The University of Waikato Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship – 2027

The University of Waikato Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship was established in 2021 to support outstanding students of Māori and Pacific descent who have demonstrated academic excellence and potential for an academic career. The scholarship specifically supports candidates with knowledge of Mātauranga Māori, te reo Māori and/or Pacific languages, cultures, communities, and wider Pacific knowledges by providing a pathway into an academic career at University of Waikato. Up to five Scholarships will be awarded each year.

1. Purpose

To support outstanding Māori and/or Pacific students to pursue academic careers at the University of Waikato and strengthen Māori and Pacific representation and academic capability within the University's future academic workforce.

2. Eligibility

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

- 2.1.1. of New Zealand Māori and/or of Pacific descent.
- 2.1.2. a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- 2.1.3. enrolling in a doctoral qualification (e.g., a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Health Science (DHSc), Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA), Doctor of Education (EdD), Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD), or Part 2 of a Doctor of Education (EdD).
- 2.1.4. intending to study full-time for the duration of their doctoral qualification. Candidates who seek to enrol on a part-time basis should refer to clause 8.2.
- 2.1.5. Enrolled in, or intending to enrol in a doctoral qualification at either:
  - 2.1.5.1. the University of Waikato, with a viable plan to undertake part of their doctoral research at another university or other similar research institute (hereafter university), **or**
  - 2.1.5.2. at another university.

2.2. Current doctoral students who have completed less than 12 months of full-time enrolment at the closing date may also apply, but if successful will receive a reduced tenure offer.

2.3. Applicants who are full-time or continuing employees of the University of Waikato **are not eligible** to receive the Scholarship while employees. However, employment as a fixed-term sessional assistant, or similar, may be permitted, provided the hours worked do not contravene Clause 8.1.2

2.4. The University of Waikato reserves the right to solicit applications from suitably qualified individuals.

2.5. Applicants will be deemed ineligible if:

- 2.5.1. They already hold a doctoral qualification (or equivalent)
- 2.5.2. the application is incomplete.
- 2.5.3. There is no clear evidence that they intend to study at another university.

2.6. On-going eligibility for recipients is conditional on the following:

2.6.1. formally completing the entry qualifications for, and enrolling full-time in, an approved doctoral qualification and following the approved programme of study.

2.6.2. meeting expectations in all doctoral reports. Doctoral reports, endorsed by the Chief Supervisor, must be submitted to scholarships@waikato.ac.nz at least every 6 months.

2.7. 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 Chief Supervisor and the Scholarships Executive immediately (via scholarships@waikato.ac.nz). Any change of circumstances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

3. Selection Criteria, Panel and Process

3.1. Selection is based on the following:

3.1.1. academic merit in a discipline of strategic importance to the University of Waikato.

3.1.2. knowledge of mātauranga Māori, te reo Māori and/or Pacific languages, cultures, communities, knowledges and languages of their community in the Pacific (as appropriate).

3.1.3. alignment of the proposed area of study with the strategic staffing plans and research priorities of the University/Divisions/Faculties/Schools and/or Research Institutes.

3.1.4. in the case that enrolment is at a university other than the University of Waikato, then applications will be judged against the quality, location and strategic alignment to the intent of this scholarship with the other university (with a strong preference for the other university to be international).

3.2. Applications will be considered by the University of Waikato Scholarships Executive who may consult with relevant Faculties/Divisions/Schools, the Director (International) and/or the Vice-Chancellor before making decisions to award any scholarships.

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

4. Application and Required Information and Supporting Documents

4.1. The closing date for online applications is **31 January** and **31 July** each year.

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

4.2.1. **Proposed Research**: title of the research, chief supervisor who has agreed to supervise them, and summary of research (outlining how the proposed research will advance knowledge or influence practice and explaining why this contribution is timely and important, reflecting on the broader significance within and beyond academia).

4.2.2. **Draft Timeline**, including date of enrolment, when time will be spent at another institution, and expected completion date.

4.2.3. **Universities where study will be undertaken**: a brief statement outlining the quality of the other university/department (i.e. not University of Waikato), the suitability of the supervisor/colleague at that university to support the research, and anticipated opportunities from studying at that university.

4.2.4. **Academic Career Path**: A brief statement of why the applicant wants to be an academic at the University of Waikato, which School/Faculty/Division they anticipate they would best suit their academic interests, and what they would

bring to the School/Faculty/Division and University after they complete their doctoral studies. Include details of how time spent at another university will contribute to their broader academic development, and how that will occur.

4.2.5. **Cultural Affiliations and Knowledge**: a statement outlining their knowledge of mātauranga Māori, te reo Māori and/or knowledges and languages of their Pacific communities (as appropriate).

4.2.6. **Other information**: include other details that may be of relevance to the Scholarships Executive.

4.3. Applicants will also need to:

4.3.1. Upload a curriculum vitae in the RSNZ format.

4.3.2. Upload previous academic transcripts (unless all tertiary study has been completed at University of Waikato).

4.3.3. Request submission of two confidential references from different people:

4.3.3.1. One from someone who can attest to their character and cultural competencies.

4.3.3.2. One from their proposed doctoral supervisor who will outline the importance of the research, collaborations and future possibilities for the student.

4.3.4. Upload a supporting statement from the Head of School (or other) from the University of Waikato School/Faculty/Division agreeing to the likelihood of a suitable academic position available at the completion of the doctoral studies.

4.4. **Students not already enrolled, but intending to enrol at the University of Waikato must also** complete their Application to Enrol in a doctoral degree at the University of Waikato **prior to** submitting their application.

5. Awarding

5.1. Successful recipients:

5.1.1. will be advised of the scholarship outcome within 8 weeks of the closing date.

5.1.2. must accept the offer of the Scholarship by the date indicated within the offer or the offer will lapse.

5.2. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will:

5.2.1. be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the regulations and terms and conditions of the Scholarship, and the Scholarships Policy.

5.2.2. Agree to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

5.2.3. Understand that while the Scholarship supports a pathway into academia, recipients must still satisfy the requirements of any academic recruitment process and be a suitable candidate for the position available, and that appointment to an academic position is not guaranteed.

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

5.4. The Scholarship is awarded only for the period for which the student is enrolled in a doctoral qualification, and only for the agreed tenure. In the case of reduced tenure, the scholarship term will be clearly outlined in the offer documentation.

6. Value and Tenure

6.1. The value of the standard Scholarship includes:

6.1.1. a living allowance of NZ**$40,000** in total every 12 months, payable in monthly instalments for the agreed tenure of the scholarship. For approved part-time students, the living allowance is paid on a pro-rata basis

6.1.2. the tuition fees for enrolment in the doctoral qualification during the tenure of the Scholarship at the relevant university.

6.1.3. Student Services Fees, health insurance, removal costs or other additional costs of enrolment at the relevant University as approved by the Scholarships Executive.

6.1.4. a return economy class airfare to the University where study is being undertaken, and relevant costs associated with that airfare, where the airfare is booked through the University of Waikato corporate travel provider.

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

6.2.1. for recipients enrolling in a DHSc, DMA, or SJD programme, the scholarship tenure begins on the date that Part 1 enrolment begins.

6.2.2. should the recipient not complete their qualification after three years from initial enrolment, they may apply for an additional period of scholarship support not exceeding 12 months. Additional tenure is at the discretion of the Scholarships Executive, in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor, on submission of satisfactory evidence that the qualification can be completed within the additional time period indicated.

6.2.3. should a recipient submit their thesis for examination during the Scholarship period (and provided the recipient remains enrolled), the Scholarship will end after its full term or upon the recipient's completion of the doctoral qualification, whichever is the earlier date. Completion occurs when the relevant body at the University awarding the degree recommends that it be awarded.

6.2.4. if, for any reason[1], a recipient's doctoral enrolment ends during the Scholarship term the Scholarship will end from the same date.

7. Co-tenure

7.1. If the recipient is offered/already holds another University of Waikato funded doctoral scholarship, then they must choose one. Recipients may only hold one University of Waikato funded doctoral scholarship at any one time.

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

7.2.1. 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.

7.2.2. 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.

8. Part-time Study, Suspension, and Employment While Studying

8.1. The University of Waikato is committed to ensuring the wellbeing of its students. Students are expected to study full time while on this scholarship. **Full-time scholarship recipients**:

[1] For example, completion, withdrawal, or termination.

8.1.1. 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.

8.1.2. 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).

8.2. **Part-time scholarship recipients**

8.2.1. 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.

8.2.2. 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.

8.2.3. 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.

8.2.4. 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.

8.3. **Suspension of studies**

8.3.1. 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 cases of overpayment, the School of Graduate Research will work with the recipient to recoup the funds to ensure stipend payments align with enrolment and study.

9. Bond for Employment Following Completion of Doctoral Study

9.1. As a condition of the acceptance of the Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship, recipients are expected to accept employment as a full-time member of the Academic Staff of the University of Waikato on standard terms and conditions for a period equivalent to the term of their Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship.

9.2. Should the scholarship recipient decline the offer of employment at the completion of the Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship, the University of Waikato reserves the right to seek reimbursement of an amount (or, at the sole discretion of the University, some part of an amount) equivalent to the difference between the living allowance received under this scholarship, and the living allowance that would have been received under a standard University of Waikato Doctoral Scholarship.

9.3. If the University of Waikato does not have an appropriate academic position for the Scholarship recipient on completion of their doctoral study, the University of Waikato at its sole discretion will waive the requirement to accept employment at the University of Waikato and also waive the requirement to refund any amount of the Scholarship.

10. Other Conditions

10.1. 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.

10.2. 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.

10.3. The Postgraduate Research Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Scholarships Executive regarding progress reports of recipients that identify performance that is below expectations.

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

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

10.4.2. is not following the approved programme of study.

10.4.3. brings the University of Waikato and/or University of study into disrepute[2], or otherwise does not comply with the regulations governing the Scholarship.

10.5. 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.

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

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[2] See the Student Code of Conduct.