As part of our commitment to graduate research, the University of Waikato provides Research Masters Scholarships for students to undertake a master’s thesis at the University of Waikato.

1. Eligibility

1.1. Applicants must be enrolled, or intending to enrol, full-time¹ in a 500-level thesis of 90-points or more² as part of their first master’s degree at the University of Waikato.

1.1.1. Successful applicants must commence their thesis enrolment within six months of the closing date of the round in which they applied.

1.2. The Scholarship is open to New Zealand citizens, permanent residents, and international students.

1.2.1. International students must have completed at least 120 points of study at a New Zealand university in order to be eligible for this Scholarship.

2. Value

2.1. The Scholarship will have a value of:

2.1.1. Tier 1 – $15,000 for 120-point theses (or more); or

2.1.2. Tier 2 – $12,000 for 90-point theses; or

2.1.3. Tier 3 – Domestic tuition fees of the thesis paper only.

2.2. Recipients of a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Scholarship shall receive it as follows:

2.2.1. $5,500 will be applied directly to the tuition fees of the master’s thesis paper.

2.2.2. The remainder of the Scholarship will then be paid directly into the recipient’s bank account in three equal instalments:

2.2.2.1. The first instalment will be paid two weeks after the recipient commences their thesis enrolment OR as soon as arrangements can be made after the awarding of the Scholarship should the recipient have already been enrolled in their thesis for more than two weeks.

2.2.2.2. The second instalment will be paid after four months of enrolment in the thesis.

2.2.2.3. The final instalment will be paid after eight months of enrolment in the thesis.

2.3. Recipients of a Tier 3 Scholarship shall have the domestic tuition fees of their thesis paper only covered by the Scholarship. The fees credit will be actioned at the time of the recipient’s enrolment in their thesis paper³.

¹ The thesis should usually be completed within a 12-month period, although dispensation will be made in cases where the applicant is concurrently enrolled in a number of additional papers or two programmes of study.

² Zero-point enrolments do not qualify. Before applying for this Scholarship, please seek programme advice from your Faculty.

³ It is the student's responsibility to cover any additional costs, e.g. the Student Services Levy.
2.4. Should a student hold another fees scholarship for their master’s thesis, the University of Waikato Research Masters Scholarship will pay the balance of any fees (up to $5,500); however, the student will forgo any unused balance of this Scholarship’s fees component.

3. Application

3.1. The closing dates for applications are **31 October (for Round 1)** and **30 April (for Round 2)** annually.

3.2. Applicants must include with their application:

   3.2.1. a Personal Statement (using the template provided on the online Scholarship application form); and

   3.2.2. an academic reference from either your (proposed) master’s thesis supervisor or a member of the academic staff at the institution at which you obtained the qualification that defines your eligibility to enter the master’s programme.

4. Selection

4.1. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit, with a minimum grade average of A- expected for eligibility. Grade-average calculations will be based on the applicant’s most recent 240 points of study (the equivalent of two years full-time study). Where applicable, particular attention will be given to results from the applicant’s 400-level and/or 500-level papers.

4.2. Other factors that may also be taken into consideration are financial hardship and the strategic objectives of the University.

4.3. Applications will be ranked by a selection panel comprising of the Dean (or nominee) and their Faculty Scholarships Committee.

4.4. The University of Waikato Scholarships Committee will endorse the rankings at their annual Scholarship selection meetings in **December (for Round 1)** and **June (for Round 2)**.

4.5. The Scholarships Committee may give preference to applicants who have not yet commenced their master’s thesis enrolment.

4.6. The Scholarships Committee will submit its recommendations for the Scholarships to the Scholarships Executive for final approval.

4.7. The Scholarships Executive’s decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. Awarding

5.1. All applicants will be advised by email of the outcome of their application.

5.2. The Scholarship offer must be accepted by the due date or the offer will lapse.
5.3. Recipients of this award must commence their enrolment in a thesis of 90-points or more\(^4\) within six months of the closing date of the round in which they applied.

5.4. The thesis should usually be completed within a 12-month period, although dispensation will be made in cases where the applicant is concurrently enrolled in a number of additional papers or two programmes of study.

5.5. Recipients must enrol in the thesis paper listed on their Scholarship application.
   
   5.5.1. Recipients wishing to change their enrolment must seek approval from the Scholarships Committee (via the School of Graduate Research). Changes may affect Scholarship eligibility which could necessitate the University to recoup awarded funds.

6. **Tenure**

   6.1. The tenure of the Scholarship is one year. However, when all or part of a recipient’s research does not take place within a 12-month period, some or all of their payments may be delayed to better align them with the period(s) of research.

7. **Other Conditions**

   7.1. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with a University of Waikato Taught Postgraduate Scholarship. It may also be held with any other scholarship or award, provided that the regulations of the other funding do not preclude this.

   7.2. 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.

   7.3. The Scholarships Executive may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato during the tenure of the Scholarship, brings the Scholarship or the University into disrepute\(^5\), or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship. The holder of a Scholarship will have the right to appeal to the Research Committee against any decision to terminate the award.

   7.4. By accepting a Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

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\(^4\) Zero-point enrolments do not qualify. Before applying for this Scholarship, please seek programme advice from your Faculty.

\(^5\) See [Student Code of Conduct](#).