



The University of Waikato Pacific Doctoral Scholarship was established in 2021 to support the aspirations of Pacific Peoples wanting to study at the doctoral level at University of Waikato. The University acknowledges a need to offer a scholarship that attracts students who can demonstrate academic merit, but also relevant experience, an understanding of Pacific knowledges, and a desire to study a topic that aligns with the research priorities of the University. Up to 15 Scholarships will be awarded each year with the number dependent on funding available.

1. Purpose

To support excellence in postgraduate research to high-achieving candidates of Pacific descent applying for admission to an approved doctoral qualification at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility, Selection Criteria and Selection Process

2.1. To be eligible, candidates must:

- 2.1.1. be of Pacific Island descent; and
- 2.1.2. be enrolling in a doctoral qualification, (i.e. a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Health Science (DHSc), Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA), Doctor of Education (EdD), or Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD)), at the University of Waikato; and
- 2.1.3. be seeking to obtain their first doctoral qualification; and
- 2.1.4. Normally be intending to study **full-time** at the University of Waikato (but see clause 5.2 below); and
- 2.1.5. Not be employed by the University of Waikato. However, employment as a sessional assistant, or similar, may be permitted, provided the hours worked do not contravene Clause 5.

2.2. Selection is based on:

- 2.2.1. Academic merit and a minimum grade point average (GPA) of A- (calculated over the previous two years of full-time study) is expected.
- 2.2.2. Other factors taken into consideration, especially for applicants with a GPA lower than A-, include: experience of applicant (e.g., references, prior research and work experience, publications); understanding of Pacific knowledges; alignment of research topic with research priorities of the University/ Divisions/ Faculties/ Schools and/or Research Institutes.

2.3. The selection process is as follows:

- 2.3.1. Applications are ranked by a committee of the Faculty/Division/School, which take into account the selection criteria (Clause 2.2) and supervisory capacity. The committee also considers applications for an Offer of Place in the doctoral programme.

- 2.3.2. The University of Waikato [Scholarships Executive](#) considers the Faculty/Division/School rankings, and makes decisions on the number of Scholarship offers to be made in each round based on total available funding, ranking, number of applications, and University strategic priorities. High ranking by a Faculty or Division does not necessarily result in a Scholarship offer, and in any one round a Faculty/Division/School may not have a Scholarship recipient.
- 2.3.3. The Scholarships Executive's decision is final. No further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
- 2.4. **Ongoing eligibility for recipients is conditional on:**
 - 2.4.1. Formally completing the entry qualifications for, and enrolling in, a doctoral qualification and following the approved programme of study; and
 - 2.4.2. Meeting expectations in all doctoral reports; and
 - 2.4.3. Registering with and ongoing involvement in the Challenge the Horizon Higher Learner initiative.
- 2.5. If a recipient's circumstances change in a manner which may affect their continued eligibility for this Scholarship, they must inform their Supervisor and the Scholarships Committee immediately (via scholarships@waikato.ac.nz). Any change of circumstances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

3. Application and Awarding

- 3.1. As part of their [Application to Enrol](#) in a doctoral degree at the University of Waikato, candidates have the opportunity to request consideration for this Scholarship. Applications considered in three rounds each year and a complete [Application to Enrol](#) must be submitted by **31 January, 31 May, or 30 September**. Applications will not be considered outside of these rounds.
- 3.2. Successful candidates will be advised of the Scholarship outcome at, or close to, the time that they are advised of the outcome of their [Application to Enrol](#). Not all candidates given an Offer of Place in a doctoral qualification will be offered a Scholarship.
 - 3.2.1. The offer of the Scholarship must be accepted by the date indicated within the offer or the offer will lapse.
 - 3.2.2. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the regulations and terms and conditions of the Scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 3.2.3. The accepted Scholarship will remain valid as long as the associated Offer of Place in a doctoral qualification is also valid, and will only start once the recipient formally enrolls in a doctoral degree at the University of Waikato.
 - 3.2.4. By accepting the Scholarship offer, the candidate agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

4. Value and Tenure

4.1. The value of the Scholarship shall be:

4.1.1. A living allowance of **\$25,000** in total every 12 months, payable in monthly instalments for up to 36 months (three years) in total. The living allowance is paid on a pro-rata basis for approved part-time students.

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

4.1.3. The Student Services Levy.

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

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

4.3.1. For candidates enrolling in an DHSc, EdD or SJD programme, the tenure will begin on the date that Part 1 enrolment begins.

4.3.2. Should a recipient submit their thesis for examination during the Scholarship period (and provided the candidate 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 Postgraduate Research Committee recommends awarding of the degree.

4.3.3. If, for any reason¹, a recipient's [doctoral enrolment](#) ends during the Scholarship term, the Scholarship will end from the same date.

5. Part-time Study, Employment, Suspension, and Holidays

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

5.1.1. Are expected to work on 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.

5.1.2. 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 scholarships@waikato.ac.nz) and will only be approved in exceptional circumstances (e.g., where the work is part of the data collection).

5.2. **Part-time scholarship recipients:**

5.2.1. Candidates 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 be awarded the Scholarship. The candidate should email scholarships@waikato.ac.nz, 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.

¹ For example, completion, withdrawal, or termination.

- 5.2.2. 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.
- 5.2.3. Candidates will not be granted permission to hold this scholarship on a part-time basis if they wish 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.
- 5.2.4. 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.

5.3. **Suspension of studies:**

- 5.3.1. 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.
- 5.3.2. Recipients are not eligible to receive Scholarship funds during periods of suspension of doctoral enrolment for any reason. In the cases of overpayment, the School of Graduate Research will work with the recipient to recoup the funds.

6. **Co-tenure**

- 6.1. The recipient may hold any other awards that provide funds for research and/or conference purposes.
- 6.2. The recipient must advise the Scholarships Committee (via email to scholarships@waikato.ac.nz), of awards received that include a living stipend and/or fees component, noting:
 - 6.2.1. They may hold lower-value awards provided the combined value of all other awards does not exceed 50% of the living allowance of this Scholarship in any one year.
 - 6.2.2. If offered an award with a higher-value than this Scholarship, which also allows co-tenure, the recipient must apply to the Scholarships Executive for permission to receive the additional funding while retaining up to fifty per cent of the current living allowance of this Scholarship. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

7. **Other Conditions**

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. The Postgraduate Research Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Scholarships Executive in regards to Progress Reports of Scholarship recipients that identify performance that is below expectations.

- 7.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the recipient:
- 7.3.1. is not meeting expectations in their doctoral progress reports;
 - 7.3.2. is not following the approved programme of study; or,
 - 7.3.3. brings the University into disrepute², or otherwise does not comply with the regulations governing the Scholarship.
- 7.4. 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 Scholarships Executive.
- 7.5. The University of Waikato may, from time to time, vary these regulations.

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