The University of Waikato – High Performance Sport Doctoral Scholarship was established in 2018 through the partnership between High Performance Sport New Zealand, the New Zealand Rugby All Blacks, the New Zealand Rugby 7’s, and the University of Waikato. The University of Waikato is committed to strengthening partnerships with community and regional sporting bodies through research and study opportunities. The Scholarship will support one Doctoral Candidate while they undertake Doctoral Research within the Faculty of Health, Sport and Human Performance (FHSHP) at the University of Waikato Adams Centre for High Performance based in Tauranga. The Scholarship is designed to enhance the doctoral candidate’s applied Human Performance Science understanding and skills as they relate to rugby athlete development.

One Scholarship is on offer in 2018 and is primarily funded by High Performance Sport New Zealand and FHSHP, with additional funding from the New Zealand All Blacks and New Zealand Rugby 7’s.

1. Eligibility

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

1.2. The Scholarship will be awarded on academic merit. A minimum grade average of A- for the previous two years of full-time study (or equivalent, if part-time) is expected for eligibility. Other factors that will be taken into consideration include: references, prior research, work experience (including work with sport technology and rugby athletes, if any), and publications.

1.3. Candidates must demonstrate how their intended research will align with supporting the development of rugby athlete performance.

1.4. Preference will be given to candidates who have already completed the entry qualifications for doctoral study. Candidates already enrolled in a doctoral degree at the University of Waikato may apply. However, the Selection Panel will favour applications from new doctoral students.

1.5. The offer of this Scholarship may only be taken up by a candidate who has formally completed the entry qualifications for, and enrolled full-time in, doctoral study at the University of Waikato.

2. Application

2.1. The closing date for applications is 7 May 2018.

2.2. Applications must be submitted on the prescribed online form and must include:

2.2.1. A two-page personal statement that briefly presents:

- An outline of prior research qualifications, experience and publications
- A summary of any past or present work/employment of relevance to this Scholarship
- Any experience working with sport technology and/or rugby athletes
- How the proposed research will align with supporting the development of rugby athlete performance
2.2.2. Two academic references, one of which must be from either the proposed Chief Supervisor or a member of the academic staff at the institution at which you obtained the qualification that defines your eligibility to enter the doctoral programme.

2.2.3. Verified copies of academic transcripts from any tertiary institutions (other than the University of Waikato) you have attended (if applicable).

3. Value
3.1. The Scholarship offers a stipend of up to $22,000 per annum, payable in monthly instalments, and the domestic tuition fees\(^1\) for enrolment in the doctoral programme during the tenure of the Scholarship.

4. Selection Panel
4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the University's Scholarships Committee (or nominee), a representative of High Performance Sport New Zealand, a representative of New Zealand Rugby, and the Faculty of Health, Sport and Human Performance Associate Dean of Postgraduate Research (or Faculty nominee).

4.2. The Selection Panel's decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. Awarding
5.1. The Scholarship offer must be accepted within two weeks of the formal offer of the Scholarship being made. If the candidate fails to accept the award within this timeframe, the offer will lapse.

5.2. A Scholarship may only be taken up by a candidate who has formally completed the entry qualifications for, and enrolled full-time in, doctoral study at the University of Waikato.

5.3. The recipient must commence doctoral study within two months of accepting the Scholarship. If the recipient does not start within this timeframe, the Scholarship offer will be withdrawn.

6. Tenure
6.1. The full tenure of the Doctoral Scholarship will not exceed three years of full-time doctoral enrolment.

6.1.1. Termination of, or withdrawal from, the full-time programme of doctoral study for which the Scholarship has been awarded shall constitute termination of the Scholarship.

\(^1\) It is the student's responsibility to cover any additional costs, e.g. the Student Services Levy, medical insurance, etc.
6.1.2. Failure to attain the level of ‘meets expectations’ or above, on any progress report, without a justifiable reason, shall jeopardise the continuation of the Scholarship payments, until this level is met.

6.1.3. 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.

6.1.4. The Scholarships Executive may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds awarded, if it is satisfied that the recipient is not following the approved programme of study or is not otherwise complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The recipient shall have the right to appeal to the Research Committee against any decision to terminate the award.

7. Other Conditions

7.1. The recipient will be based at the University of Waikato Adams Centre for High Performance, located in Tauranga, and supervised by a University of Waikato academic staff member from the Faculty of Health, Sport and Human Performance.

7.2. The Scholarship may be held with any other award provided that the regulations of the other award do not preclude this.

7.3. The recipient will comply with all reasonable requests and instructions of the University of Waikato, including the confirmation of enrolment and submission of a final doctoral thesis by the dates set by the Postgraduate Research Committee.

7.4. In addition to doctoral progress reports, the recipient will provide an annual report on the progress of their research to the Faculty of Health, Sport and Human Performance Associate Dean of Postgraduate Research to forward to the funders.

7.5. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any reasonable publicity arranged by the University of Waikato, High Performance Sport New Zealand, New Zealand Rugby All Blacks and New Zealand Rugby 7’s.