



University of Auckland– Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship

Faculty/LSRI:	All
Applicable study:	PhD
Closing date:	1 March 2025
Tenure:	Up to 36 months FTE
For:	Assistance with study
Number on offer:	One
Offer rate:	One-off
Value:	\$33,825 pa in 2024 with an annual CPI adjustment, plus compulsory fees and single student health insurance (if required)

Description

The Scholarship was established in 2024 and is co-funded by Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland and the Science for Nature Trust.

The intention of the Scholarship is to encourage and support academically excellent domestic and international students, who are paying domestic fees, to undertake a PhD which aligns with the strategic objectives of Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland and Science for Nature Trust. The research focus will be the breeding of *atrina zelandica*. Applicants who are applying to enrol in their first doctorate will be assessed for scholarship eligibility and award at the time of application to the doctoral programme.

Selection process

- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Dean of Graduate Studies (or nominee)
- The basis of selection will be alignment with the strategic objectives of the University and Science for Nature Trust.

Regulations

1. The Scholarship shall be known as the University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship.
2. The University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship provides a tax-free stipend for up to 36 months full-time equivalent (FTE) of PhD enrolment. In addition, the Student Services Fee and compulsory tuition fees for prescribed study for the PhD programme will be covered for up to 36 months FTE for domestic and international awardees who are eligible to study under the domestic fees policy (See Note II). The single student Health Insurance compulsory charge (as detailed on the tuition fees invoice) is also covered for the duration of the Scholarship for international awardees.
3. The annual value of the University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship will at least match

the annual value of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship. Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland will contribute 50% of the current value of a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship; Science for Nature Trust will contribute at least 50% of the value of a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship (stipend and fees) for the duration of the scholarship.

4. In order for the applicant to be considered for the award of a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship, Regulations 7 and 8 and the domestic fees eligibility requirement of Regulation 10 must be satisfied, and the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate) must have determined that the applicant may be admitted to a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland doctoral programme.
5. Subject to Regulations 8 and 9, applicants will normally be considered for the award of a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship prior to receiving their offer of a place in the doctoral programme.
6. Applicants who already have a doctorate are not eligible for consideration for a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship.
7. Applicants who transfer from a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland research masters to a PhD degree will be considered for this Scholarship during the next available application round (See Notes III and IV).
8. Applicants who transfer from another doctorate and who do not already hold a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship will be considered for this Scholarship during the next available application round (See Note III).
9. The Scholarship may be awarded for full-time enrolment in a PhD.
10. The Scholarship is tenable by domestic and international students who are eligible to pay domestic fees, and who meet all the requirements of these regulations.
11. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of either i) the Dean of Graduate Studies (or nominee) directly; or ii) the Dean of Graduate Studies (or nominee), after advice from the relevant Selection Committee. The recommendation of the Dean of Graduate Studies is final and discretionary after taking into account all factors (including factors external to the particular student concerned). For the avoidance of doubt, the following Regulations 13 to 15 are expressly subject to this Regulation.
12. A central Selection Committee, comprised of the Dean of Graduate Studies (or nominee), Director of Graduate Studies (or nominee) and Director of ORSI (or nominee), will consider applicants nominated by University Research Centres (URCs) in accordance with the URC's annual allocation and their strategic objectives and associated selection criteria as outlined on their public website.
13. Where resources allow, the central Selection Committee may also consider applicants for awards associated with new strategic opportunities.
14. Each faculty and Large Scale Research Institute (LSRI) Selection Committee, comprised of the relevant AD(PGR) or nominee, AD(R) or nominee, and Deputy Dean/Director or nominee, will consider applicants for awards in accordance with the faculty's/LSRI's annual University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship allocation and their strategic objectives and associated selection criteria as specified on their respective public websites (See Note VI).
15. Applicants who have been offered a Scholarship must meet all requirements for admission into their intended programme and all requirements of their Scholarship offer to take up the Scholarship. No payments will be made until all requirements have been met (See Note VII).
16. Scholarships must be taken up by one of the dates prescribed in the letter of award, otherwise the Scholarship offer will be forfeited (See Notes III and VII).
17. Scholarship payments will commence on the initial date of enrolment in the doctoral programme and will provide support for up to 36 months of full-time study (See Note VIII). A further six months of scholarship funding, subject to Scholarships Committee approval, may be available to the Awardee.
18. Subject to the agreement of the co-funder, holders of the Scholarship may apply to suspend their Scholarship for up to 12 months in total during the tenure of their award (Notes IX and X).
19. An awardee retains their Scholarship if they receive approval from the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate) to change supervisors or academic unit. Subject to agreement of the co-funder and the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate), an awardee may change the topic of their thesis. All such changes have no impact on the period of tenure of the Scholarship.
20. The amount of additional and paid work a Scholar may undertake either inside or outside the University shall not exceed 750 hours per 12-month period of Scholarship tenure.
21. Any additional tuition fee, stipend or top-up scholarship received from any other award or scholarship must be declared to the Scholarships Office upon receipt of the offer from the awarding body or receipt of the University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship offer, whichever is later (See Note XVI).
22. Scholarships Committee will determine if additional stipend or top-up scholarships may be co-tenured with a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship (Notes XI to XIII).
23. Subject to agreement from the co-funder, a Scholarship holder may choose to participate in an approved Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland internship while remaining enrolled in the doctoral

programme. If the Scholarship holder receives an income from that internship that is equal to or in excess of the stipend of the University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship, the Scholarship will reduce to fees-only for the period of scholarship tenure that coincides with the internship.

24. A Scholarship may be withdrawn at any stage of offer or tenure if incorrect, false, or misleading information is provided by the applicant to the University as part of the programme and scholarship application to the University, or relevant information is withheld. This includes circumstances where the information is unrelated to the assessment in offering the Scholarship.
25. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship remain tax-free under existing legislation as long as they are used for the payment of costs associated with an awardee's programme of study and/or to assist the awardee with living costs while studying. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Scholarship.
26. Appeals are not permitted against any advice, nomination (or absence of nomination), recommendation or decision issued by the University of Auckland Council, the Dean of Graduate Studies (or nominee) or by a duly constituted Selection Committee or by a URC regarding the award of a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship. URCs and Scholarship Selection Committees have discretion in the judgement of the merits of applicants against strategic objectives and associated selection criteria when providing their advice and/or nominations to the Dean of Graduate Studies.
27. Notes [I] – [XIX] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

- I. The tax-free status of this Scholarship is under current legislation. The University of Auckland cannot guarantee this tax-free outcome.
- II. To be eligible to pay domestic PhD fees, awardees who are permanent residents of New Zealand or Australia, or citizens of countries other than New Zealand, may only be resident outside of New Zealand for a maximum total of twelve months over the period of their enrolment in their doctoral degree and only for the purposes of conducting research.
- III. Application for programme, scholarship offer, and enrolment dates are as follows. The University reserves the right to determine an application during a later round if it is not possible to conclude the matter in accordance with the dates specified. Application closes: 1 March 2025, Scholarship Office, Enrolment Date: Domestic candidate/Domestically qualified candidate: 1 June or 1 September 2025, Enrolment Date: Internationally qualified international candidate: 1 June or 1 September or 1 December 2025.
- IV. Where a master's thesis student is approved to transfer to a PhD and is subsequently awarded a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship, the tenure of the Scholarship will conclude up to 36 months FTE after the start date of the research component of their master's degree, with a possible extension of up to six further months (See Note VIII). Masters transfer candidates do not receive backdated stipend or tuition fees for the period of their master's enrolment that is transferred to a PhD enrolment.
- V. Awardees of a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship are required to be enrolled on a full-time basis. Full-time is defined as 40 hours of doctoral work per week for 47 weeks a year.
- VI. Where there is no applicant sufficiently aligned with strategic objectives in a given round, the Faculty/LSRI reserves the right to not make a recommendation to the Dean of Graduate Studies.
- VII. To take up the scholarship means to commence doctoral enrolment and the tenure of the scholarship.
- VIII. Where a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship is held at the time of conclusion of doctoral enrolment or withdrawal from the doctoral programme or termination of the awardee's doctoral candidature, tenure of the Scholarship will terminate, effective on the date determined by the Scholarships Committee.
- IX. Subject to the agreement of the co-funder, an additional 12-month parental-leave suspension may be considered where the holder becomes a parent during their tenure of the Scholarship.
- X. In exceptional circumstances, and subject to the agreement of the co-funder, Scholarships Committee may approve a suspension of this Scholarship beyond the suspension periods stated in Regulation 19 and Note IX. Applications must be made in writing to Scholarships Office.
- XI. A University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other doctoral scholarship funded by Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland (including scholarships funded by faculties, LSRI and URCs) or with any postgraduate scholarship or grant awarded by the Universities New Zealand Scholarships Committee, or by a foreign government or agency. As per Note XVI, awardees must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their funding status.
- XII. Where Scholarships Committee approves co-tenure, the combined stipend may not exceed 150% of the

University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship stipend. For the avoidance of doubt, support that is not for the purposes of living costs is excluded from this calculation. For example, a grant to cover research costs or professional development would not have any impact on the University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship stipend.

- XIII. The University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship stipend may be reduced in order to meet the requirements of Note XII.
- XIV. Applicants who have been offered a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship, and decline an offer of place, are eligible to be considered for both admission and an available University of Auckland Doctoral scholarship again at a later date provided they have not enrolled in a doctorate and held some other doctoral scholarship in the interim. Candidates who have been in receipt of a University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship are not eligible to then hold a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship.
- XV. Subject to agreement of the co-funder, a candidate who is in receipt of this Scholarship may defer their University of Auckland-Science for Nature Trust PhD Scholarship funding for up to one year in total during their tenure of the scholarship, maintaining their enrolment in their doctoral programme, provided they do not hold some other doctoral scholarship in the interim.
- XVI. Awardees are required to comply with the regulations for the Scholarship and must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment, employment, or funding status, Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland may, in the event that it is satisfied that an awardee is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.
- XVII. Where a backdated application to suspend a Scholarship has been approved, the student will be offered three options to repay any overpaid stipend payments: i) repay the total overpayment and normal stipend payments resume on the restart of both enrolment and the Scholarship, or ii) stipend payments do not resume on the restart of enrolment, and are stopped until such time as the equivalent value of the overpayments would have been paid, or iii) stipend payments are reduced until the equivalent value of the overpayments has been recovered.
- XVIII. If an awardee is overpaid an amount in excess of a full fortnightly disbursement, the University may recover the overpayment by withholding future award payments at the same rate that the award was overpaid or, if the awardee is no longer enrolled, the University may recover the overpayment in line with standard debt collection practices.
- XIX. If an awardee is overpaid an amount in excess of a full fortnightly disbursement after they are no longer eligible for the Scholarship, the University may recover the overpayment in line with standard debt collection practices.