BACKGROUND

University of Waikato Summer Research Scholarships provide promising undergraduate, final-year honours and first-year master's degree students enrolled in taught papers (particularly those considering further study at the University of Waikato), with the opportunity to experience the challenges and rewards of research.

The Summer Research Scholarships are offered in various disciplines from November to February. The number of Scholarships offered in any one year will be determined by the availability of funding and appropriate supervision.

1. Purpose

1.1 The University of Waikato Summer Research Scholarships are intended to support and enhance research at the University. The Scholarships provide students with funding while undertaking a research project. The experience is designed to assist students in the development of their research skills, particularly those considering further study at the University of Waikato, and provide the opportunity to experience the challenges and rewards of research work.

1.2 The Summer Research Scholarships will support a ten-week period of full-time research over November to February.

2. Eligibility

2.1 To be eligible for consideration for this Scholarship, applicants must be enrolled at a New Zealand or Australian University in one of the following qualifications:

(a) undergraduate degree
(b) final year honours degree
(c) first-year master's degree (taught papers only)

2.2 Applicants concurrently enrolled in taught papers and a thesis (593 or 594) will still be eligible to apply providing they are still in their first year of enrolment in a masters degree.

2.3 Preference will be given to applicants whose intention is to continue with study at the University of Waikato after the completion of the scholarship.

3. Value

3.1 The scholarship will have a value of $6,000.

3.2 The scholarship will be paid in four instalments: the first (25%) on commencement of the project, the second instalment (25%) four weeks through the term of the scholarship, the third instalment (30%) eight weeks through the term of the scholarship and the final instalment (20%) following submission of the final research poster. The payment of the third instalment will be conditional upon receipt of a brief report from the supervisor confirming satisfactory progress.
3.3 All recipients (who submit a final research poster) are automatically eligible for the annual Summer Research Scholarship Award for Best Research Poster (one at $1,000), or one of two Summer Research Scholarship Award Runner-up Research Poster Awards (two at $500 each).

4. Applications

4.1 Applications for Scholarships close 15 September 2018.

4.2 Applicants must include with their application:
   a) names of two academic references
   b) a curriculum vitae (no longer than four A4 pages in length); and
   c) a brief one page summary of relevant background, experience, and interest in the research area(s)

4.3 Applicants are required to ask two academic referees to send references directly to the School of Graduate Research - Scholarships by the appropriate closing date stipulated in point 4.1 above.

4.4 Students not previously enrolled at the University of Waikato should also attach verified copies of their academic transcripts from their previous institution(s).

5. Selection Criteria

5.1 Applicants will be assessed on:
   a) Academic merit. The Grade Point Average (GPA) will be calculated on the candidate’s most recent 240 points of study, i.e. the equivalent of two years’ full-time enrolment; and
   b) Expertise in one of the specific areas in which the research is being offered in a given year; and
   c) Future intentions to continue study, especially research qualifications, at the University of Waikato.

6. Selection Panel

6.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of the Academic Supervisor and any co-supervisor/s or external funders (if applicable).

6.2. The selection panel may choose to formulate a reserve list and may also refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit for a specific project.

6.3. The selection panel’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following selection.
7. **Awarding**

7.1 Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of a Summer Research Scholarship in writing and must advise the School of Graduate Research - Scholarships of their acceptance of the offer by the date stipulated on the acceptance form.

7.2 Scholarships will be expected to be taken up, and research commenced no later than 1 December in the year that the Scholarship is offered. If a recipient has not enrolled in the Summer Research paper by 1 December, they will be removed from the Programme. The supervisor will have the opportunity to offer the scholarship to their reserve candidate who must accept the offer and enrol before a date determined by the School of Graduate Research - Scholarships.

8. **Academic Project Selection**

8.1 Each year, Summer Research Scholarships will be offered in specific areas of research (Projects) approved by the Scholarships Executive. In approving specific projects, the Scholarships Executive will take into consideration:

   a) Potential for students to have a good quality experience of participating in a research project;
   b) Ranking and support by Faculty;
   c) Potential research outcomes/outputs; and
   d) Links with externals and/or relevance for external organisations

9. **Other Conditions**

9.1 Recipients of the Summer Research Scholarship are required to attend the Summer Research Kick off Function and a research poster workshop. They will also be expected to attend the Summer Research Scholarship Closing Function held in February.

9.2 Recipients of a Summer Research Scholarship are required to submit a research poster at the conclusion of the Scholarship period. Recipients should prepare their research poster in collaboration with their academic supervisor and submit to the School of Graduate Research - Scholarships by the date specified.

   a) All posters will be reviewed by the Faculty Research Committees, and the top two student posters from each Faculty will be sent to the Scholarships Executive for final consideration.
   b) Awards will be announced at the Summer Research Closing Function, with the top poster receiving $1,000, and two runner-ups receiving $500 each.

9.3 By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.
9.4 All recipients will be required to enrol in the Summer Research paper (SSHP001). This paper is a zero-point non-assessed paper and will allow recipients to have access to facilities over the summer period.

9.4.1 Students may also be requested, by their Faculty, to enrol in a credit-bearing directed study or research project. Each Faculty will cover the cost of the tuition fees (including all auxiliary costs) for this enrolment.

9.5 The Scholarships Executive may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University during the tenure of the Scholarship, brings the University into disrepute, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship.

9.6 If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance, another scholarship, or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.

9.7 The recipient of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Research Committee against any decision to terminate a Scholarship.

9.8 Recipients travelling to New Zealand must arrange their own health and travel insurance and, upon their arrival, provide the University of Waikato School of Graduate Research - Scholarships with a copy of their full policy document(s).

9.9 International scholars must comply with the conditions of their Immigration New Zealand (INZ) Student Permit.