



Rationale and Purpose

The University of Waikato Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship (hereafter Scholarship) was developed to:

- **Address the imbalance:** Increase the number of academics of Māori and Pacific descent across all disciplines at the University of Waikato.
- **Bridge the gap:** Provide a clear pathway from doctoral research to a continuing role in academia while ensuring that recipients are well supported and can, in turn, support their community's interests and capacity-building within a wide range of disciplines. Many people from underrepresented areas drop out of academia at early career stages due to lack of available opportunities.
- **Strengthen international connections:** Provide a platform for excellent Māori and Pacific doctoral candidates to grow international connections and a global community that will provide them with a strong basis for future research collaborations while a member of academic staff at the University of Waikato. The ability to succeed in academia depends on being able to generate fresh and unique ideas for research outputs and funding applications. Many of the highest level opportunities require interacting in international teams, and being internationally-recognised. Such networks often start during doctoral studies, and build into lifetime collaborations and mentorships, provide places for future study leave visits, and similar opportunities
- **Increase diversity of research groups:** Capture the diversity of academic thought from other high-quality Universities globally that can be brought back to University of Waikato to contribute to the vibrancy of our community. Highly functioning academic institutions involve diverse thinkers brought together by a common purpose.
- **Grow cultural resilience:** To grow confidence and resilience to provide cultural leadership by ensuring candidates experience how their breadth of knowledge is enhanced by spending time at different Universities and within different cultures. To bring this new perspective and resilience back to the University of Waikato to share with our community.

How to craft a strong application

We recommend that applicants:

- Choose their topic, discipline and host university to provide the background needed to best “fill gaps” by bringing complementary strengths to a future academic role. Learn about academic staff, teaching and research strengths of the Faculty/Division/School at University of Waikato in which they would like to be a future member of academic staff. Show how the applicant will not duplicate what is already present, but will instead provide strong collaborations and new perspective and thought in both teaching and research. We encourage applicants to reach out to the Deans/Head of School and academic staff to discuss fit and opportunities.
- Have strong current cultural knowledge that will be enhanced and built upon either through the research project, or exposure to different cultures. We hope that the candidate would gain leadership skills to be able to champion diversity and equity within their academic workplace, through observing their own culture in the context of international issues.

- Develop a strong, well-planned research proposal in collaboration with their proposed doctoral supervisor(s).
- Choose to spend their time at another University that: 1) is also of high academic standing, and 2) will provide a multitude of opportunities for research and future collaborations. Associate Deans Research and/or Associate Deans Postgraduate can provide advice about which universities might be a suitable target. University rankings are a common tool for assessing excellence.
- Work with an academic from University of Waikato (or another NZ University) who has strong collaborations with an International University, and/or speak with the University of Waikato International Office to learn more about the strengths of our [existing partners](#).

Process

After the application closing date, the Scholarships Executive will receive and consider applications. Those applications of outstanding quality will be assessed further, including:

- Discussion with relevant Faculties/Divisions/Schools to determine fit of the applicant to their future direction.
- The quality of the international University will be assessed by the UOW International Office.
- The Vice-Chancellor will also consider the application and applicant in regards to the future strategic direction of the University and the fit of the applicant to the Academic Staff of the University.

Further Information

- Please ensure you read the [Regulations of the Scholarship](#) in conjunction with these Guidelines.
- If successful the recipient will have their monthly stipend paid into a New Zealand bank account. This is to reduce the costs to the student involved in money being exchanged monthly.
- We recommend that recipients consider applying for top-up funding for International placements. E.g., international universities often offer scholarship; the UOW Scholarships Team can also help find opportunities, such as [Fulbright NZ - Te Tūapapa Mātauranga o Aotearoa me Amerika](#), [Te Pōkai Tara - Universities NZ](#).