The AECOM David A. Burns Award in Engineering Geology was established in 2018 to commemorate the contributions to engineering geology made by the late David Andrew Burns (1953-2018). The award was made possible through the generous financial and in-kind support from AECOM, a premier New Zealand and international company that designs and builds infrastructure assets. David was an engineering geologist with AECOM for many years, working on a wide range of projects in New Zealand and overseas. He was also an office holder with the New Zealand Geotechnical Society for eight years and chair from 2011-2013; during this time he played significant roles in developing a route for engineering geologists to gain professional status as chartered members in Engineering New Zealand, and in revising the guidelines for field description of rocks and soils for engineering purposes.

After graduating from the Department of Earth Sciences at Waikato (1975), David completed a MSc in the same department on carbon and oxygen stable isotope geochemistry of Cenozoic calcareous sedimentary rocks (1981). Before his death, David was a highly respected and experienced Technical Director in ground engineering, despite having no formal training in the discipline other than his University of Waikato degrees in Earth sciences. Thus, the award recognises the personal abilities of David in achieving such status in the engineering geology field, the quality of his founding degrees obtained at University of Waikato, and the support and training he received ‘on the job’ from AECOM. One award will be offered annually for at least five years, starting in 2018.

1. Purpose

1.1. The award was established to encourage and assist graduate students into a career in engineering geology by:
   a) providing a $2,000 award during their final year of undergraduate study;
   b) an opportunity to undertake a paid summer internship with AECOM after they complete their undergraduate degree; and
   c) an opportunity to embark on a Master of Science project in engineering geology of relevance to industry.

2. Eligibility

2.1. To be eligible, applicants must:
   a) be enrolled full-time in the Division of Health, Engineering, Computing and Science who, in the year of application, have completed EARTH313 – Engineering Geology at the University of Waikato; and
   b) be intending to enrol, part- or full-time, in a masters degree in Earth Sciences at the University of Waikato.
   c) be a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident.
3. **Value**
   3.1. The Award will have a value of $2,000 and will be paid in one lump sum to the successful candidate in their third year of study.
   3.2. An offer of a paid summer internship in engineering geology at AECOM during the summer recess.

4. **Application**
   4.1. The closing date is **31 July**.
   4.2. Applicants should submit the following along with their online application:
      - A CV of no more than two A4 pages;
      - A Personal Statement, which includes the following subheadings:
         - Future plans
         - Interest in engineering geology (200 word maximum)
         - Any special circumstances (such as financial hardship) relevant to the application
      - The name of the degree in which they are enrolled, enrolment status (full- or part-time), and a summary of papers being taken at level 3, including grades.

5. **Selection Criteria**
   5.1. The award will be assessed on academic merit, taking into consideration performance in EARTH313 – Engineering Geology, along with motivation of the applicant and any special circumstances.

6. **Selection Panel**
   6.1. The selection panel will comprise of the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) as chairperson, the Principal Lecturer in Engineering Geology, a Professor in Earth Sciences, and an AECOM representative appointed by a relevant Director.
   6.2. The selection panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.
   6.3. The selection panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
7. **Awarding and Tenure**

7.1. The successful applicant will be advised of the offer of a Scholarship and must accept the Scholarship offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse. If a candidate declines a Scholarship, or does not take it up, the Selection Panel may offer the Scholarship to another applicant.

7.2. The successful applicant may be contacted directly by AECOM in regards to the internship.

7.3. It is anticipated that the awardee will enrol in a masters degree specialising in engineering geology at the University of Waikato after completing the summer internship with AECOM. It is possible that the topic for thesis research could be developed during the summer internship.

7.4. Unsuccessful applications will be notified by the School of Graduate Research-Scholarships approximately one to two months after the applications close.

7.5. The Scholarship must be taken up in the year in which it is offered, and will have a maximum tenure of one year.

8. **Other Conditions**

8.1. The Scholarship may be held together with any other scholarship, award, or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

8.1.1. Students may hold the award on one occasion only.

8.2. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).

8.3. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato. The recipient may be asked to attend a presentation ceremony.

8.4. The Scholarships Committee may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the Scholarship, University or Sponsor into disrepute[^], or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.

8.5. By accepting an award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the award arranged by the University of Waikato or AECOM in consultation with the other.

[^]: See [Code of Student Conduct](#)