The Tauranga Campus Research Masters Scholarship was established in 2018 to support students undertaking a master’s thesis at the University of Waikato in Tauranga. These scholarships were made available through the generosity of Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust, Tauranga City Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The funds are held in trust in the Foundation and one scholarship will be offered each year, with funds ending after three years. The University of Waikato is committed to supporting graduate research, and the motto ko te tangata is a core value that underpins this commitment. Of particular importance is the potential of the research to contribute to the growth of industry and the economy in the communities of the Bay of Plenty and Tauranga.

1. Eligibility
   1.1. To be eligible for consideration applicants must:
      a) have applied to enrol, or be planning to enrol, full-time in a thesis of 90-points or more as part of their first master’s degree at the University of Waikato and based in Tauranga;
      b) commence their thesis enrolment within six months of the closing date of the round in which they apply; and
      c) be a New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or an international student.
         a. 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 $23,000 and will be paid towards the recipient’s tuition fees with the remainder of the Scholarship paid directly into the recipient’s bank account in three equal instalments:
      2.1.1. The first instalment will be paid two weeks after enrolment in the thesis OR as soon as arrangements can be made after the awarding of the Scholarship should the recipient have already completed more than two weeks of study.
      2.1.2. The second instalment will be paid after four months of study.
      2.1.3. The final instalment will be paid on submission of the thesis for marking.

3. Application
   3.1. The closing date for applications is 30 April annually.
      3.1.1. A second round will be held in September or October of the same year if a Scholarship is not awarded in April.

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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.
3.2. As part of the application process, each candidate must submit:
   a) a Personal Statement (using the prescribed template); and
   b) an academic reference from their (proposed) master’s thesis supervisor or a member of the academic staff at the institution at which they obtained the qualification that defines their eligibility to enter the master’s programme.

4. Selection Panel and Criteria

4.1. The Scholarship Selection Panel will comprise of the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, a representative of the Tauranga Tertiary Campus Charitable Trust (or its successor) and one Faculty representative of the Scholarships Committee.

4.2. In awarding the Scholarships, the Selection Panel will take into consideration academic ability, with a minimum grade average of A- expected for eligibility. Grade-point-average calculations will be based on the equivalent of the applicant’s last two years of full-time study (240-points or at least a 120-points for international students). Where applicable, particular attention will be given to results from the applicant’s 400-level and/or 500-level papers.

4.3. Of particular importance is the potential of the research to contribute to the growth of industry and the economy in the communities of the Bay of Plenty and Tauranga.

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

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

5. Awarding and Tenure

5.1. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of a Scholarship and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

5.2. Recipients of this scholarship must commence their enrolment in a thesis of 90-points or more within four months of accepting the Scholarship.

5.3. The thesis should be completed within a 12-month period.

5.4. Recipients must enrol in the thesis paper listed on their Scholarship application.
   5.4.1. 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.

5.5. 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.
Other Conditions

5.6. The Scholarship may not be held with any other fees or stipend scholarship or award unless agreement is gained from the Selection Panel (via the School of Graduate Research).

5.7. In accepting the Scholarship offer, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the regulations of the Scholarship, and the Scholarships Policy.

5.8. 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 the Scholarships Committee (via the School of Graduate Research) immediately.

5.9. The Scholarships Executive may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed if the holder withdraws from the University during the tenure of the Scholarship, brings the University into disrepute, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship. The recipient of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate the award via the Research Committee.

5.10. The Scholarship may be recognised at a function organised to promote Scholarships more widely throughout the University. By accepting a Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any reasonable publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

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2 See Student Code of Conduct