

Dr Zena Daysh Doctoral Scholarship in Sustainable Development – 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The Dr Zena Daysh Scholarship in Sustainable Development (previously the Dr Zena Daysh Fellowship in Sustainable Development between 2013 and 2023) was established in 2012 to promote Dr Daysh's mission to foster a holistic, integrative, and sustainable approach to development, as outlined by the [Commonwealth Human Ecology Council \(CHEC\)](#).

New Zealand-born, Dr Daysh was the founder of the CHEC and Foundation. Dr Daysh was a life-long advocate of the interdisciplinary approach to social, political, health, and environmental issues embodied in the field of sustainability or, as Dr Daysh put it, human ecology. In London, 2009 the University of Waikato awarded Zena an honorary doctorate in recognition of work on the CHEC and many other accomplishments. When she passed away in 2011, a generous bequest was made from her estate to the University of Waikato Foundation, to support research students studying a field relevant to sustainable development. One scholarship will be awarded each year.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. To be eligible, applicants must:

- 1.1.1. have been awarded and have accepted one of the following University of Waikato doctoral scholarships in year prior to applications closing:
 - University of Waikato Doctoral Scholarship.
 - University of Waikato Māori Doctoral Scholarship.
 - University of Waikato Doctoral Scholarship for Pacific Peoples.
 - University of Waikato Partnership Doctoral Scholarship.
 - University of Waikato Seeker Doctoral Scholarship.
- 1.1.2. be undertaking research that aligns with Dr Daysh's mission, as outlined by the [Commonwealth Human Ecology Council](#).
- 1.1.3. Have submitted complete applications by the due date and ensure that letters of reference are submitted on time.

1.2. Selection of the recipient is based on the following criteria:

- 1.2.1. Academic merit.
- 1.2.2. Alignment of the research topic to Dr Daysh's mission for human ecology.
- 1.2.3. Likelihood of the applicant to foster advancement of Dr Daysh's mission in the future.
- 1.2.4. Alignment of the research with the aims and interests of the [Commonwealth Human Ecology Council](#) (CHEC) will strengthen an application.
- 1.2.5. Where one or more applicants are equally meritorious, then strategic priorities of scholars will be considered, including knowledge of Mātauranga Māori and/or Pacific knowledges.

1.3. Not included in selection considerations are academic supervisor or financial need.

1.4. To maintain eligibility recipients must:

- 1.4.1. Complete and begin enrolment as a doctoral scholar by 01 July in the year of scholarship offer.
- 1.4.2. In each year of tenure:
 - a. Meet all ongoing eligibility criteria of the recipient's University of Waikato funded doctoral scholarship listed in Clause 1.1.1.
 - b. Submit a written annual report, endorsed by the chief supervisor, to the Development Office (development@waikato.ac.nz). This report will be made available to the Commonwealth Human Ecology Foundation, outlining the impact that the award has made on research, achievements, and progress of the research.

2. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 2.1. The Scholarship will provide **\$6,000** annual living allowance on top of the scholarship awarded under Clause 1.1.1, paid in monthly instalments, and conditional on the recipient meeting all of clause 1.4.
- 2.2. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer through their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the date indicated or the offer will lapse.
- 2.3. The total tenure of the Scholarship is 36 months (three years) of full-time doctoral enrolment (or equivalent for part-time study), with payments aligned to the scholarship awarded under Clause 1.1.1 and conditional on the applicant also meeting Clause 1.2 as above.
- 2.4. Where not already enrolled, the accepted Scholarship will remain valid until 01 July in the year of award, after which the scholarship will lapse and may be offered to a reserve candidate.
- 2.5. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will:
 - 2.5.1. be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted these regulations, as well as the associated terms and conditions of the Scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 2.5.2. agree to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

3. Application

- 3.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 January annually**.
- 3.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide information on the following:
 - 3.2.1. A 250-word synopsis of their research project, emphasizing relevance to sustainability/human ecology;
 - 3.2.2. Short statements outlining:
 - a. why completing their postgraduate research is important to the applicant and their future study/career plans;
 - b. the applicant's dedication to sustainability/human ecology in the past and/or general;

- c. how the applicant's research aligns with the aims and interests of the CHEC (www.checinternational.org)
 - d. Any other information that may be of relevance to the Selection Panel.
- 3.3. Each applicant must also:
 - 3.3.1. upload a brief academic CV (i.e., includes publications, teaching, conference attendance, etc).
 - 3.3.2. request submission of a reference / letter of support from their Chief Academic Supervisor.

4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. In the year of award, all eligible applications will be ranked by their Division/Faculty/School.
- 4.2. The list of ranked applicants will be put forward for consideration by the [Scholarships Executive](#), on behalf of Academic Board.
- 4.3. The Scholarships Executive may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
- 4.4. The Scholarships Executive's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. The Award may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 5.2. If a recipient's [doctoral enrolment](#) ends during the Scholarship term, due to the recipient submitting their thesis for examination, or for any other reason¹, the Scholarship will end from the same date as the end of the recipient's doctoral enrolment.
- 5.3. If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance, another scholarship, or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.
- 5.4. If a recipient's circumstances change in a manner which may affect their continued eligibility for this Scholarship, they must inform the Scholarships Executive immediately (via scholarships@waikato.ac.nz). Any change of circumstances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 5.5. The Postgraduate Research Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Scholarships Executive regarding Progress Reports of Scholarship recipients that identify performance that is below expectations.
- 5.6. The Scholarships Executive may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the recipient:
 - 5.6.1. is not meeting expectations in their doctoral progress reports;
 - 5.6.2. is not following the approved programme of study; or,

¹ For example, completion, withdrawal, or termination.

- 5.6.3. brings the University into disrepute², or otherwise does not comply with the regulations governing the Scholarship.
- 5.7. The Scholarship recipient will have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate a Scholarship by writing to scholarships@waikato.ac.nz, who will forward the appeal to the Research Committee.
- 5.8. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

² See the [Student Code of Conduct](#).