**Background and Purpose**

Waikato DHB needs to change dramatically. Our people are getting older and are being increasingly affected by long-term illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. This means that we will not be able to continue to provide the health services our people need unless we begin to do things in a different way, while still living within our means.

Additionally, the Waikato DHB services a district where 23 percent of the population is Māori and over 60 percent of the population is rural, yet rural people and Māori have poor access to services.

Funded by the Waikato DHB, the purpose of this Scholarship is to provide support for Master’s students conducting research with links to one or both of the Waikato DHB’s strategic imperatives: 1) Health equity for high need populations, 2) Effective and efficient care and services.

For more information on the Waikato DHB’s Strategy, visit:


**Regulations**

1. **Eligibility**
   
   1.1. To be eligible, applicants must:
   
   1.1.1. be intending to enrol part- or full-time in either a 90-point or 120-point Master’s thesis¹ at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure; and
   
   1.1.2. be conducting research in an area with links to one or both of the Waikato DHB’s strategic imperatives (see above); and
   
   1.1.3. be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

2. **Value**
   
   2.1. The value of the Scholarship is $6,000 and it will be paid to the recipient in two equal instalments.
   
   2.1.1. The first instalment will be paid to the recipient after they have been enrolled in their Master’s thesis paper for two weeks.
   
   2.1.2. The second instalment will be paid to the recipient following submission of their Master’s thesis to the University of Waikato.

2.2. Each Scholarship instalment will be paid to the recipient in the form of a cheque.

¹ Zero-point enrolments do not qualify. Before applying for this Scholarship, please seek programme advice from your Faculty.
3. **Application**
   
   3.1. The closing dates for applications are **10 May** and **10 December**, annually.
   
   3.2. Applicants should apply for the Scholarship prior to commencing their Master’s thesis.
   
   3.3. Applicants must include with their application:
       
       3.3.1. an outline of their proposed research (maximum two A4 pages); and
       
       3.3.2. an academic reference from either their 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 Criteria**
   
   4.1. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of the quality of the applicant’s research outline
       and how closely the proposed research aligns with the Waikato DHB’s strategic
       imperatives.
   
   4.2. Academic merit will also be taken into consideration, with a minimum grade average
       of A- expected for eligibility (calculated on the applicant’s most recent 240 points of
       study).

5. **Selection Panel**
   
   5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of the Chair of the University’s Scholarships
       Committee (or nominee), a University of Waikato academic staff member associated
       with the Centre for Virtual Health and Innovation, and two representatives from the
       Waikato DHB².
   
   5.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making an award if it finds no applicant of
       sufficient merit.
   
   5.3. The Selection Panel’s decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into
       following the selection meeting.

6. **Awarding**
   
   6.1. All applicants will be advised by email of the outcome of their application.
   
   6.2. The Scholarship offer must be accepted by the due date or the offer will lapse.
   
   6.3. Recipients of this award must commence their enrolment in a 90- or 120-point Master’s
       thesis within four months of accepting the Scholarship.
   
   6.4. The thesis should usually be completed within a 12-month period for full-time students
       (pro rata for part-time students), although dispensation may be made in cases where
       the applicant is concurrently enrolled in a number of additional papers.
   
   6.5. Recipients must enrol in the thesis paper listed on their Scholarship application.

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² The two representatives from the Waikato DHB will be selected from the following list:

- Executive Director – Corporate Services
- Executive Director – Te Puna Oranga/Māori Health
- Executive Director – Virtual Care and Innovation
- either the Planning and Integration Manager or the Strategic Planner
6.5.1. 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.

7. Other Conditions

7.1. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarships or awards, provided that the conditions of the other funding do not preclude this.

7.2. 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.

7.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds awarded, if it is satisfied that the recipient is not following the approved programme of study or is not otherwise complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The recipient of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate the award.

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

7.5. Recipients will be invited to present a summary of their research at a Waikato DHB Board meeting.