

Dr Christopher R. Bennett Award in Transportation Engineering

Code:	1188
Faculty:	Engineering and Design
Applicable study:	BE(Hons) Part III & IV or MCivilEng in Transportation Engineering
Closing date:	30 April 2026
Tenure:	One year
For:	Assistance with study
Number on offer:	One
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	Up to \$10,000

Description

The Award was established in 2024 and is funded by Dr Christopher Bennett, an alumnus of the University of Auckland who has worked on road safety and infrastructure management in 24 different countries, including 17 years as Lead Transport Specialist for the World Bank, where he led the development of road asset management tools used around the world.

The main purpose of the Award is to encourage students into the fields of road safety and/or transport infrastructure management. These are critical areas for society's ongoing social and economic development.

Selection process

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- A Selection Committee assesses the applications
- Short-listed applicants may be required to attend an interview
- The Award is made by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee

Regulations

1. The Award will be known as the Dr Christopher R. Bennett Award in Transportation Engineering.
2. One Award will be made annually for a period of up to one year and will be of the value of up to \$10,000. The awardee may also be offered mentoring during the tenure of their Award.
3. To be eligible for Award consideration, an applicant must be i) a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident of New Zealand (see Note II), ii) enrolled, or enrolling full-time in either Part III or IV of a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering or any year of a Master of Civil Engineering in Transportation Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering and Design at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland. Applicants must be enrolling in both Semester One and Two in the year of the award to be eligible for consideration for the Award. Masters students who are enrolled in an extension are not eligible for consideration for the Award.

4. The basis of selection will be academic achievement (see Note III), the applicant's interest in Transportation and desire to pursue a career in the fields of road safety or transportation infrastructure management as assessed by a personal statement, financial need as assessed by a personal statement and the criteria at Note IV, and performance in an interview (if required, see Note V). The following criteria may also inform selection: the donor's interest in supporting i) Māori applicants, and/or ii) Pacific applicants, and/or iii) applicants who are the first in their family to attend university, and/or iv) applicants from a refugee background, and/or v) applicants with disabilities (see Notes VI to IX). Short-listed applicants may be required to attend an interview with the Selection Committee.
5. The Award will be made by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (or nominee), an academic staff member from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering nominated by the Head of Department, and a representative of the donor.
6. The Award will be paid in two equal instalments in Semester One and Two, as soon as is practical after confirmation of the awardee's enrolment (that is, after the final date on which a student may add or delete courses without incurring a late enrolment fee).
7. To be paid the Award, the awardee must be enrolled full-time in either Part III or IV of a BE(Hons) in Civil Engineering, or full-time in both Semester One and Two if enrolled in a MCivilEng (see Note X). Payment of the second instalment is subject to satisfactory academic progress as determined by a passing GPA in Semester One where a GPA is available, or a report of satisfactory progress from the Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering where a grade or GPA is not yet available (see Note XI).
8. The Award may be held with any other scholarship, award or grant as long as the regulations for that scholarship, award or grant permit and the University of Auckland Council is informed and approved. It is the responsibility of the awardee to declare to the Scholarships Office all other scholarships, awards or grant funding received and for which the awardee receives payment while also in payment for this Award.
9. The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the donor, has the power to terminate or suspend an Award if it receives a report of unsatisfactory progress by a Scholar from the Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
10. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if it is determined there is no candidate that meets the criteria and/or no candidate of sufficient merit.
11. Payments under the terms of this Award remain tax-free as long as they are used directly 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 Award.
12. The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the donor, can amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.
13. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 30 April in the year of the award.
14. Notes [I]-[XII] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

- I. *The tax-free status of this Award is under current legislation. The University of Auckland cannot guarantee this tax-free outcome.*
- II. *New Zealand Permanent Residents have been granted a Permanent Resident Visa by Immigration New Zealand. For more information visit <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/already-have-a-visa/becoming-a-permanent-resident>.*
- III. *For the purpose of this Award, academic achievement is assessed as a Scholarships GPA or GPE obtained over the applicant's most recent two years of full-time graded study.*
- IV. *Financial need will be determined by a range of factors including eligibility for a StudyLink Student Allowance, and personal and financial circumstances.*
- V. *Interviews may take place via video conference.*
- VI. *Pacific applicants are defined as citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand who are 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.

- VII. For the purpose of this Award, 'first in family' to attend university means that no member of the applicant's immediate family, including parents and siblings, has completed a university qualification prior to the applicant's first year of study. Adoptive and step parents and siblings are considered part of the family where they have lived with the applicant for the five or more years prior to the applicant entering tertiary study.
- VIII. For the purposes of this Award, Refugee background refers to students who have themselves or whose parents/primary guardian(s) have been granted refuge in New Zealand.
- IX. Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland defines disability as any physical, psychological, cognitive or sensory impairment which may, in interaction with social and systemic barriers, limit a person's full and effective participation in university life on an equal basis with others.
- X. A student cannot remain in receipt of this Award while enrolled in an extension.
- XI. For the purposes of this Award, the awardee's grade point average (GPA) is based on all the courses they undertake in each year of study.
- XII. Awardees will be required to comply with the regulations for the Award and must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment or funding status. Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland may, in the event that it can be established that an awardee is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Award and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.