Whanganui River Enhancement Trust Scholarship

Background and Purpose
The Whanganui River Enhancement Trust was established in 2003 to provide resources to mitigate adverse effects on the catchment of the Whanganui River that result from the operation of the Tongariro Power Scheme. The Trust aims to promote the enhancement of the Whanganui River Catchment by supporting research into river processes, the catchment’s water quality, land management practices and the river’s native and introduced fish. To achieve this aim, the Trust provides scholarships to Honours, Postgraduate and Masters students undertaking research that is directly focused on and relevant to the catchment of the Whanganui River.

Tenure and Value
Each Scholarship is awarded for a period of one year and has the value of $5,000 for Honours and Postgraduate students and $10,000 for Masters students.

Eligibility
The scholarships are open to students who are enrolled as a full-time students undertaking research towards a Masters thesis, Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma. Candidates for the Scholarship are not restricted in terms of nationality, but must be resident in New Zealand for the tenure of the scholarship.

Criteria
The Scholarship shall be awarded on the basis of academic merit and fit to the conditions of the award.

Selection
The selection of scholars will normally be made on the basis of written applications and attached documents. However, candidates may be required to attend an interview.

Responsibility for the award
The Scholarship shall be awarded annually by Whanganui River Enhancement Trust on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of a panel which may include a representative of the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust and a member of the University’s Scholarships Committee. The recommendation will be signed off by Whanganui River Enhancement Trust.

Payment
The Award will be paid in instalments, based on the progress of the Student’s research.

Conditions of the Award
The research to be undertaken during the tenure of the Scholarship and the research must be focused on the Whanganui River Catchment and have direct application to the management of the catchment. Research must contribute to an understanding in one or more of the following areas:

- River processes
- Water quality and enhancement
- Native Fish
- Land Management Practices

Candidates will be required to have an understanding of geological sciences, biological sciences, chemistry, economics or planning that is appropriate to the research project to which the Scholarship is to be applied. Applications must be accompanied by:

- An abstract of the research proposal
- A description of the research goals
- An outline of the methodology
- A statement of how the proposed research supports the aims of the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust
- A brief CV

The Scholarship can be held in conjunction with any other scholarship or award administered by or through the University, unless specifically precluded by the regulations of the other award. The Student will be encouraged to consult with the Trust to enable the findings of the research to be disseminated in a way that assists the Trust to achieve its aims. Normally this will include a commitment by the student to submit a progress report and a final report to be forwarded to the Trust, along with an agreement to present a summary of the findings of the Research, and their relevance to the Whanganui River catchment, at a Trustee meeting.

The Student will agree to acknowledge the financial assistance of the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust in the thesis document and any publication or public presentation prepared by the scholar that used findings derived from the research funded under this scholarship. The Student will agree to consult the Trust regarding any significant changes to the original application, as these must be agreed to by the Trust prior to implementation.

Closing date
The closing date for this award is 5.00 pm Friday 16 November 2018