

Six-month Scholarship Opportunity for a Masters student. *Housing unaffordability as a wicked problem: A co-created/co-designed approach*

We are seeking a Masters student to design and complete a scoping review on an interdisciplinary project on housing unaffordability.

In 2020 Aotearoa New Zealand had the highest housing cost to disposable income ratio in the OECD. Despite that high base, over 2020 and 2021 New Zealand house prices rose 44%. The high price of housing, including rents, is a persistent long-term challenge that has far reaching consequences for wellbeing, inequality, homelessness, child poverty, financial stability, and the distribution of wealth. Treasury analysis of housing affordability identifies the main drivers of house prices as a combination of [1] a global decline in interest rates; [2] constrained *land* availability; and [3] the tax system.

A scholarship of \$10,000 for a Master's student is available to **design and complete a Scoping Review into the three main drivers of housing affordability**. The purpose is to establish current understanding of those drivers in order to carry out a co-creation/co-design project using wicked problem thinking.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate:

1. At least a basic understanding of three factors affecting housing unaffordability:
    - Bank interest rates
    - Constrained land availability – falls into urban planning
    - Tax system
  2. Scoping review knowledge and skills or willingness to consult a research librarian (e.g., [Simon Esling](#)) to develop key words search knowledge and skills. I can also offer resources if needed.
  3. Writing ability: published scoping review papers can be offered as models
  4. Ability to meet due dates e.g. the completion of the Scoping Review (13th November)
  5. Willingness to engage with supervisory research team when needed by successful candidate or requested by supervisory team
- Teamwork is not critical as a researcher works by her/himself most of the time. But a willingness to ask questions as in 2 above is vital.
  - An undergraduate business and/or economics degree and postgraduate study in the same disciplines would provide the best background.
  - Ideally applicants will have work experience in town planning/banks/IRD or consultancies such as KPMG/PWC etc for tax knowledge.
  - The ability to meet milestones is very important.

**The Scoping Review must be completed by the end of Semester 2, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

Applications close **5 p.m. 28th April 2023** and must include a Curriculum Vitae and cover letter setting out the applicant's suitability for the role. The contact details of two referees must also be included.

Applications to be sent to: [m.webster@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.webster@auckland.ac.nz) by the above deadline.

For further information, contact Dr Mike Webster on [m.webster@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.webster@auckland.ac.nz) or 027 813 7954.

To access the full research proposal, click [here](#)

**Supervisory team:** Dr Mike Webster, Faculty of Education and Social Work; Dr Le Wen, Energy Centre, Department of Engineering Science; Dr Priyanka Dhopade, Department of Mechanical Engineering.