

Faculty of Business and Economics

Selection criteria for University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships

The Faculty of Business and Economics will award up to 13 University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships in 2026. In selecting scholarship recipients, the Faculty of Business and Economics will be informed by the objectives set out in [Taumata Teitei](#) (the University's strategic plan) including the desire to:

- Nurture, recruit, and retain outstanding research talent
- Support excellent research and the creation of high-quality research outputs
- Grow Māori and Pacific research scholarship
- Develop and strengthen relationships with communities and stakeholders
- Support equity, diversity, and inclusivity in research

In attending to these priorities, the Faculty of Business and Economics Selection Committee will assess all applications received against the following criteria:

- 1) **Applicant's track record and potential to succeed.** This will be assessed by considering the applicant's success in previous academic studies, research experience, any relevant professional or other experience, and the potential for the applicant to contribute to knowledge in the discipline.
- 2) **Quality and viability of the proposed project.** This will be assessed by considering the scientific/academic significance of the proposed research, its viability given the resources of the University of Auckland, its alignment with the research interests of the academic staff of the University of Auckland, and appropriateness of the proposed supervision team. An applicant **must** contact their proposed supervisor(s) well in advance of the closing date of the relevant award round applicable to them, since **supervisor(s)' involvement in the development of their Statement of Research Intent (SoRI)** is strongly advised and **supervisor(s)' endorsement of the proposed project is required** before an applicant will be considered by the Faculty of Business and Economics for a scholarship. **Note that the SoRI must be on the relevant template for the Faculty** (available [here](#)).
- 3) **Nominations received in support of the applicants by their proposed supervisor(s)** – similarly to [the He Manga Tauhokohoko | University of Auckland Business School Dean's Doctoral Scholarships](#).
- 4) **GPA/GPE at or above 7.0.** Exceptions might be considered, but only for applicants with a qualifying degree for intake into PhD studies obtained from an overseas institution, and only as long as a strong justification for a GPE having fallen short of this threshold is provided by the prospective supervisors, both in their nominations and the checklist for admission contemplated for the Faculty of Business and Economics.
- 5) The selection committee may also consider **factors such as the strategic priorities of the Faculty and its academic units.**

Note that scholarship applicants must complete an application for admission to the doctoral programme in our "Apply to Study" portal to be considered for the award of the UoADS (similarly to other doctoral scholarships). A separate application for a scholarship is not required other than by indicating in the application for admission that the applicant wishes to be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship.

Doctoral advisors for each of the disciplinary areas concerned are responsible for facilitating the matching between prospective PhD students and faculty members as appropriate, and based on the best fit between the proposed project and faculty members' experience with supervision and expertise. They oversee the completion of the checklist for admission. Both are crucial, in preparing applications to succeed in obtaining doctoral scholarships.

The Faculty of Business and Economics aims to create strong cohorts for intake into PhD studies at key dates of the year: ideally on 1 March and 1 June. This means that Rounds 1 and 2 with closing dates of November 1 (of the previous year) and March 1, respectively, are the ones that will be prioritised for the award of the UoADS. These start dates coincide with semester 1 and semester 2 at UoA, facilitating transition of PhD students into postgraduate courses that might be required for them to complete as part of their PhD Confirmation, during their provisional year of studies with us. Furthermore, because of complications associated with possible delays in visa processing times, international applicants who have not previously held a NZ student visa are strongly advised to apply in those Rounds, 1 and 2, with closing dates of November 1, March 1, respectively, to ensure being able to take up their award of the scholarships allocated within a given calendar year (i.e., commencing their PhD studies on 1 Dec of that year, at the latest). **Regulations for the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships can be found [here](#).**