The University of Waikato Doctoral Scholarship - 2027

The University of Waikato Doctoral Scholarship was established in 1996 (previously the University of Waikato Postgraduate Scholarship till 1998) to support excellence in postgraduate research. The Scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis to outstanding candidates, and the number awarded each year is dependent on available funding.

1. Purpose

To support excellence in postgraduate research by enabling outstanding candidates to undertake an approved higher research degree qualification at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. **To be eligible**, candidates must:

2.1.1. be a New Zealand Citizen, New Zealand Permanent Resident, New Zealand Resident Class Visa holder, Australian Citizen/Permanent Resident domiciled in New Zealand, or an international student.

2.1.2. have submitted a complete Application to Enrol **and** have received an Offer of Place into a doctoral qualification at the University of Waikato (i.e., a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Health Science (DHSc), Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA), Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD)[1]

2.1.3. normally be intending to study full-time at the University of Waikato. Candidates who seek to enrol on a part-time basis should refer to clause 6.2.

2.1.4. not be employed by the University of Waikato. However, employment as a fixed-term sessional assistant, or similar, may be permitted, provided the hours worked do not contravene clause 6.1.2. Current University of Waikato employees applying for this Scholarship must indicate in their application how they will ensure any ongoing employment complies with the requirements set out in clause 6.1.2 if the Scholarship is awarded.

2.2. Candidates will be considered **ineligible** if they:

2.2.1. already hold a doctoral qualification (or equivalent).

2.2.2. have not yet received an Offer of Place in a doctoral qualification by the closing date of the scholarship round in which they have applied. In this case, applicants may reapply for the next round, if all other eligibility criteria are met.

2.2.3. have commenced enrolment in a doctoral qualification prior to the closing date of the scholarship round in which they are seeking consideration.

2.2.4. have already been considered twice for this scholarship.

2.3. **Selection is based on the following criteria**:

2.3.1. Academic merit: Applicants will normally be expected to have achieved a minimum **grade point average (GPA) of A-,** based on the qualification used for entry to the doctoral programme.

[1]Candidates enrolling in an EdD may apply for the University of Waikato Taught Postgraduate Scholarship for Part 1 of the enrolment and the Doctoral Catalyst Scholarship for Part 2 of enrolment.

2.3.2. Other factors taken into consideration include: experience of applicant and readiness for independent research (e.g. prior research and professional experience relevant to the research topic; references; publications); capability and capacity of supervision panel to support the successful completion of the proposed research; appropriate consideration of Mātauranga Māori and Pacific Knowledges and access to appropriate supervisory expertise, where relevant to the proposed research; alignment with strategic research priorities of the University/Divisions/Faculties/Schools and/or Research Institutes; and the potential for generating impact including advancement of sustainable development goals.

3. Application and Required Information and Supporting Documentation

3.1. Applications are considered in four rounds each year. The closing dates for online applications are **31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 31 October** with selection panels convening in **early March, early June, early September, and early December.** Applications **are not** considered outside these rounds.

3.2. Candidates will only be considered who have

3.2.1. received an Offer of Place in the doctoral programme that remains valid at the time the application is considered (see PhD and Higher Research Degree Application Process for more details regarding admission to the programme)**.**

3.2.2. completed an application to the University of Waikato Doctoral Scholarships Suite for the round in which they are to be considered.

3.3. Candidates are ranked by a sub-committee of the Faculty or Division. Ranking does not necessarily result in an offer and in any one round a Faculty or Division may not have a Scholarship recipient

3.4. The University of Waikato Scholarships Executive considers the applications and decides on the number of offers each round based on total available funding, ranking by the Faculty or Division, and selection criteria in clause 2.3.

3.5. The Scholarships Executive's decision is final; no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

3.6. **Required Information and Supporting documents**

3.6.1. As part of the online application process, each applicant must include information on the following:

3.6.1.1. Confirmation of the proposed thesis title;

3.6.1.2. Confirmation of the approved Chief Supervisor;

3.6.1.3. A statement on how your academic background, and research or professional experiences have prepared you to undertake your proposed doctoral research project and contribute positively to the research environment *[Guidance note: please refer to specific examples in your response*].

3.6.1.4. A statement on how your proposed research project will advance knowledge or influence practice in your field, and explain why this contribution is timely and important *[Guidance note: In your response, consider explaining the problem or knowledge gap that your research will address or how the creative process will provide a novel perspective on the topic].*

3.6.1.5. A statement outlining if your proposed research has connections to Mātauranga Māori or Pacific knowledges and how your research

approach will give effect to the principles and values of Te Tiriti o Waitangi The Treaty of Waitangi. *[Guidance note: Where your proposed research involves working with Māori or Pacific communities or data, please outline the engagement and data governance practices you will adopt].*

3.6.1.6. A reflection on the broader significance of your research and how it may generate impact beyond academia. How do you plan to engage with these wider audiences? *[Guidance note: Research impact can be realised through benefits to society, economy, environment, health or culture. In your response, consider how your research might be used by different audiences to bring about positive change and development].*

3.6.1.7. A description of your career aspirations and explain how your proposed doctoral research will help advance these goals. What skills or capabilities do you wish to develop to support your future career?

3.6.2. Applicants will also need to:

3.6.2.1. Provide an updated academic transcript if any details have changed since the original application to enrol (e.g., completion of a qualification and revised GPA).

3.6.2.2. Provide a brief academic CV which includes a list of any research outputs including publications, teaching experience, conference attendance and other research activities

3.6.2.3. Request submission of up to two references, and provide contact details for referee(s) within the application, including:

3.6.2.3.1. One academic reference from prior study or research experience (mandatory), usually this would be from a member of staff at the institution where you obtained the entry qualification for the University of Waikato doctoral programme.

3.6.2.3.2. one professional reference (optional) from prior or current employment related to proposed doctoral research

4. Awarding and ongoing eligibility:

4.1. Successful recipients:

4.1.1. will be advised of the Scholarship outcome up to 8 weeks after the closing date of the round in which they have applied.

4.1.2. must accept the offer of a Scholarship within 28 days of the offer being made, or the offer will lapse.

4.2. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will:

4.2.1. 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.

4.2.2. agree to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

4.3. A Scholarship may only be taken up by a candidate who has formally completed the entry qualifications for, and enrolled in, a doctoral qualification.

4.4. The accepted Scholarship will remain valid as long as the associated Offer of Place or enrolment in the doctoral qualification is also valid.

4.5. If a recipient's circumstances change in a manner which may affect their continued eligibility for this Scholarship, including becoming employed by the University, they must inform their Supervisor and the Scholarships Executive (via scholarships@waikato.ac.nz) immediately. Any change of circumstances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

5. Value and Tenure

5.1. The value of the **standard** Scholarship includes:

5.1.1. A living allowance of $33,000 in total every 12 months, payable in monthly instalments for up to 36 months (three years) in total. For approved part-time students, the living allowance is paid on a pro-rata basis

5.1.2. The **domestic** tuition fees for enrolment in the doctoral qualification during the tenure of the Scholarship; and

5.1.3. The Student Services Fee.

5.2. Where the Scholarships Executive has deemed it appropriate, a **fees-only** Scholarship may be offered. The value of a fees-only Scholarship shall normally be:

5.2.1. The domestic tuition fees for enrolment in the doctoral qualification during the tenure of the Scholarship; and

5.2.2. The Student Services Fee.

5.3. Any additional costs such as medical insurance, moving costs, and research expenses must be met by other means.

5.4. The total tenure of the Scholarship will not exceed 36 months (three years) of full-time doctoral enrolment (or equivalent for part-time study).

5.4.1. For candidates enrolling in a DHSc, DMA, or SJD programme, the tenure of the Doctoral Scholarship will begin on the date that they commence their Part 1 DHSc, DMA, or SJD enrolment.

5.4.2. Candidates may choose to commence their enrolment in the doctoral programme prior to being advised of the outcome of scholarship application, provided the commencement date is after the closing date of the scholarship round in accordance with clause 2.2.3. If awarded, the scholarship will be backdated to the start date of their enrolment.

5.5. If a recipient's doctoral enrolment ends during the Scholarship term, due to the recipient submitting their 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.

6. Holidays, Employment, , Part-time Study, and Suspension of Study

6.1. The University of Waikato is committed to ensuring the wellbeing of its students. Thus, **full-time scholarship recipients**:

6.1.1. Are expected to undertake their doctoral studies full-time (i.e., 37.5 hours per week) and may take up to four weeks holiday each year (not including University and Public Holidays) without applying for suspension of their scholarship.

6.1.2. Are not permitted to undertake paid employment that exceeds an annual total of 500 hours (i.e., not work more than 6 days per week when combining doctoral studies and paid employment). Permission to exceed an annual total of 500 hours paid employment must be sought from the Scholarships Executive (via the Scholarship Variation Request form) and will only be approved in exceptional circumstances (e.g., where the work is part of the data collection).

6.2. Part-time scholarship recipients:

6.2.1. Recipients who have socially compelling reasons for enrolling in part-time study (e.g., illness, disability, parent or carer responsibilities) may apply to the Scholarships Executive for permission to retain the scholarship part-time. The recipient should submit a Scholarship Variation Request outlining the reasons for the request and providing appropriate evidence of the need to study part-time. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

6.2.2. During any period of part-time enrolment, the value, tenure, employment allowances and duration of a recipient's Scholarship will be adjusted on a pro rata basis.

6.2.3. Recipients will not be granted permission to hold this Scholarship on a part-time basis to undertake full-time paid employment or where combined days worked on doctoral studies and in employment exceed 6 days a week, or where annual holidays are forfeited.

6.2.4. Recipients are required to transfer to full-time enrolment if a change in their circumstances means they no longer qualify to hold the Scholarship part-time.

6.3. **Suspension of studies**

6.3.1. Scholarships may only be paid to enrolled students. This means that doctoral recipients on suspension are not eligible to receive any Scholarship funds for any reason. This includes suspension related to parental, medical or compassionate leave. In the case of overpayment, the School of Graduate Research will work with the recipient to recoup the funds.

7. Co-tenure

7.1. The recipient may hold other awards that provide funds for research and/or conference purposes. However, recipients:

7.1.1. may hold lower-value awards which also allow co-tenure, provided the combined value of all other awards does not exceed fifty percent of the living allowance of this Scholarship in any one year.

7.1.2. must seek permission to retain both scholarships where one or multiple award(s) with a combined value higher than fifty percent of the full value of the living allowance of this Scholarship (which also allows co-tenure) have been attained. The recipient must apply to the Scholarships Executive (via Scholarship Variation Request form), providing evidence of the value of each scholarship and justification for holding both awards.

7.1.3. must relinquish their University of Waikato funded Scholarship if also offered a scholarship by a government sponsoring body, or a partner of the University (e.g., China Scholarship Council (CSC) Scholarship). In some cases, recipients may apply to the Scholarships Executive for permission to hold both scholarships concurrently via the Scholarship Variation Request form.

7.2. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

8. Other Conditions

8.1. 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.

8.2. The Scholarships Executive may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the recipient:

8.2.1. has their enrolment terminated for any reason (e.g. see clause 23 of the Higher Research Degree Regulations);

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

8.2.3. brings the University into disrepute[2], or otherwise does not comply with the regulations governing the Scholarship.

8.3. 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.

8.4. The University of Waikato may, from time to time, vary these regulations.

[2] See the Student Code of Conduct.