

University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship

Code:	43
Faculty:	All
Applicable study:	PhD, DMedSc, DClinPsy, DocFA, EdD or DHSc
Closing date:	1 March, 1 June, 1 September, 1 November
Tenure:	Up to 36 months FTE
For:	Assistance with study
Number on offer:	Varies
Offer rate:	Up to 4 times a year
Value:	Varies

Description

The Scholarship was established in 1996 and revised in 2023.

The intention of the Scholarship is to encourage and support excellent domestic and international doctoral candidates who wish to conduct research which aligns with the strategic objectives of Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland. Applicants who are applying to enrol in their first doctorate will be assessed for scholarship eligibility and award at the time of application to the doctoral programme.

Selection process

- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee)
- The basis of selection will be alignment with the strategic objectives of the University, Faculty, LSRI or URC (see Note XII)

Regulations

1. The Scholarship shall be known as the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship.
2. a) For awardees enrolled in a PhD, DMedSc, DClinPsy or DocFA and awardees enrolled in a DHSc or EdD without a compulsory part-time component, and provided the awardee continues to meet the requirements of these regulations including but not limited to eligibility to pay domestic tuition fees for the doctoral programme (see Note II), the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship consists of i) a tax-free stipend of up to \$34,569 per annum in 2025 (see Note I), with an annual CPI adjustment to the stipend value, for up to 36 months of full-time equivalent (FTE) doctoral enrolment, ii) the Student Services Fee and compulsory tuition fees for prescribed study for the doctoral programme for up to 36 months FTE, iii) the single student Health Insurance compulsory charge (as detailed on the tuition fees invoice) for the duration of the Scholarship for international students. Part-time awardees will be paid pro-rata for up to 72 months (see Note IX). b) For awardees enrolled in a DHSc or EdD with a compulsory part-time coursework component, and provided the awardee continues to meet the requirements of these regulations including but not limited to eligibility to pay domestic tuition fees for the doctoral programme (see Note II), the University of Auckland

Doctoral Scholarship consists of i) compulsory tuition fees and the Student Services Fee for the 120 point enrolment in the coursework component of the degree and ii) compulsory tuition fees, the Student Services Fee and a tax-free stipend of up to \$34,569 per annum in 2025, with an annual CPI adjustment to the stipend value, for up to 24 months FTE enrolment in the thesis component of the degree (part-time awardees will be paid pro-rata for up to 48 months [see Note IX]).

3. Application for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship must be made as part of the application for the doctoral programme.
4. To be eligible for scholarship consideration, an application must be consistent with the requirements of Regulations 5 and 6 and the domestic fees eligibility requirement of Regulation 10.
5. Except as permitted under Regulations 7 to 9, applicants can only be considered for the award of a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship prior to receiving their offer (which may be conditional) of admission to the doctoral programme.
6. The following applicants are not eligible for consideration for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship: i) applicants who already have a doctorate; ii) applicants who are not eligible for referral to academic units for programme admission consideration; iii) applicants denied regulatory admission approvals by the Academic Head and/or Board of Graduate Studies; iv) applicants who have previously entered payment for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship; v) applicants who have previously declined an offer of admission and University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship and then, prior to the current application, enrolled in a doctorate and entered payment for another doctoral scholarship. To avoid doubt: In no case does consideration for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship confirm programme eligibility.
7. Applicants who are approved to transfer from a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland research masters to a PhD degree will be considered for this Scholarship (on one occasion only) either during the application round in which the transfer approval occurs or during the next available application round (See Notes III and VIII). The timing of scholarship consideration will be determined by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee).
8. Applicants who are approved to transfer from another doctorate and who do not already hold, and have not previously held, a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship will be considered for this Scholarship (on one occasion only) either during the application round in which the transfer approval occurs or during the next available application round (See Note III). The timing of scholarship consideration will be determined by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee).
9. An applicant who receives an offer of admission to a doctoral programme conditional upon completion of a bridging programme as prescribed by the Board of Graduate Studies may be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship (on one occasion only) either during the application round in which the conditional offer is issued or during the application round that coincides with satisfaction of the conditions of doctoral admission or during the next available application round following satisfaction of the conditions of doctoral admission (See Note III). The timing of scholarship consideration will be determined by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee).
10. The Scholarship is tenable by domestic and international students who are eligible to pay domestic fees for their doctoral study (see Note II), and who meet all the requirements of these regulations.
11. a) The Scholarship as prescribed by 2(a) may be awarded for full-time enrolment in the PhD, DMedSc, DClinPsy or DocFA, or for full-time enrolment in an EdD or DHSc without a compulsory part-time component. The Scholarship as detailed at Regulation 2(a) may also be awarded (pro-rated) to domestic applicants for whom compassionate and compelling circumstances make part-time enrolment preferable in programmes without a compulsory part-time component (See Notes II and IX). b) The Scholarship as prescribed by Regulation 2(b) may be awarded to domestic applicants for compulsory part-time enrolment in the coursework component of the EdD or DHSc and for full-time enrolment in the thesis component of the EdD or DHSc. The Scholarship may be held (pro-rata) during part-time enrolment in the thesis component of the EdD or DHSc only on compassionate and compelling grounds as approved by the Scholarships Committee (or their delegate) (see Notes II and IX).
12. i) The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of either a) the Pro

Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) directly; or b) the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee), after advice from the relevant Selection Committee. ii) The recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) is final and discretionary after taking into account all factors (including factors external to the particular student concerned). iii) The University of Auckland Council cannot award a scholarship unless the Board of Graduate Studies has first determined that the applicant may be admitted to a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland doctoral programme based on the current programme application. For the avoidance of doubt, the following Regulations 13 to 18 inclusive are expressly subject to this Regulation 12 in its entirety.

13. The Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) will recommend, for awards, all Māori applicants with a New Zealand university qualifying programme GPA of 7.0 or above (See Note X).
14. The Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) will recommend, for awards, all Pacific applicants with a New Zealand university qualifying programme GPA of 7.0 or above (See Note XI).
15. Where resources allow, a central Selection Committee, comprised of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee), the Director of Graduate Studies (or nominee) and the Director of ORSI (or nominee), may consider faculty/LSRI/URC nominated applicants for awards associated with new strategic opportunities (see Note XII).
16. Where resources allow, the central Selection Committee may also consider faculty/LSRI/URC nominated Māori and Pacific applicants who do not meet the qualifying programme requirements of Regulation 13 or 14 for awards on the basis of significant alignment with University strategic objectives (see Note XII).
17. Each faculty and Large Scale Research Institute (LSRI) Selection Committee, comprised of the relevant Associate Dean/Director (Postgraduate Research) (or nominee), Associate Dean/Director (Research) (or nominee), and Deputy Dean/Director (or nominee), will consider applicants for awards in accordance with the faculty's/LSRI's annual University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship allocation and their strategic objectives and associated selection criteria as specified on their respective public websites (See Notes XII and XIII). The faculty/LSRI Selection Committee will then issue advice to the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research for consideration. The faculty/LSRI Selection Committee may, at their discretion, seek information from academic units regarding application alignment with strategic objectives (see Note XII).
18. The Head of each University Research Centre (URC) will convene a selection committee to consider applicants for awards in accordance with the URC's annual University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship allocation and their strategic objectives and associated selection criteria as specified on their respective public websites (See Notes XII and XIII). The URC Selection Committee will then issue advice to the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research for consideration. The URC Selection Committee may, at their discretion, seek information from academic units regarding application alignment with strategic objectives (see Note XII).
19. Applicants who have been offered a Scholarship must meet all requirements for admission into their intended programme and all requirements of their Scholarship offer to take up the Scholarship. No payments will be made until all requirements have been met (See Note XIV).
20. Scholarships must be taken up by one of the dates prescribed in the letter of award, otherwise the Scholarship offer will be forfeited (See Notes III and XIV).
21. University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships payments will commence on the initial date of enrolment in the doctoral programme and will provide support for up to 36 months of full-time study in accordance with Regulation 2 (See Note XV). A further six months of scholarship funding, subject to Scholarships Committee approval, may be available to candidates undertaking a PhD, DMedSc, DClinPsy or DocFA. These durations shall be pro-rated for part-time scholarship awardees.
22. Holders of the Scholarship may apply to suspend their Scholarship for up to 12 months in total during the tenure of their award (See Notes XVI and XVII).
23. An awardee retains their Scholarship if they receive approval from the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate) to change supervisors, topic, or academic unit, or to transfer to another Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland doctoral programme. Such changes have no impact on the period of tenure of the Scholarship.
24. Excluding any period of compulsory part-time enrolment in the coursework component of the EdD or DHSc, the

amount of additional and paid work a Scholar may undertake either inside or outside the University shall not exceed 750 hours per 12-month period of scholarship tenure (See Note IX).

25. Any additional tuition fee, stipend or top-up scholarship received from any other award or scholarship must be declared to the Scholarships Office upon receipt of the offer from the awarding body or receipt of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship offer, whichever is later (See Note XXIII).
26. Scholarships Committee (or their delegate) will determine if additional tuition fee, living stipend or top-up scholarships may be co-tenured with a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship (See Notes XVIII to XX).
27. If a Scholarship holder is required to undertake an internship as part of their doctoral programme, or chooses to participate in an approved Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland internship while remaining enrolled in the doctoral programme, and receives an income from that internship that is equal to or in excess of the stipend of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship, the Scholarship will reduce to fees-only for the period of scholarship tenure that coincides with the internship.
28. If a Scholarship holder is required to undertake an internship as part of their doctoral programme, or chooses to participate in an approved Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland internship or industry placement while remaining enrolled in the doctoral programme, and no income is received from that activity, the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship stipend may continue to be provided for the duration of the activity. If the income received is less than the stipend value of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship for the period of the internship, Scholarships Committee may agree to pay a partial stipend to bring the total net income to the current University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship stipend value for the period.
29. A Scholarship may be withdrawn at any stage of offer or tenure if incorrect, false, or misleading information is provided by the applicant to the University as part of the programme and scholarship application to the University, or relevant information is withheld. This includes circumstances where the information is unrelated to the assessment in offering the Scholarship.
30. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship remain tax-free under existing legislation 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.
31. Appeals are not permitted against any advice, nomination (or absence of nomination), recommendation or decision issued by the University of Auckland Council or by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) or by a duly constituted Selection Committee or URC regarding the award of a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship. URCs and Scholarship Selection Committees have discretion in the judgement of the merits of applicants against strategic objectives and associated selection criteria when providing their advice and/or nominations to the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research.
32. Notes [I]–[XXVI] 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. *International students are not eligible to pay domestic fees for the DMedSc, DClinPsy, DocFA, EdD or DHSc and thus are not eligible to hold the scholarship for those programmes. To be eligible to pay domestic PhD fees, awardees who are permanent residents of New Zealand or Australia, or citizens of countries other than New Zealand, may only be resident outside of New Zealand for a maximum total of twelve months over the period of their enrolment in their doctoral degree and only for the purposes of conducting research that cannot be conducted at an equivalent level in New Zealand.*
- III. *Application for programme, scholarship offer, and enrolment dates are as follows in Notes IV to VII, except for the DClinPsy, DHSc, EdD and doctoral and masters transfer applications. The University reserves the right to determine an application during a later round if it is not possible to conclude the matter in accordance with the dates specified in Notes IV to VII. i) Note IV applies to the DClinPsy, and to the DHSc or EdD where a February or March start date is required by the University, except that enrolment must commence on the date specified by the*

University. Note V applies to the DHSc or EdD where a June or July start date is required by the University, except that enrolment must commence on the date specified by the University. ii) Where an applicant who is approved for masters or doctoral transfer is to be offered a scholarship, the scholarship offer will be made on the offer date prescribed at Notes IV to VII for the round in which the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) has determined that scholarship consideration will occur. Where the masters/doctoral transfer student has enrolled, in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Graduate Studies, in advance of the associated “enrolment date” prescribed at Notes IV to VII, scholarship payment will commence on the “enrolment date” prescribed at Notes IV to VII and will not be backdated to the commencement of doctoral enrolment at the University.

- IV. Application Closes: 1 November, Scholarship Offer: on or by 1 February (the following year), Enrolment Date: Domestic candidate/Domestically qualified candidate: 1 March or 1 June (in the year of the offer), Enrolment Date: Internationally qualified candidate: 1 March or 1 June or 1 September (in the year of the offer).
- V. Application Closes: 1 March, Scholarship Offer: on or by 1 May (in the year of the application), Enrolment Date: Domestic candidate/Domestically qualified candidate: 1 June or 1 September (in the year of the offer), Enrolment Date: Internationally qualified candidate: 1 June or 1 September or 1 December (in the year of the offer).
- VI. Application Closes: 1 June, Scholarship Offer: on or by 1 August (in the year of the application), Enrolment Date: Domestic candidate/Domestically qualified candidate: 1 September or 1 December (in the year of the offer), Enrolment Date: Internationally qualified candidate: 1 September or 1 December (in the year of the offer) or 1 March (the following year).
- VII. Application Closes: 1 September, Scholarship Offer: on or by 1 November (in the year of application), Enrolment Date: Domestic Candidate/Domestically qualified candidate: 1 December (in the year of the offer) or 1 March (the following year), Enrolment Date: Internationally qualified candidate: 1 December (in the year of application) or 1 March or 1 June (the following year). Where the availability of resources means a scholarship offer would otherwise have to be deferred until the year following application, the University reserves the right to limit the enrolment dates to 1 March (the following year) for domestic applicants/domestically qualified applicants and to 1 March or 1 June (the following year) for internationally qualified international applicants.
- VIII. Where a master's thesis student is approved to transfer to a PhD and is subsequently awarded a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship, the tenure of the Scholarship will conclude up to 36 months FTE after the start date of the research component of their master's degree, with a possible extension of up to six further months (See Note XVII). Masters transfer candidates do not receive backdated stipend or tuition fees for the period of their master's enrolment that is transferred to a PhD enrolment.
- IX. Awardees of a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship are normally required to be enrolled on a full-time basis. Full-time is defined as 40 hours of doctoral work per week for 47 weeks a year. However, domestic candidates for whom compassionate and compelling circumstances make part-time enrolment preferable may apply to the Scholarships Committee (or their delegate), through the Scholarships Office, to hold a scholarship on a part-time basis, pro-rated. Compassionate and compelling circumstances mean circumstances that are generally beyond the candidate's control and have an impact on their ability to study full-time. For example: serious illness or injury, pregnancy or childbirth, care responsibilities for whānau, and traumatic experiences. Part-time is defined as 20 hours per week of doctoral work. Candidates will not be granted permission to hold a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship on a part-time basis if they are undertaking full-time paid employment or substantial part-time employment. Candidates who hold a scholarship on a part-time basis are subject to the same employment restrictions as full-time scholarship holders (i.e. 750 hours per 12 month period) and are required to change to full-time enrolment if their circumstances mean they no longer qualify to hold the scholarship on a part-time basis. The restrictions and provisions of this note do not apply to compulsory part-time enrolment in the EdD or DHSc. For the avoidance of doubt: international applicants who are eligible to pay domestic PhD tuition fees but required by their student visa to study full-time are not eligible to hold the Scholarship part-time.
- X. To be deemed a qualifying programme for the purposes of scholarship consideration, an individual programme must satisfy Regulation 13a and b of the PhD Statute or the equivalent admission regulations for the relevant named doctorate respectively.

- XI. To be deemed a qualifying programme for the purposes of scholarship consideration, an individual programme must satisfy Regulation 13a and b of the PhD Statute or the equivalent admission regulations for the relevant named doctorate respectively. Pacific applicants are defined as peoples of indigenous Pacific descent from any of the following islands: Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Fiji (iTaukei), Rotuma, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Wallis and Futuna, Hawaii, French Polynesia, Rapanui (Easter Island), Pitcairn Islands, Nauru, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands.
- XII. The Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship strategy and faculty/LSRI/URC strategies and opportunities can be found at <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/scholarships-and-awards/scholarship-types/postgraduate-scholarships/doctoral-scholarships.html>.
- XIII. Where there is no applicant sufficiently aligned with strategic objectives in a given round, the Faculty/LSRI/URC reserves the right to not make a recommendation to the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research.
- XIV. To take up the scholarship means to commence doctoral enrolment and the tenure of the scholarship.
- XV. Where a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship is held at the time of conclusion of doctoral enrolment or withdrawal from the doctoral programme or termination of the awardee's doctoral candidature, tenure of the Scholarship will terminate, effective on the date determined by the Scholarships Committee.
- XVI. An additional 12-month parental-leave suspension may be considered where the holder becomes a parent during their tenure of the Scholarship.
- XVII. In exceptional circumstances the Scholarships Committee may approve a suspension of this Scholarship beyond the suspension periods stated in Regulation 22 and Note XVI. Applications must be made in writing to the Scholarships Office.
- XVIII. A University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other doctoral scholarship funded by Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland (including scholarships funded by faculties, LSRI and URCs) or with any postgraduate scholarship or grant awarded by the Universities New Zealand Scholarships Committee, or by a foreign government or agency. As per Note XXIII, awardees must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their funding status.
- XIX. Where Scholarships Committee (or their delegate) approves co-tenure, the combined stipend may not exceed 150% of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship stipend. For the avoidance of doubt, support that is not for the purposes of living costs is excluded from this calculation. For example, a grant to cover research costs or professional development would not have any impact on the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship stipend.
- XX. The University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship stipend may be reduced in order to meet the requirements of Note XIX.
- XXI. Applicants who have been offered a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship, and decline an offer of admission, are eligible to be considered for both admission and a scholarship again at a later date provided they have not enrolled in a doctorate and held some other doctoral scholarship in the interim.
- XXII. A candidate who is in receipt of this Scholarship may defer their University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship funding for up to one year in total during their tenure of the scholarship, while maintaining their enrolment in their doctoral programme, provided they do not hold some other doctoral scholarship in the interim.
- XXIII. Awardees are required to comply with the regulations for the Scholarship and must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment, employment, or funding status, or any change to the circumstances on which part-time tenure of the scholarship was approved. Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland may, in the event that it is satisfied 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.
- XXIV. Where a backdated application to suspend a Scholarship has been approved, the student will be offered three options to repay any overpaid stipend payments: i) repay the total overpayment and normal stipend payments resume on the restart of both enrolment and the Scholarship, or ii) stipend payments do not resume on the restart of enrolment, and are stopped until such time as the equivalent value of the overpayments would have been paid, or iii) stipend payments are reduced until the equivalent value of the overpayments has been recovered.
- XXV. If an awardee is overpaid an amount in excess of a full fortnightly disbursement, the University may recover the

overpayment by withholding future award payments at the same rate that the award was overpaid or, if the awardee is no longer enrolled, the University may recover the overpayment in line with standard debt collection practices.

XXVI. If an awardee is overpaid an amount in excess of a full fortnightly disbursement after they are no longer eligible for the Scholarship, the University may recover the overpayment in line with standard debt collection practices.