

HC Russell Memorial Postgraduate Scholarship

Code:	94
Faculty:	Medical and Health Sciences
Applicable study:	PhD in Optometry
Closing date:	1 October 2025
Tenure:	Up to 36 Months FTE
For:	Assistance with study
Number on offer:	One
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	Up to \$12,000 in total

Description

The New Zealand Association of Optometrists (previously the New Zealand Optometrical Association) established this Scholarship in memory of Mr Harry C. Russell in recognition of his services to the advancement of optometric education in New Zealand.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to support PhD candidates in Optometry at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.

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 HC Russell Memorial Postgraduate Scholarship.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded annually for a period of up to 36 months of full-time equivalent (FTE) study, up to a total value of \$12,000. Payment will be pro-rated for part-time study.
3. To be eligible for Scholarship consideration, an applicant must be i) a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident (see Note II), and ii) enrolled, or enrolling, full-time or part-time in the first year of a PhD in Optometry at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.
4. The basis of selection will be academic achievement, the scientific method of the proposed research and the relevance of the research to the practice of optometry. Matters that may be considered in relation to academic achievement include, but are not limited to, academic record (see Note III), standing of awarding institution, academic references, CV, research and publication record.
5. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising two representatives of the New Zealand Association of Optometrists (NZAO) and the Head of the School of Optometry and Vision Science (or nominee).

6. The Scholarship will be paid to the awardee directly by NZAO in five instalments of \$2,400 each. The first instalment will be paid either on acceptance of the Scholarship offer for students who are enrolled in the PhD, or following the start of enrolment for awardees who have not yet commenced their programme at the time of Scholarships offer. Payment of the second, third and fourth instalments will be paid on receipt of annual progress reports satisfactory to NZAO (see Note IV) at 12, 24, and 36 months following the awardee's initial enrolment date for awardees enrolled full-time in the PhD, and at 24, 48 and 72 months following the awardee's initial enrolment date for awardees enrolled part-time in the PhD. The final instalment will be paid on submission of the PhD thesis.
7. The Scholarship may be held concurrently 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 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.
8. 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.
9. The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the NZAO, 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 School of Optometry and Vision Science.
10. 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.
11. The University of Auckland Council can, in consultation with the New Zealand Association of Optometrists, amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.
12. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 1 October in the year preceding the award.
13. Notes [I]-[VI] 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. *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. *Academic achievement is assessed by the grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) obtained over the applicant's qualifying programme for entry to the PhD. Where a qualifying programme is entirely pass/fail, the University may generate a GPA only where the programme consists entirely of a thesis. Where the qualifying programme is an undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent undergraduate degree or integrated undergraduate and postgraduate degree), the GPA/GPE will be calculated over the final two-years of full-time study (or equivalent) in the programme. In all other cases, the GPA/GPE will be calculated over the entirety of the qualifying programme.*
- IV. *Reports should be submitted to the Scholarships Office at the conclusion of each year FTE during the tenure of the scholarship and outline the awardee's progress to date.*
- V. *The NZAO must be acknowledged in any publication of the research. A pdf copy of the thesis and copies of papers resulting from the research must be provided to NZAO.*
- VI. *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.*