

# George McWhirter Memorial Scholarship

<b>Code:</b>	963
<b>Faculty:</b>	Arts Creative Arts and Industries
<b>Applicable study:</b>	Dissertation or thesis relating to housing issues
<b>Closing date:</b>	5 March 2024
<b>Tenure:</b>	One year
<b>For:</b>	Assistance with study
<b>Number on offer:</b>	One
<b>Offer rate:</b>	Annually
<b>Value:</b>	Up to \$6,000

## Description

The Scholarship was established in 2018 by Dianne Sisley (Long) in memory of her grandfather George Edward McWhirter, who was a politically aware, socially minded Massey farmer, a New Lynn councillor, and a builder of state houses in the 1940s.

The intention of the Scholarship is to encourage and support postgraduate research, and raise awareness of state housing, homelessness, the politics of social housing and public policy causes and effects in these areas in New Zealand.

## Selection process

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- A Selection Committee assesses the applications
- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee

## Regulations

1. The Scholarship will be known as the George McWhirter Memorial Scholarship.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded annually, for a period of up to one year and will be of the value of up to \$6,000.
3. To be eligible for Scholarship consideration, an applicant must be i) a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident (see Note II), ii) enrolled, or enrolling, in either a) a thesis or dissertation with a value of at least 45 points in the Faculty of Arts, or b) a Master of Urban Planning (Professional) (MUrbPlan(Prof)) including a dissertation, at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, and iii) undertaking research in the general area of state housing, homelessness, the politics of social housing and public policy causes and effects in these areas in New Zealand. A grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) of at least 7.00 (6.50 for Māori and Pacific candidates) is required for Scholarship consideration (see Note III).
4. The basis of selection will be academic merit as assessed by the GPA or GPE calculated over the most recently completed qualifying programme (see Note III) and the relevance of the proposed research.

5. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Associate Dean (Postgraduate Research) of the Faculty of Arts (or nominee), the Associate Dean (Postgraduate Research) of the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries (or nominee), and a representative of the donor.
6. Payment will be made 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 Scholarship, awardees must be enrolled in either a) a thesis or dissertation with a value of at least 45 point in the Faculty of Arts, or b) an MUrbPlan(Prof) including a dissertation.
8. The George McWhirter Memorial Scholarship may be held concurrently with any other scholarship, award or grant where the Regulations for that scholarship, award or grant permit and where the University of Auckland Council is informed and approves. 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 Scholarship.
9. 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.
10. The University of Auckland Council has the power to terminate or suspend a Scholarship if it receives a report of unsatisfactory progress by a Scholar from the Associate Dean (Postgraduate Research) of the Faculty of Arts or of the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries.
11. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship 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 Scholarship.
12. The University of Auckland Council can amend or vary these Regulations, in consultation with the donor, provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.
13. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 5 March in the year of the award.
14. Notes [I] – [IV] below are deemed to be Regulations.

## Notes

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- I. The tax-free status of this Scholarship 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. The most recent qualifying programme is defined as the most recently completed programme of study that qualifies the applicant for entry to the postgraduate programme for which they are applying. Where the most recently completed programme is a conjoint programme the GPA/GPE will be calculated over the relevant component of the conjoint programme. The maximum approved exchange or transfer credit that can be excluded from the GPA/GPE calculation for the qualifying programme is 60 points. Where a bridging programme, including a Transitional Certificate, Graduate Diploma or Certificate of Proficiency, is required to qualify the applicant for entry to the postgraduate programme for which they are applying or are currently enrolled, the qualifying programme is the bridging programme and the most recently completed prior programme.*
- IV. Awardees will be required to comply with the regulations for the Scholarship 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 Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.*