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-time\(^1\) in a 500-level thesis of 90-points or more\(^2\) as part of their first master’s degree.

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 their scholarship offer will lapse

- Those who apply in the 31 October round must commence their thesis by 30 April in the year following application;
- Those who apply in 31 May round must commence their thesis by 30 November in the year of application.

1.2. A minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of A- is expected. Normally, GPA calculations will be based on the equivalent of the applicant’s last two years of full-time study.

1.3. Applicants must have made contact with a potential University of Waikato master’s thesis supervisor.

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

1.4.1. 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. Application

2.1. The closing dates for applications are **31 October (for Round 1)** and **31 May (for Round 2)** annually.

2.1.1. Applicants must include with their application:

- a. a Personal Statement (using the template provided); and
- b. 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.

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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.

\(^2\) Zero-point enrolments do not qualify. Before applying for this Scholarship, please seek programme advice from your Division/School/Faculty.
3. **Value and Tenure**

3.1. The Scholarship will have a value of **up to $15,000**.

3.2. Recipients may be offered a Tier 1 or Tier 2 scholarship as follows:

3.2.1. **TIER 1** - The amount awarded will be calculated on the points value of the applicant’s thesis paper with $15,000 awarded to 120-point theses or $12,000 for 90-point theses. Payments will be made as follows:

   a. $5,500 which will be applied directly to the tuition fees (not including Student Services Levy) of the master’s programme once enrolment in the thesis paper has been confirmed.

   b. The remainder of the Scholarship will be paid directly into the recipient’s bank account in equal monthly instalments with the final instalment to be paid on submission of the masters thesis.

3.2.2. **TIER 2** - $5,500 towards the tuition fees of the master’s programme credited directly towards the tuition fees (not including Students Services Levy) of their master’s programme. The tuition fees credit will be actioned at the time of the recipient’s confirmed enrolment in their thesis paper.

   a. 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.

3.2.3. 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.

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: experience of the candidate (e.g., references, prior research and work experience, publications), knowledge of Mātauranga Māori and/or Pacific knowledges, alignment with research priorities of Divisions/Faculties/Schools and Research Institutes, 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’s decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. Awarding

5.1. The offer of a Scholarship must be accepted by the date indicated in the offer, or the offer will lapse.

5.2. The offer of a scholarship will be conditional on confirmation that the candidate has a UoW supervisor in place for their master's thesis.

5.3. Recipients of this award must enrol in a thesis of 90-points or more 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.

5.4. 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.

5.5. 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. Other Conditions

6.1. 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.

6.2. 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.

6.3. 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.

6.4. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the Scholarships Policy.

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

6.6. By accepting a Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

6.7. 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.

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4 See Code of Student Conduct.