Dr Zena Daysh Doctoral Scholarship in Sustainable Development – 2027

The Dr Zena Daysh Doctoral 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. be a current recipient of one of the following University of Waikato doctoral scholarships:

- 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 a complete application by the due date and ensured 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 the University will be considered, including knowledge of Mātauranga Māori and/or Pacific knowledges.

1.3. Where available, information contained within doctoral progress reports may be considered by the Selection Panel when assessing applications.

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

1.5. **To maintain eligibility recipients must:**

1.5.1. Complete and begin enrolment as a doctoral scholar by 01 July in the year of awarding.

1.5.2. 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 and should outline the impact that the Scholarship has had on the recipient's research, achievements, and progress.

2. Value, Tenure and Awarding

2.1. The Scholarship provides a living allowance of **up to $6,000 per annum** in addition to the scholarship awarded under Clause 1.1.1. The allowance will be paid in monthly instalments and is conditional upon the recipient continuing to meet the requirements of clause 1.5.

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 up to 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 1.5 as above.

2.4. Where not already enrolled, the accepted Scholarship will remain valid until 01 July in the year of awarding, 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 which includes a list of any research outputs including publications, teaching experience, conference attendance and other research activities, 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, whether through submission of the thesis for examination, withdrawal, termination or any other reason, 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. has their enrolment terminated for any reason (e.g. see clause 23 of the Higher Research Degree Regulations);

5.6.2. is not following the approved programme of study; or,

5.6.3. brings the University into disrepute[1], 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 Postgraduate 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.

[1] See the Student Code of Conduct