

# Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship

<b>Code:</b>	1207
<b>Faculty:</b>	Auckland Bioengineering Institute
<b>Applicable study:</b>	PhD in Bioengineering
<b>Closing date:</b>	By nomination
<b>Tenure:</b>	Up to 36 months FTE
<b>For:</b>	Assistance with study
<b>Number on offer:</b>	Variable
<b>Offer rate:</b>	By nomination
<b>Value:</b>	Up to \$34,569 pa in 2025, domestic PhD fees and Health Insurance (if applicable)

## Description

The Scholarship was established in 2024 and is funded by the University of Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI).

The intention of the Scholarship is to encourage and support academically excellent students to undertake doctoral study on an approved doctoral research project at the ABI.

## Selection process

- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) after advice from a Selection Committee

## Regulations

1. The Scholarship shall be known as the Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship.
2. Scholarships will be awarded by nomination and will comprise i) a tax-free stipend of up to \$34,569 per annum in 2025 (see Note I), with an annual CPI adjustment to the stipend value, for up to 36 months of full-time equivalent (FTE) doctoral enrolment, ii) the Student Services Fee and compulsory tuition fees for prescribed study in a PhD will be covered for up to 36 months for all domestic students and for international students who are eligible to study under the domestic fees policy (see Note II), and iii) the single student Health Insurance compulsory charge (as detailed on the tuition fees invoice) for the duration of the Scholarship for international students. Part-time students will be paid pro-rata for up to 72 months (see Note III).
3. Applicants for admission to the PhD in Bioengineering at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute who are eligible for consideration for this scholarship will be considered for an Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship either i) at the time of consideration for admission or ii) at the time of satisfaction of any conditions placed on an offer of admission but prior to enrolment.
4. To be eligible for consideration for the award of an Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship, i) a PhD applicant must satisfy the requirements of Regulations 5 and the domestic fees eligibility requirement of Regulation 6; ii) the PhD applicant must have the support of a main supervisor at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and a doctoral research proposal assessed and approved by the Principal Investigators Committee at the Auckland

Bioengineering Institute; iii) the PhD applicant must not already hold a doctorate or previously have held a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship or any other doctoral scholarship funded by the University of Auckland (including faculties, LSRIIs or URCs); iv) the PhD applicant must either a) have a GPA of at least 8.00 (6.00 for Māori candidates or Pacific candidates [see Note IV]) in their most recent qualifying programme from a New Zealand university (see Note V) or b) be nominated by the Auckland Bioengineering Institute for consideration for the University of Auckland Doctoral Bridging Programme Scholarship or c) have been required to enrol in the PG Cert (BIOENG) as a condition of admission to the PhD.

5. Subject to Regulation 3, applicants can only be considered for the award of an Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship prior to receiving their offer of place in the doctoral programme.
6. The Scholarship is tenable by domestic and international students who are eligible to pay domestic fees (see Note II) and who meet all the requirements of these regulations.
7. The Scholarship will usually be awarded for full-time enrolment in the PhD. The Scholarship may also be awarded to domestic students for whom compassionate and compelling circumstances make part-time enrolment preferable (see Note III).
8. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) after advice from a Selection Committee comprising the Director, the Associate Director Research, Associate Director Equity and Diversity and the Associate Director Postgraduate Research of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (or their nominees). The University of Auckland Council cannot award a scholarship unless the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate) has first determined that the applicant may be admitted to a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland doctoral programme based on the current programme application.
9. The Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) will, on the advice of the Selection Committee, recommend to Council the award of the scholarship to a PhD applicant who satisfies the requirements of Regulation 4 (i-iv(a)) and associated notes.
10. Where resources allow, the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee), may, on the advice of the Selection Committee and on the basis of the PhD applicant's academic record and alignment with the Auckland Bioengineering Institute's strategic objectives, recommend to Council the award of the scholarship to a PhD applicant who satisfies the requirements of Regulation 4(i-iii) and either Regulation 4iv(b) or regulation 4(iv)(c) and associated notes. Selection Committees have discretion in the judgement of the merits of PhD applicants against strategic objectives and associated selection criteria when providing their advice to the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research and are not obliged to advise that an award should be made to any PhD applicant under this regulation.
11. 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 Notes VI and VII).
12. Scholarships must be taken up within 6 months of the award otherwise the Scholarship offer will be forfeited (see Note VI and VII).
13. 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' scholarship funding, subject to Scholarships Committee approval, may be available. These durations shall be pro-rated for part-time scholarship awardees (see Note III).
14. Holders of the Scholarship may apply to suspend their Scholarship for up to 12 months in total during the tenure of their award (see Notes IX and X).
15. An awardee retains their Scholarship if they receive approval from the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate) to change supervisors or topic provided they remain enrolled in the PhD in Bioengineering at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute. Such changes have no impact on the period of tenure of the Scholarship.
16. The amount of additional and paid work a Scholar may undertake either inside or outside the University shall not exceed a total of 750 hours per 12-month period of scholarship tenure (see Note III).
17. 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 Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship, whichever is later (see Note XIV).

18. Scholarships Committee (or their delegate), in consultation with the Selection Committee, will determine if additional tuition fee, living stipend or top-up scholarships may be co-tenured with an Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship (see Notes XI to XIV).
19. If a Scholarship holder is required to undertake an internship as part of their doctoral programme, or chooses to participate in an approved Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland internship while remaining enrolled in the doctoral programme, and receives an income from that internship that is equivalent to or in excess of the stipend of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship, the Scholarship will reduce to fees-only for the period of scholarship tenure that coincides with the internship.
20. If a Scholarship holder is required to undertake an internship as part of their doctoral programme, or chooses to participate in an approved Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland internship or industry placement while remaining enrolled in the doctoral programme, and no income is received from that activity, the Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship stipend may continue to be provided for the duration of the activity. If the income received is less than the stipend value of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship for the period of the internship, the Selection Committee may agree to pay a partial stipend to bring the total net income to the current Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship stipend value for the period.
21. A Scholarship may be withdrawn at any stage of the 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.
22. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship remain tax-free 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 (see Note I). Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Scholarship.
23. The University of Auckland Council has the power to terminate or suspend a Scholarship if it receives a report of unsatisfactory progress by the Scholar from the Associate Director Postgraduate Research of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute.
24. Appeals are not permitted against any decision or recommendation, or advice issued by the University of Auckland Council or by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research or by a duly constituted Selection Committee or by the Associate Director Postgraduate regarding the award or tenure of an Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship.
25. The University of Auckland Council can amend or vary these Regulations, in consultation with the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.
26. Notes [I]-[XVII] 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, recipients who are permanent residents of New Zealand or Australia, Australian citizens or international students 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 purpose of conducting research that cannot be conducted at an equivalent level in New Zealand.*
- III. *Awardees of an Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship are normally 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. However, domestic students for whom compassionate and compelling circumstances make part-time enrolment preferable may apply to the Scholarships Committee (or their delegate) through the Scholarships Office to hold a scholarship on a part-time basis. pro-rated. Compassionate and compelling circumstances mean circumstances that are generally beyond the candidate's control and have an impact on their ability to study full-time. For example: serious illness or*

*injury, pregnancy or childbirth, care responsibilities for whānau, and traumatic experiences. Part-time is defined as 20 hours per week of doctoral work. Candidates will not be granted permission to hold an Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship on a part-time basis if they are undertaking full-time paid employment or substantial part-time employment. Candidates who hold a scholarship on a part-time basis are subject to the same employment restrictions as full-time scholarship holders (i.e. 750 hours per 12-month period) and are required to change to full-time enrolment if a change in their circumstances means they no longer qualify to hold the scholarship on a part-time basis.*

- IV. Pacific applicants are defined as peoples of indigenous Pacific descent from any of the following islands: Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Fiji (iTaukei), Rotuma, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Wallis and Futuna, Hawaii, French Polynesia, Rapanui (Easter Island), Pitcairn Islands, Nauru, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands.*
- V. To be deemed a qualifying programme for the purposes of scholarship consideration, an individual programme must satisfy Regulation 13a and b of the PhD Statute. Where the qualifying programme is an undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent undergraduate degree or integrated undergraduate and postgraduate degree), the grade point average or equivalent will be calculated over the final two years of full-time study (or equivalent) in the programme. In all other cases, the grade point average or equivalent will be calculated over the entirety of the qualifying programme.*
- VI. To take up the Scholarship means to commence doctoral enrolment and the tenure of the scholarship.*
- VII. PhD enrolments and scholarship payments must commence on the first of the month.*
- VIII. Where an Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship is held at the time of conclusion of PhD enrolment or withdrawal from the PhD programme or termination of the awardee's doctoral candidature or at the time of changes to the PhD enrolment that mean the awardee is no longer enrolled in a PhD in Bioengineering at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, tenure of the Scholarship will terminate, effective on the date determined by the Scholarships Committee in consultation with the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research as warranted.*
- IX. An additional 12-month parental-leave suspension may be considered where the holder becomes a parent during the tenure of the Scholarship.*
- X. In exceptional circumstances Scholarships Committee may approve a suspension of this Scholarship beyond the suspension periods stated in Regulation 14 and Note IX. Applications must be made in writing to the Scholarships Office.*
- XI. An Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship may not be co-tenured with a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship, or any other scholarship funded by Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland (including 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 XV, awardees must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their funding status.*
- XII. Where the University of Auckland Council approves co-tenure, the combined stipend may not exceed 150% of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship stipend. For the avoidance of doubt, a grant to cover research costs or professional development would not have any impact on the Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship stipend.*
- XIII. The Auckland Bioengineering Institute Doctoral Scholarship stipend may be reduced in order to meet the requirements of Note XII.*
- XIV. Awardees will be 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 it can be established 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.*
- XV. 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.*

- XVI. 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.*
- XVII. 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.*