**Background and Purpose**

The University of Waikato – Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Doctoral Scholarship was established in 2018 through the partnership between the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union and the University of Waikato. The University of Waikato is committed to strengthening partnerships with community and regional sporting bodies through research and study opportunities. The Scholarship will support one Doctoral Candidate while they undertake Doctoral Research with the Faculty of Health, Sport and Human Performance (FHSHP) at the University of Waikato Adams Centre for High Performance based in Tauranga. The Scholarship is designed to enhance the chosen candidate’s understanding of Human Performance Science and Sport Technology skills as they relate to ‘rugby athlete performance’. This involves undertaking research which will support elite rugby athletes from the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union’s Provincial Competition and Development Squads.

The Scholarship will be offered in 2018 only, and is funded by the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union and FHSHP.

**Regulations**

1. **Eligibility**
   1.1. The Scholarship is open to New Zealand citizens, permanent residents, and international students.
   1.2. The Scholarship will be awarded on academic merit. A minimum grade average of A- for the previous two years of full-time study (or equivalent, if part-time) is expected for eligibility.
   1.2.1. Other factors that will be taken into consideration include; references, prior research, work experience (including work with sport technology and rugby athletes, if any), and publications.
   1.3. Candidates must demonstrate how their intended research will align with supporting the development of rugby athlete performance.
   1.4. Preference will be given to candidates who have already completed the entry qualifications for doctoral study. Candidates already enrolled in a doctoral degree at the University of Waikato may apply. However, the Selection Panel will favour applications from new doctoral students.
1.5. The offer of a University of Waikato – Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Doctoral Scholarship may only be taken up by a candidate who has formally completed the entry qualifications for, and enrolled full-time in, doctoral study at the University of Waikato.

2. Application

2.1. The closing date for applications is 8 April 2018.

2.2. Applications must be submitted on the prescribed online form and must include:

   2.2.1. A two-page personal statement that briefly presents the following:
   * An outline of your prior research qualifications, experience and publications
   * A summary of any past or present work/employment of relevance to this Scholarship
   * Any experience working with sport technology and/or rugby athletes
   * How your intended research will align with supporting the development of rugby athlete performance

   2.2.2. Two academic references, one of which must be from either your proposed Chief Supervisor or a member of the academic staff at the institution at which you obtained the qualification that defines your eligibility to enter the doctoral programme.

   2.2.3. Verified copies of academic transcripts from any tertiary institutions (other than the University of Waikato) you have attended (if applicable).

3. Value

3.1. The Scholarship offers a stipend of up to $15,000 per annum, payable in monthly instalments, and the domestic tuition fees\(^1\) for enrolment in the doctoral programme during the tenure of the Scholarship.

4. Selection Panel

4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the University's Scholarships Committee (or nominee), the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Board CEO (or nominee), the Dean of the Faculty of Health, Sport and Human Performance (or nominee), and the Faculty of Health, Sport and Human Performance Associate Dean of Postgraduate Research (or Faculty nominee).

4.2. The Selection Panel’s decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

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\(^1\) It is the student’s responsibility to cover any additional costs, e.g. the Student Services Levy, medical insurance, etc.
5. Awarding

5.1. The Scholarship offer must be accepted within two weeks of the formal offer of the Scholarship being made. If the candidate fails to accept the award within this timeframe, the offer will lapse.

5.2. A Scholarship may only be taken up by a candidate who has formally completed the entry qualifications for, and enrolled full-time in, doctoral study at the University of Waikato.

5.3. The recipient must commence doctoral study within two months of accepting the Scholarship. If the recipient does not start within this timeframe, the Scholarship offer will be withdrawn.

6. Tenure

6.1. The full tenure of the Doctoral Scholarship will not exceed three years of full-time doctoral enrolment.

6.1.1. Termination of, or withdrawal from, the full-time programme of doctoral study for which the Scholarship has been awarded shall constitute termination of the Scholarship.

6.1.2. Failure to attain the level of ‘meets expectations’ or above, on any progress report, without a justifiable reason, shall jeopardise the continuation of the Scholarship payments, until this level is met.

6.1.3. If during the tenure of the Scholarship, a recipient’s circumstances change in such a manner that their continued eligibility for the Scholarship may be affected, they must inform a School of Graduate Research Advisor immediately.

6.1.4. The Scholarships Executive may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds awarded, if it is satisfied that the recipient is not following the approved programme of study or is not otherwise complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The recipient shall have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate the award.

7. Other Conditions

7.1. The recipient will be based at the University of Waikato Adams Centre for High Performance, located in Tauranga, and supervised by a University of Waikato academic staff member from the Faculty of Health, Sport and Human Performance.

7.2. As part of their research, the recipient will be expected to assist the Bay of Plenty Rugby coaching staff with athlete monitoring during on-field and gym-based training sessions not exceeding 15 hours per week.

7.3. The recipient will comply with all reasonable requests and instructions of the University of Waikato, including the confirmation of enrolment and submission of a final doctoral thesis by the dates set by the Postgraduate Research Committee.

7.4. In addition to doctoral progress reports, the recipient will provide the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union with an annual report on the progress of their research.
7.5. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity arranged by the University of Waikato.