The AECOM David A. Burns Award in Engineering Geology was established in 2018 to commemorate the contributions to engineering geology made by the late David Andrew Burns (1953-2018). The award was made possible through the generous financial and in-kind support from AECOM, a premier New Zealand and international company that designs, builds, finances, and operates infrastructure assets. David was an engineering geologist with AECOM for many years, working on a wide range of projects in New Zealand and overseas. He was also an office holder with the New Zealand Geotechnical Society for eight years and chair from 2011-2013; during this time he played significant roles in developing a route for engineering geologists to gain professional status as chartered members in Engineering New Zealand, and in revising the guidelines for field description of rocks and soils for engineering purposes.

After graduating from the Department of Earth Sciences at Waikato (1975), David completed a MSc in the same department on carbon and oxygen stable isotope geochemistry of Cenozoic calcareous sedimentary rocks (1981). Before his death, David was a highly respected and experienced Technical Director in ground engineering, despite having no formal training in the discipline other than his University of Waikato degrees in Earth sciences. Thus, the award recognises the personal abilities of David in achieving such status in the engineering geology field, the quality of his founding degrees obtained at University of Waikato, and the support and training he received ‘on the job’ from AECOM. One award will be offered annually for at least five years, starting in 2018.

1. Purpose

1.1. The award was established to encourage and assist graduate students into a career in engineering geology by:

a) providing a $2,000 award during their final year of undergraduate study;

b) an opportunity to undertake a paid summer internship with AECOM after they complete their undergraduate degree; and

c) an opportunity to embark on a Master of Science project in engineering geology of relevance to industry.
2. **Eligibility**

2.1. To be eligible, applicants must be:

a) enrolled full-time in the Faculty of Science and Engineering and undertaking a 300-Level engineering geology paper at the University of Waikato; and

b) be intending to enrol, part- or full-time, in a masters degree in Earth Sciences at the University of Waikato.

c) A New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident.

3. **Value**

3.1. A $2,000 award paid in year 3 of study;

3.2. Offer of a paid summer internship in engineering geology at AECOM during the summer recess following the completion of the 300-Level paper in engineering geology.

4. **Application**

4.1. The annual closing date for applications is:

a) **1 September** when the 300-Level paper in engineering geology is taught in Semester A.

b) **1 October** when the 300-Level paper in engineering geology is taught in Semester B.

4.2. Applicants should submit the following along with their online application:

- A CV of no more than two A4 pages;
- A Personal Statement, which includes the following subheadings:
  - Future plans
  - Interest in engineering geology (200 word maximum)
  - Any special circumstances (such as financial hardship) relevant to the application
- The name of the degree in which they are enrolled, enrolment status (full- or part-time), and a summary of papers being taken at level 3, including grades.

5. **Selection Criteria**

5.1. The award will be assessed on academic merit, taking into consideration performance in the Level 3 paper in engineering geology, along with motivation of the applicant and any special circumstances.
6. Selection Panel

6.1. The selection panel shall include the Principal Lecturer in Engineering Geology; a Professor in Earth Sciences; an AECOM representative appointed by a relevant Director; and the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) as chairperson.

6.2. The selection panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.

6.3. The selection panel decision must be unanimous for the award to be made

6.4. The selection panel’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

7. Awarding

7.1. The successful applicant will be notified by AECOM approximately one month after the applications close (i.e., by early October or early November depending on which of sections 4.1(a) or 4.1(b) applies), followed by an offer letter from the School of Graduate Research-Scholarships.

7.2. The offer of an Award must be accepted by the date indicated in the letter of offer, which will include information regarding the internship for the forthcoming summer period.

7.3. The cash grant will normally be made available in November.

7.4. It is anticipated that the awardee will enrol in a masters degree specialising in engineering geology at the University of Waikato after completing the summer internship with AECOM. It is possible that the topic for thesis research could be developed during the summer internship.

7.5. Unsuccessful applications will be notified by the School of Graduate Research-Scholarships approximately one to two months after the applications close.

8. Tenure

8.1. The Award will have a maximum tenure of one year.

9. Other Conditions

9.1. Students may hold the award on one occasion only.

9.2. The award may be held along with any bursary, prize, or student allowance, unless the conditions of any other awards precludes this tenure.

9.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a Scholarship at any time and recoup any funds disbursed if the holder withdraws from the University, brings the scholarship programme or the University or AECOM into disrepute, or is otherwise
not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.

9.4. In signing and returning the Scholarship acceptance form, the student will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions for the award and retention of the Scholarship.

9.5. By accepting an award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the award arranged by the University of Waikato or AECOM in consultation with the other.