



Faculty of Science selection criteria for University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships

The Faculty of Science will award up to 50 University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships in 2026. In selecting scholarship recipients, the Faculty of Science 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 Science 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 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.

The selection committee may also consider factors such as the strategic priorities of the Faculty and its academic units.

The Faculty may use one or more of its allocation of 50 scholarships to co-fund scholarships with external partners, with the aim of encouraging and supporting students to engage with these partners and produce high quality research outputs that align with the strategic objectives of the Faculty. An information sheet about this initiative is available at [Faculty of Science information for co-funded scholarships](#).

Scholarship applicants must complete an application for admission to the doctoral programme using the Faculty of Science template for the Statement of Research Intent; 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.

Scholarship applicants **must** contact their proposed supervisor well in advance of the closing date for applications, since supervisor involvement in the development of the Statement of Research Intent is strongly advised and supervisor endorsement of the proposed project is **required** before an application will be considered by the Faculty of Science for a scholarship. Applicants may approach the [doctoral adviser for the disciplinary area](#) for advice about finding appropriate supervisors.

Regulations for the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships can be found [here](#).

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 Rounds 1 2 or 4 with closing dates of November 1, March 1 and Sept 1, respectively, each year. International applicants who have not previously held a NZ student visa and who apply to Round 3 (closing date June 1) will be considered for admission but their application may be deferred to Round 4 for scholarship consideration.