The University of Waikato Research Masters Scholarship (formerly the University of Waikato Masters Research Scholarship) was established in 1997 as part of the University’s commitment to graduate research. The Scholarship supports students undertaking a master’s thesis at the University of Waikato. The number of scholarships offered each year is based primarily on the total pool of funding available. There are two rounds each year closing on 31 October and 30 April. Candidates who have started their thesis may also apply.

1. Purpose
   1.1. The Scholarship provides financial support for excellent students undertaking a master’s thesis in any discipline at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria
   2.1. The Scholarship is open to New Zealand citizens, permanent residents, and international students. International students must have completed at least 120 points of study at a New Zealand university (by the closing date of the round in which they are applying) in order to be eligible for this Scholarship.
   2.2. Candidates who have begun their thesis may apply. However, if they are successful the stipend portion will be pro-rata based on the number of months left of thesis study after the date of offer.
   2.3. Candidates enrolled, or intending to enrol, part-time may apply but will only be considered for a Tier 2 Scholarship (see clause 3.3 for further information).
   2.4. To be eligible candidates must:
      2.4.1. Be enrolled, or intending to enroll in a 500-level thesis of 90 points or more\(^1\) as part of their first master’s degree.
      2.4.2. Have had contact with a potential University of Waikato master’s thesis supervisor. The potential supervisor may be asked to confirm their involvement with the candidate’s research.
      2.4.3. Have not applied for this scholarship before. i.e., candidates may only apply once.
   2.5. Selection of candidates will be based on:
      2.5.1. Academic merit, with an expected minimum grade average of ‘A-’ for the candidate’s most recent 240 points of study. Where applicable, the Selection Panel may pay particular attention to results from the candidate’s 400- and/or 500-level papers.
      2.5.2. Other factors possibly taken into consideration are the experience of the candidate (e.g., references, prior research and work experience, publications), knowledge of Mātauranga Māori and/or Pacific knowledges, alignment with the research priorities of the Divisions/Faculties/Schools and/or Research Institutes, financial hardship, and the strategic objectives of the University.

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\(^1\) Zero-point enrolments do not qualify. Before applying for this Scholarship, please seek programme advice from your Division/Faculty/School.
2.6. Preference will be given to candidates who have not yet commenced their master’s thesis enrolment, and may be given to candidates who do have other scholarship funding.

2.7. See clause 4 for requirements on ongoing eligibility.

3. Value and Tenure

3.1. The Scholarship will have a value of up to $15,000, and offers will be either Tier 1 or Tier 2, as follows:

3.2. **TIER 1** – The amount awarded will be up to $15,000 to those studying a 120-point theses and up to $12,000 to those studying 90-point theses. Payments are as follows:

3.2.1. $5,500 credited directly to the tuition fees (not including the Student Services Levy) of the master’s programme. Credit will be made as soon as practicable after enrolment in the thesis paper has been confirmed.

3.2.2. Up to $9,500 (see clause 2.2) paid directly into the recipient’s bank account in equal monthly instalments, with the final instalment to be withheld and paid on submission of the master’s thesis. The final instalment will lapse if the thesis is not submitted by the due date of the thesis paper enrolment.

3.3. **TIER 2** – $5,500 credited directly to the tuition fees (not including the Students Services Levy) of the master’s programme after enrolment in the thesis paper has been confirmed.

3.4. If the recipient’s tuition fees for their master’s programme are less than the tuition fees component of the Scholarship above, the recipient will forgo any unused balance of the tuition fees component.

3.5. The tenure of the Scholarship is 12 months (pro-rata if part-time). When all or part of a recipient’s research does not take place within a 12-month period, some or all of the payments will be delayed to better align them with the period(s) of research.

4. Awarding, Conditions, and Ongoing Eligibility

4.1. The offer of a Scholarship must be accepted by the date indicated in the offer, or the offer will lapse. The offer of a scholarship will be conditional on:

4.1.1. Confirmation that the candidate has a UOW supervisor in place for their master’s thesis of 90-points or more.

4.1.2. the candidate enrolling in a thesis of 90-points or more\(^2\) within six months of the closing date of the round in which they applied. To be clear:

a. Those who apply in the 31 October round must commence their thesis by 30 April in the year following application.

b. Those who apply in the 30 April round must commence their thesis by 31 October in the year of application.

4.2. The thesis should 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.

4.3. Recipients wishing to change their enrolment (e.g., suspension, part-time, reduction in thesis points) must seek approval from the Scholarships Committee (via the School of Graduate Research).

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\(^2\) Zero-point enrolments do not qualify. Before applying for this Scholarship, please seek programme advice from your Division/School/Faculty.
4.3.1. Changes in enrolment may affect Scholarship eligibility which could necessitate the University to recoup awarded funds.

4.3.2. Recipients who increase their thesis points after the scholarship has been applied will not be eligible for an increase in Scholarship value.

4.4. Recipients are not eligible to receive scholarship funds during periods of suspension of enrolment for any reason including suspension related to parental, medical or compassionate leave.

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

5. Application

5.1. The closing dates for applications are 31 October (for Round 1) and 30 April (for Round 2) annually.

5.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must provide the name of their proposed University of Waikato Supervisor, and submit the following:

5.2.1. A Personal Statement (using the template provided) that outlines:

- motivation for enrolling a research masters degree;
- an outline of the proposed research topic;
- future study and career plans;
- any significant achievements; and
- any other relevant details such as financial hardship, knowledge of Mātauranga Māori and/or Pacific knowledges.

5.2.2. A CV (maximum two A4 pages in length) detailing any prior research experience, employment history and any publications (if applicable).

5.3. As part of the application process, the candidate must also request one 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.

6. Selection Panel and Process

6.1. The selection panel is the University of Waikato Scholarships Committee.

6.1.1. Applications are ranked by a selection committee appointed by the relevant academic area, and overseen by the Scholarships Committee representative for that academic area. All rankings must be approved by the relevant PVC.

6.1.2. The selection panel will consider the rankings and propose recipients at meetings held in November/December (for Round 1) and June/July each year (for Round 2).

6.1.3. The proposed recipients will then be ratified by the Scholarships Executive.

6.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making any offers if it finds no candidate(s) of sufficient merit.

6.3. The Selection Panel’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
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 thesis, the University of Waikato Research Masters Scholarship will pay the balance of any tuition fees (up to $5,500); the recipient will forgo any unused balance of the tuition fees component.

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 scholarships@waikato.ac.nz immediately.

7.4. The Scholarships Committee 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 disrepute³, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the scholarship. The holder of a Scholarship will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.

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. The Scholarships Committee may vary these regulations from time to time, provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the scholarship.

³ See Code of Student Conduct.