

Kate Edger Foundation - First Year Doctoral Award

Code:	842
Faculty:	All
Applicable study:	Women enrolling in the first year of study towards a PhD or named Doctorate
Closing date:	14 April 2026
Tenure:	One year
For:	Assistance with study
Number on offer:	Up to five
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	Up to \$11,000 each

Description

The Award was established in 2015 and is funded by the Kate Edger Foundation.

The main purpose of the Award is to assist women graduates currently enrolled in their first year of full-time study at the University of Auckland towards a PhD or named Doctorate. The Award is intended for students studying full-time towards a qualification; however, the Trustees recognise that health conditions or impairments can limit a person's ability to study full-time and have extended the Award in 2023 to include part-time study on a case-by-case basis.

Selection process

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- The Kate Edger Foundation assesses the applications
- The Award is made by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Kate Edger Foundation

Regulations

1. The Award shall be known as the Kate Edger Foundation - First Year Doctoral Award.
2. Up to five Awards will be made annually, for a period of one year, and will be of the value of up to \$11,000 each.
3. To be eligible for Award consideration, an applicant must i) be a woman, ii) be a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident (see Note II), iii) be enrolled full-time in their first year of study towards a PhD or named Doctorate at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland at the time of application. Students who have completed more than 12 months of full-time (or equivalent) study towards a PhD or named Doctorate at the time of application are not eligible for consideration. Students with health conditions or impairments that limit their ability to study full-time may apply to hold the Award on a part-time basis (see Regulation 4 and Note III). A grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) of at least 7.00 (6.50 for Māori candidates or Pacific candidates) in their qualifying programme is required for Award consideration (see Note IV).
4. The basis of selection will be academic merit as assessed by the GPA/GPE calculated over the qualifying programme for the PhD or named Doctorate (see Note IV), demonstrated financial need, the applicant's aspirations for the future and any special circumstances for consideration as assessed by the criteria at Notes V and VI, and two

academic references (see Note VII). Applications must include verification from the Head of Department or School in which the applicant is enrolled, a brief abstract of the doctoral research, and a budget outlining how the award would be spent (see Note VII). Applications from students studying part-time must include documentation supporting their reasons for studying part-time (see Notes III and IX).

5. The Award will be made by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Kate Edger Foundation.
6. The Award will be paid in one instalment after acceptance. Payment will be pro-rated on a case-by-case basis for part-time study.
7. To be paid the Award, awardees must be enrolled in a PhD or named Doctorate at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.
8. The Award may be held with any other scholarship, award or grant up to the value of \$20,000 as long as the regulations for that scholarship, award or grant permit and the University of Auckland Council and the Kate Edger Foundation are informed and approve. 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 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. 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.
11. The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the Kate Edger Foundation, 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 14 April in the year of the award.
13. Notes [I]-[XIV] 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. *Waipapa Taumata Rau defines disability as any physical, psychological, cognitive or sensory impairment which, in interaction with social and systemic barriers, restricts a person's full and effective participation in university life on an equal basis with others.*
- IV. *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 programme.*
- V. *Financial need will be determined by a range of factors including past eligibility for a StudyLink Student Allowance and personal and financial circumstances.*
- VI. *Special circumstances may include personal or family circumstances the applicant deems relevant to their application.*
- VII. *References must be from two academics, not related to the applicant, of whom one must be the applicant's Doctoral supervisor. References must reflect the referee's opinion of the applicant's scholastic ability, commitment, and motivation for completing the qualification within the next three years, and any other information deemed relevant to the application.*
- VIII. *Verification from the Head of School or Department must confirm that the applicant has received official approval to undertake the research work described in this application and fulfils the requirements for enrolment as a full-time student. The abstract will be no more than 500 words and must include the aims, objectives, and significance of the*

research. The budget may include, but is not limited to, living costs, equipment, materials, field work, software, travel, or producing publications.

- IX. *Examples of supporting documents include, but are not limited to, a letter of support from a disability service provider, the Students with Disabilities office, or your general practitioner.*
- X. *Awardees who are unable to complete their study in any semester due to compelling circumstances must apply in writing to the Manager of the Scholarships Office for special consideration before the end of the applicable semester. Awardees who do not complete any semester of study may be required to refund that semester's payment to the Kate Edger Foundation (see Note XIII).*
- XI. *On completion of their year of study, the awardee will be required to submit a brief report endorsed by their Supervisors, to the Awards Convener of the Kate Edger Foundation.*
- XII. *Any publications arising from the awardee's research should acknowledge the Award received from the Kate Edger Foundation.*
- XIII. *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.*
- XIV. *The Award is also open to eligible students from other approved institutions in the Auckland area, who should apply directly through the Kate Edger Foundation.*