

Mercer Memorial Scholarship in Aeronautics

Code:	143
Faculty:	Engineering and Design
Applicable study:	Postgraduate research in Aeronautics
Closing date:	19 March 2026
Tenure:	One year
For:	Assistance to engage in original work
Number on offer:	One
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	Up to \$6,000

Description

This Scholarship arises from a fund subscribed in 1948 by the members of the Air Pilots' Guild of New Zealand, friends and admirers of the late Captain J. C. Mercer, who was killed in 1944 while flying in a commercial aeroplane. Captain Mercer spent twenty-seven years' active life as a pioneer in air transport.

From 1948 to 1964 the fund was administered by the University of New Zealand and the University Grants Committee, and one Scholarship was available. In 1965 the fund was divided to provide separate Scholarships at the University of Auckland and the University of Canterbury.

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 Mercer Memorial Scholarship in Aeronautics.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded annually, for a period of up to one year and will be of the value of \$6,000. Recipients of the Scholarship may reapply in subsequent years.
3. The Scholarship may be awarded to a candidate, who has paid the fees or arranged to pay the fees, for postgraduate research in a field related to Aeronautics.
4. The Scholarship is tenable by domestic and international students.
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, and the quality and nature of the proposed research. Suitable subjects may have reference to the mathematical theories of aerodynamics, aircraft structures and thermodynamics; experimental aerodynamics, aircraft materials and equipment, aircraft structures, propulsion systems; and the performance testing of aircraft. Candidates must have a GPA/GPE of 6.00 or above (5.50 for Māori or Pacific candidates) in their qualifying programme to be eligible for Scholarship consideration (see Note I).

6. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Design (or nominee) and two staff members of the Faculty of Engineering and Design.
7. The Scholarship will be paid in one lump sum upon award.
8. 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 recipient 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 in any year if there is no candidate of sufficient merit.
10. The University of Auckland Council has the power to amend or vary these Regulations, provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.
11. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 19 March in the year of the award.
12. Notes [I]-[III] below are deemed to be regulations.

Notes

- I. 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 entirety 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 degree.*
- II. 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 to assist the awardee with living costs while studying. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Scholarship.*
- III. Recipients of a Mercer Memorial Scholarship in Aeronautics will be required to give undertakings that they will comply with the regulations for the Scholarship 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 a recipient of a Mercer Memorial Scholarship in Aeronautics is not complying with these Regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received.*