

BACKGROUND

University of Waikato Summer Research Scholarships provide promising undergraduate, final-year honours and first-year master's degree students 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 and are expected to have completed at least three years of undergraduate study:
 - (a) undergraduate degree
 - (b) final year honours degree
 - (c) first-year master's degree
 - (d) 180 Point master's degree
- 2.2 Students with an appropriate background may apply at the end of their 2nd year of undergraduate study.
- 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 \$5,000.
- 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 (35%) eight weeks through the term of the scholarship and the final instalment (15%) following submission of the final research report within four weeks of the completion of the Scholarship term. The payment of the third instalment will be conditional upon receipt of a brief report from the supervisor confirming satisfactory progress.

4. Applications

- 4.1 Applications for Scholarships close **31 August** annually.
- 4.2 Applicants must include with their application:
 - a) two academic references
 - b) a curriculum vitae (no longer than four A4 pages in length)
 - 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 Scholarships Office 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 the following criteria:
 - a) academic merit. The Grade Point Average will be calculate on the candidates most recent 240 points of study, i.e. the equivalent of two years' full-time enrolment
 - b) expertise in one of the specific areas in which the Scholarship is being offered in a given year
 - c) future intentions to undertake a research qualification at the University of Waikato

6. Selection Panel

- 6.1 The Selection Panel will comprise of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research as the Chair (or nominee), Dean, School of Graduate Research, and up to two members of the University's Research Committee.
- 6.2 The Selection Panel will submit their recommendations to the Scholarships Executive for final approval.
- 6.3 The Scholarships Executive's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
- 6.4 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.

7. Awarding

- 7.1 Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of a Summer Research Scholarship in writing and must advise the University's Scholarships Office 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 Scholarship Office.

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 the subject area and quality of proposal and will be influenced by the University's research strategies.

9. Other Conditions

- 9.1 Each year, there will be Student Information Sessions held. Recipients of the Summer Research Scholarship are required to attend one of these sessions.
- 9.2 Recipients of a Summer Research Scholarship are required to submit a brief but comprehensive final report at the conclusion of the Scholarship period. Recipients should write their report in collaboration with their academic supervisor, using the official template supplied by the Scholarships Office. The final report should outline the research undertaken while funded by the scholarship, as well as any outcomes resulting from the research (such as publications). The final report must be submitted to the Scholarships Office of the University of Waikato within four weeks of completion of the term of the Scholarship.
- 9.3 All recipients are expected to attend the Summer Research Scholarship closing function held in February. Students are encouraged to produce a poster or present a short summary of their research for this function.
- 9.4 By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 9.5 All recipients are required to enrol in the Summer Research paper (SSHP001). This paper is a non-assessed paper and will allow recipients to have access to facilities over the summer period and will enter the Summer Research Scholarship on to the students' academic transcript. Recipients will not receive their first scholarship instalment until their enrolment in the Summer Research paper has been confirmed.
- 9.6 The Scholarships Executive may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if it is not satisfied that the recipient is following the required programme, is not making satisfactory academic progress, or is not otherwise complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and the rules and regulations of the University
- 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 Scholarships Office 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.