Local government in New Zealand comprises 78 councils controlling in excess of $110 billion of assets, employing over 25,000 staff and having a combined income of over $9 billion. The size and scope of the responsibilities and activities of the sector makes councils some of the most complex organisations in New Zealand, and their success (or failure) impacts on the well-being of every New Zealander, today and into the future.

The vital importance of local government prompted Mr John Robson, alumnus of the University (BMS 1981), to fund the establishment of the Local Government Scholarship to encourage students at the University of Waikato to undertake investigations of relevance to the sector. Investigations must result in a report, dissertation or thesis and may be at 300-level and above. This scholarship is for excellent students undertaking research in any discipline that investigates a topic of relevance to New Zealand local government sector. One award of $6,000 will be available annually.

1. Eligibility
   1.1. Applicants may come from a range of academic disciplines, provided their research is of relevance to the New Zealand local government sector;
   1.2. Applicants must currently be enrolled at the University of Waikato, and have studied at the University for at least one year.
   1.3. Applicants must be enrolled, or intending to enrol, in a 300-level or above paper with a research component at the University of Waikato.
      1.3.1. Successful applicants not yet enrolled in a research paper must enrol in the paper within 6 months of the offer being made to maintain eligibility.
      1.3.2. Applicants must be expecting to submit their report/dissertation/thesis within 12 months of the Scholarship closing date.
      1.3.3. Applicants who submit their final report/dissertation/thesis before or within 8 weeks of the Scholarship closing date are ineligible, so should not apply.
   1.4. Applicants may be domestic or international students;

2. Value
   2.1. The Scholarship will have a value of $6,000 and will be paid in two equal instalments:
      2.1.1. The first instalment ($3,000) will be paid as soon as practicable after acceptance of the Scholarship;
      2.1.2. The second instalment ($3,000) will be paid as soon as practicable after submission of the report/dissertation/thesis to the donor, via the School of Graduate Research – Scholarships. The report/dissertation/thesis must be on time (see clause 1.3.2) and approved by an academic supervisor and the Development Office prior to the payment being made.
3. Application

3.1. Applications must be submitted using the University’s online system by **31 July each year**.

3.2. Along with the prescribed application form, each applicant must provide:
   - A Personal Statement (using the template provided) that includes the following subheadings:
     - Outline of investigation (clearly indicate the relevance of the research to local government),
     - Expected outputs and outcomes,
     - Timeline of research (including expected start-date and expected date of submission of the report/dissertation/thesis).
   - A brief CV of no more than two A4 pages.

4. Selection Criteria

4.1. The Scholarship will be offered primarily on the basis of:
   - The candidate’s academic merit, which will be assessed on the last two years’ full-time study, or equivalent; and
   - The anticipated relevance of the research outcomes to local government.

5. Selection Panel

5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee as chairperson (or nominee), a member of the Scholarships Committee (appointed by the chairperson) and the donor (Mr John Robson).

5.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.

5.3. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application.

5.4. The Selection Panel’s decision is final. No further correspondence will be entered into following communication of the Panel’s decisions.

6. Awarding and Tenure

6.1. The Scholarship offer must be accepted by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

6.2. If any successful applicant declines a Scholarship or does not take it up, the Selection Panel, may offer the Scholarship to another person.

6.3. The Scholarship offer is conditional on the recipient maintaining all eligibility criteria in clause 1.

6.4. The Scholarship must be taken up within six months of the offer being accepted.
7. Other Conditions

7.1. 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, the University or Funder into disrepute\(^1\), or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship. The holder will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.

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

7.3. The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations in consultation with the donor, and so long as the intent of the scholarship remains.

\(^1\) See Code of Student Conduct.