

James Fawcett New Zealand Herpetofaunal Postgraduate Research Award

Code:	1109
Faculty:	Science
Applicable study:	Postgraduate research project of at least 30 points in the School of Biological Sciences
Closing date:	30 October 2025
Tenure:	One year
For:	Assistance towards research expenses
Number on offer:	Up to three
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	Up to \$15,000 in total

Description

The Award was established in 2021 and is funded by a gift from Georgene E. Fawcett as a memorial to her late husband Associate Professor James Davidson Fawcett, a BSc and MSc graduate of the University of Auckland, and dedicated and respected herpetologist and lecturer at the University of Nebraska.

The intention of the Award is to support research students enrolled in a postgraduate research programme in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Auckland, who are undertaking a research project with a focus on New Zealand native reptiles and/or amphibians.

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 Award will be known as the James Fawcett New Zealand Herpetofaunal Postgraduate Research Award.
2. Up to three Awards will be made annually for a period of up to one year, up to a total value of \$15,000. Recipients may reapply in subsequent years.
3. To be eligible for consideration for the Award, applicants must be i) enrolled, or enrolling, in a research project, dissertation or thesis of at least 30 points within a full-time or part-time postgraduate bachelors (honours), masters or PhD programme in the School of Biological Sciences in the Faculty of Science at the University of Auckland, and ii) undertaking research with a focus on New Zealand native reptiles and/or amphibians.
4. The Award may be used to support research expenses, including field work costs, equipment charges and lab consumables.
5. The basis of selection will be academic merit as assessed by the grade point average (GPA) or grade point

equivalent (GPE) calculated over the most recent qualifying programme (see Notes I and II), the quality of the research proposal (see Note III), the relevance of the research to the native herpetofauna of New Zealand, and endorsement by the main supervisor.

6. The Award will be made by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Head of the School of Biological Sciences (or nominee), and two members of Academic Staff from the School of Biological Sciences nominated by the Head of the School of Biological Sciences.
7. To be paid the award, awardees must be enrolled in a research project, dissertation or thesis of at least 30 points within a postgraduate bachelors (honours), masters or PhD programme in the School of Biological Sciences, and be undertaking research with a focus on New Zealand native reptiles and/or amphibians.
8. Payment will be made in one lump sum as soon as is practical after confirmation of enrolment in an eligible course after the final date on which a student may add or delete courses without incurring a late enrolment fee (see Regulation 7).
9. The James Fawcett New Zealand Herpetofaunal Postgraduate Research Award may be held 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 Award.
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. 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.
12. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 30 October in the year preceding the award.
13. Notes [I] – [V] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

- I. For the purposes of a bachelors (honours) or masters programme, 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 qualifying 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 the most recently completed programme is a Transitional Certificate, the qualifying programme is the Transitional Certificate and the most recently completed prior programme.*
- II. For the purposes of a PhD programme, 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 graded study (or equivalent) in the programme. In all other cases, the GPA/GPE will be calculated over the entirety of the programme.*
- III. The research proposal must detail expected research expenses.*
- IV. Payments under the terms of this Award remain tax-free as long as they are used for the payment of costs associated with an awardee's programme of study and to assist the awardee with research costs while studying. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Award.*
- V. Awardees will be required to give undertakings that they will comply with the regulations for the Award and will notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment or funding status. The 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.*