



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 start their thesis enrolment within six months of the closing date of the round in which they applied, or the Scholarship offer will lapse.
- 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 – \$5,500 towards the tuition fees of the master's programme.**
- 2.2. Recipients of a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Scholarship will receive it as follows:
 - 2.2.1. \$5,500 will be applied directly to the tuition fees of the master's programme once enrolment in the thesis paper has been confirmed.
 - 2.2.2. The remainder of the Scholarship will then be paid directly into the recipient's bank account in two equal instalments:
 - 2.2.2.1. The first instalment will be paid two weeks after the start date of the recipient's 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 six months of enrolment in the thesis.
- 2.3. Recipients of a Tier 3 Scholarship will have \$5,500 credited directly towards the tuition fees of their master's programme. The fees credit will be actioned at the time of the recipient's enrolment in their thesis paper.

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 Division/School/Faculty.

- 2.4. If the recipient's tuition fees for their master's programme are less than the tuition fees component of the Scholarship (\$5,500), the recipient will forgo any unused balance of the tuition 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 on the template provided on the online Scholarship application form; and
 - 3.2.2. an academic reference from either 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

- 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 the relevant Division. Each Division's rankings will be organised by the Scholarships Committee representative for that Division and signed-off by the PVC.
- 4.4. The University of Waikato Scholarships Committee will consider the rankings and select the recipients at its Scholarship selection meetings in **November (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. The Scholarship offer must be accepted by the due date or the offer will lapse.

- 5.2. Recipients of this award must enrol in a thesis of 90-points or more³ within six months of the closing date of the round in which they applied. The official start date of their thesis paper enrolment must also be within six months of the closing date of the round in which they applied, or the Scholarship offer will lapse.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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.

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. Should the recipient hold another University of Waikato fees scholarship for their master's programme, the Research Masters Scholarship will pay the balance of any tuition fees (up to \$5,500); however, the recipient will forgo any unused balance of the tuition fees component of the Research Masters Scholarship.
- 7.3. 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 the School of Graduate Research immediately.
- 7.4. 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 disrepute⁴, 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.

³ Zero-point enrolments do not qualify. Before applying for this Scholarship, please seek programme advice from your Division/School/Faculty.

⁴ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).

- 7.5. By accepting a Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 7.6. In consultation with the University, these regulations may be varied from time to time, provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.