

# Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis

<b>Code:</b>	P820
<b>Faculty:</b>	All
<b>Applicable study:</b>	All doctoral degrees
<b>Closing date:</b>	By nomination
<b>Tenure:</b>	
<b>For:</b>	Prize
<b>Number on offer:</b>	Five
<b>Offer rate:</b>	Annually
<b>Value:</b>	\$6,000 each

## Description

The Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis was established in 1999 to recognise excellence in University doctoral research.

## Selection process

- Nomination(s) are made to a subcommittee of the Board of Graduate Studies by faculties and Large Scale Research Institutes (LSRIs)
- The Prize will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a subcommittee of the Board of Graduate Studies

## Regulations

1. The Prize will be known as the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis.
2. The value of the Prize will be \$6,000 each.
3. The Prize will be awarded annually to five (former) doctoral candidates for the best five doctoral theses completed in the year preceding the year of the award (see Note I), as selected by a subcommittee of the Board of Graduate Studies in accordance with these regulations.
4. The Prize will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a subcommittee of the Board of Graduate Studies.
5. To be eligible for consideration for a Prize under Regulation 3, a thesis must, subject to Note II), have i) satisfied all requirements for the award of a doctoral degree between 1 January and 31 December of the year preceding the year of the award of the Prize, and ii) been submitted for examination within 48 months of equivalent full-time enrolment in the PhD, MD or DMedSc, DocFA, DMA, DMus or DClinPsy, or within 36 months of equivalent full-time enrolment in the EdD or DHSc, and iii) been nominated for the Prize by the faculty or LSRI associated with the relevant doctoral enrolment in accordance with Regulations 6-11.
6. The total number of theses that may be nominated by the faculties and LSRIs is 20.
7. The 20 available nominations will be apportioned across the faculties and LSRIs in accordance with the distribution of eligible doctoral completions across the faculties and LSRIs between 1 January and 31 December of the year

preceding the year of award (of the Prize), except that each faculty and LSRI must be permitted at least one nomination where the faculty or LSRI had at least one eligible doctoral completion between 1 January and 31 December of the year preceding the year of award (of the Prize) (see Note I), and that no faculty or LSRI will be permitted to nominate more than five theses. A faculty or LSRI may choose not to fill an available nomination where theses that satisfy the eligibility criteria at Regulation 5 i-ii are not deemed to be of sufficient quality in relation to the selection criteria at Regulation 8.

8. The selection criteria for nomination by a faculty or LSRI, and for selection by the subcommittee of the Board of Graduate Studies under Regulation 3, are i) the originality of the thesis and the importance of its contribution to the field(s) of the research as evidenced by (a) high impact research outputs and other demonstrable contributions to the field and/or (b) the potential for high impact research outputs and other contributions to the field, where (a) and (b) are detailed in accordance with Regulation 9; and ii) the excellence of the candidate's academic achievement in the substance and presentation of the thesis as evidenced by (a) part 2 of the examination reports and (b) any checks of the thesis documentation at the discretion of the faculty or LSRI panel at Regulation 11 and/or the Selection Committee at Regulation 12.
9. The following material must be submitted for the purposes of consideration in accordance with Regulation 8: i) a list of research outputs and other contributions to the field deriving from the doctoral thesis research and a copy of the candidate's enrolment summary; ii) a statement from the Academic Head (or nominee), who must not have been involved in the supervision of the thesis, outlining the evidence in support of the claim that the thesis has resulted in, or will lead to, high impact research outputs and other contributions to the field, and as to the stature of the thesis examiners (including, with examiner consent, examiner identity/identifying features). Where relevant, journal impact factors (or equivalent) should be noted and information provided on the conferences at which the candidate presented; iii) part 2 of the examination reports. A copy of the thesis must be provided upon request to the faculty or LSRI panel at Regulation 11 and/or the Selection Committee at Regulation 12.
10. The Academic Head (or nominee) may decline to provide the statement required under Regulation 9 where the Academic Head (or nominee) does not regard a thesis as of appropriate quality for consideration by the faculty or LSRI in relation to the selection criteria at Regulation 8. In such cases, the thesis cannot proceed to faculty or LSRI consideration.
11. The Associate Dean/Director (Postgraduate Research) of each faculty or LSRI (or nominee) will chair a panel involving at least two other persons to determine the nominee(s) from the faculty or LSRI (if any) in accordance with these regulations. The panel must rank the faculty or LSRI nominees and supply a memo detailing the process and the rationale for the rankings.
12. The Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee, who must be a member of the Board of Graduate Studies) will chair a Selection Committee comprised of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research (or nominee) and two other members of the Board of Graduate Studies to consider the nominations and recommend the award of the Prize to the University of Auckland Council in accordance with these regulations.
13. The decision of the University of Auckland Council as to the award of the Prize is final and is not subject to appeal.
14. The University of Auckland Council has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided there is no departure from the main purpose of the Prize.
15. Notes [I]-[II] below are deemed to be regulations.

## Notes

- I. "Completed" means that all requirements for the award of the doctoral degree have been satisfied.
- II. An exception to the eligibility requirement at Regulation 5(ii) may be made where a student had an extension of no longer than three months as a result of disruptions arising from COVID-19.