower ranked students.

(iv) That offer letters would include a strict deadline of 20 March for acceptance of awards.

(v) That one of the co-funded funded AHRC awards would not be allocated as per the initial BGP 1 allocations, noting that the next eligible candidate in this discipline fell well below the cut off point for an award to be made. Notify that GANC approved to award the next highest ranked eligible candidate the allocation of the award.

(vi) That AHRC awards would be allocated to the next eligible ranked applicant, making no differentiation between Home or EU applicants.

(vii) That the overall quality of nominated applicants appeared higher than in 2011-12. That the average score of nominated applicants in 2012-13 was 4.68 compared to 4.59 in 2011-12.

(viii) That the faculty briefing sessions held by the Graduate School appeared to have had a positive effect on the quality of nominations.

(d) Additional Documents Uploads

CONSIDERED:

The benefits to including the current additional document upload facility in the application form.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation be to discontinue the use of the additional upload facility noting that there is no proven benefit to the system.

8. Warwick/ Open Society Foundation (OSF)

REPORTED:

- a) That there are eight Warwick/ OSF awards to be allocated for 2013-14 entry of £26,367 each.
- b) That 197 applications were received for the Warwick/ Open Society Foundation scholarship competition from the following countries; Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Mongolia.

9. Any Other Business

No items.