

# University of Auckland PhD Top-Up Scholarship

<b>Code:</b>	43
<b>Faculty:</b>	All
<b>Applicable study:</b>	PhD
<b>Closing date:</b>	No student application required
<b>Tenure:</b>	Up to 36 months (see Reg. 12)
<b>For:</b>	Assistance with study
<b>Number on offer:</b>	Varies
<b>Offer rate:</b>	Varies
<b>Value:</b>	Varies

## Description

The Scholarship was established to supplement, in accordance with these regulations, a Top-Up Scholarship awardee's externally funded PhD scholarship up to the level of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship.

Students may be recommended for supplementary funding, subject to budget constraints, strategic objectives and the requirements and provisions of these regulations.

Top-Up funding is not available if the external funding is provided by a foreign government or agency.

Students cannot request consideration for this Scholarship.

Faculties, LSRI and URCs may request consideration in accordance with the PhD Top-Up Scholarship Guidelines and Process for Academic Staff (<https://www.staff.auckland.ac.nz/assets/staff/central-services/a-z-central-services/documents/scholarships/phd-top-up-scholarship-guidelines-processes20230704.pdf>).

Consideration is at the discretion of the Central Selection Committee and subject to the availability of resources and requirements of the Scholarship regulations.

## Selection process

- No student application required
- Faculties, LSRI and URCs may request consideration in accordance with the PhD Top-Up-Scholarship Guidelines and Process for Academic Staff
- Consideration is at the discretion of the Central Selection Committee and subject to the availability of resources and the requirements of the Scholarship regulations
- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Dean of Graduate Studies or the central Selection Committee as detailed in the Regulations

## Regulations

1. The Scholarship will be known as the University of Auckland PhD Top-Up Scholarship.

2. The Scholarship comprises a supplement to an awardee's current annual PhD scholarship to match the current annual value of a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship for up to 36 months FTE, including stipend, compulsory domestic tuition fees for prescribed study for the PhD programme, Student Services Fee and the single student Health Insurance compulsory charge (as detailed on the tuition fees invoice) for international students who are eligible to study under the domestic fees policy (see Note I). Part-time students will be paid pro-rata for up to 72 months.
3. To be awarded the Scholarship, a PhD applicant must either i) satisfy the requirements of Regulation 4 or ii) establish eligibility for consideration under Regulation 6, satisfy Regulation 7 and be recommended for the Scholarship pursuant to Regulations 9-10.
4. Subject to Regulation 3, the following requirements must be satisfied in order for the scholarship to be awarded: i) the PhD applicant must satisfy the requirements at Regulation 7 and the domestic fees requirement at Regulation 8; ii) the PhD applicant must hold an externally funded scholarship that has been approved, in accordance with Note II, for supplementation by a University of Auckland PhD Top-up scholarship; iii) the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate) must have determined that the PhD applicant may be admitted to the PhD programme; iv) the student must not have commenced doctoral enrolment or already hold a doctorate.
5. The Scholarship will be awarded pursuant to Regulation 4 by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Dean of Graduate Studies (or nominee). The Dean of Graduate Studies will recommend, for awards, PhD applicants who satisfy the requirements of Regulation 4.
6. To be eligible for Scholarship consideration under Regulations 9 and 10, PhD applicants must satisfy the domestic fees requirement at Regulation 8 and already hold an externally funded PhD scholarship of at least 36 months' (full-time equivalent) duration with an annual value of at least 75% of the current annual value of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship (UoADS) that has not already been approved for supplementation by a University of Auckland PhD Top-up scholarship under Note II (see Notes II-III); and, the Board of Graduate Studies (or delegate) must have determined that the PhD applicant may be admitted to the PhD programme. Applicants in receipt of foreign government or foreign agency funding are not eligible for Scholarship consideration. Students who have commenced doctoral enrolment or who already have a doctorate are not eligible for consideration for a University of Auckland PhD Top-Up Scholarship.
7. The Scholarship may be awarded for full-time enrolment in a PhD. The Scholarship may also be awarded to domestic students for whom compassionate and compelling circumstances make part-time study preferable (see Note IV).
8. The Scholarship is tenable by domestic and international students who are paying domestic fees (see Note I) and who continue to satisfy the requirements of these regulations.
9. Each faculty, Large Scale Research Institute and University Research Centre may, at their discretion, nominate PhD applicants who meet the requirements of Regulation 6 to the central Selection Committee, based on the faculty's, LSRI's or URC's strategic objectives and associated selection criteria, as outlined on their respective, public websites.
10. The Scholarship will be awarded pursuant to Regulation 9 and this Regulation 10 by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a central Selection Committee comprised of the Dean of Graduate Studies (or nominee), Director of Graduate Studies (or nominee) and Director of ORSI (or nominee). Recommendations for awards are subject to available resources and alignment with strategic objectives as assessed by the central Selection Committee. The recommendation of the central Selection Committee is final and discretionary after taking into account all factors (including factors external to the particular student concerned).
11. Awardees must meet all requirements for admission to 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 V).
12. The University of Auckland PhD Top-Up Scholarship payments will commence from the doctoral enrolment date, or the date recommended by the central Selection Committee (whichever is the later date) and will provide support for up to 36 months of full-time equivalent enrolment or until the awardee no longer holds an external scholarship of the value specified at Regulation 6 or Note II or until the date of thesis submission, whichever is the shortest duration

- (Notes VI and VII). An extension of Top-Up Scholarship Support of up to 6 months (full-time equivalent) may be approved by the Central Selection Committee in accordance with Note XVI. The decision of the Committee is final and discretionary after taking into account all factors (including factors external to the particular student concerned).
13. Subject to the regulations or conditions for the other source of funding, holders of the Scholarship may apply to suspend their studies, and their Scholarship, for up to 12 months in total during the tenure of their award (see Notes VIII and IX).
  14. Subject to the regulations or conditions for the other source of funding, 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.
  15. 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 (see Note X). The amount paid by the University of Auckland PhD Top-Up Scholarship will be reduced in such circumstances, so that the total amount of scholarship support the recipient of a University of Auckland PhD Top-Up Scholarship receives in any scholarship year does not exceed the value of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship (see Note XI).
  16. If a PhD Top-up Scholarship holder is required to undertake an internship as part of their PhD programme or chooses to participate in an approved Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland internship while remaining enrolled in the PhD, and receives a combined net income from that internship and external scholarship stipend equal to or greater than the rate of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship stipend for the period of the internship, the University of Auckland PhD Top-up Scholarship stipend component will reduce to \$0 for the period. Where the combined net income from the internship and external scholarship stipend is less than the rate of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship stipend for the period of the internship, the University of Auckland PhD Top-up Scholarship stipend component will be paid at a rate that renders the total net income for the period consistent with the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship stipend rate for the period.
  17. A Scholarship may be withdrawn at any stage if incorrect, false or misleading information is provided by the applicant to the University or to the external funder as part of the programme and/or scholarship application(s), or relevant information is withheld. This includes circumstances where the information is unrelated to the assessment in offering the Scholarship.
  18. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship remain tax-free under current 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 (Note XV). Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Scholarship.
  19. Appeals are not permitted against any nomination (or absence of nomination), recommendation or decision issued by the University of Auckland, a faculty, LSRI, URC or by a duly constituted central Selection Committee considering the award of a University of Auckland PhD Top-Up Scholarship.
  20. Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland can amend or vary these Regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.
  21. Notes [I]-[XV] below are deemed to be Regulations.

## Notes

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- I. *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.*
- II. *A central Selection Committee, comprised of the Dean of Graduate Studies (or nominee), Director of Graduate Studies (or nominee) and Director of ORSI (or nominee), may, at its discretion, consider requests from faculties, LSRI and URCs to approve externally funded PhD scholarships of at least 36 months' (full-time equivalent) duration (established on or after 1 September 2022 and administered through the University of Auckland Scholarships Office) for supplementation by the University of Auckland PhD Top-up Scholarship prior to the selection of an appropriate student. Scholarships funded by foreign governments or foreign agencies are not*

- eligible for consideration. Scholarships with an annual value of less than 75% of the current annual value of the UoADS are not eligible for consideration. Consideration is at the discretion of the central Selection Committee, and approval is subject to the availability of resources and alignment with faculty/LSRI/URC and/or University strategic objectives as assessed by the Committee. The decision of the Selection Committee is final and discretionary after taking into account all factors, including factors independent of the externally funded scholarship concerned.
- III. The externally funded scholarship must have been established on or after 1 September 2022 and must be administered through the University of Auckland Scholarships Office.
  - IV. Recipients of a University of a University of Auckland PhD Top-Up 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 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 of doctoral work per week for 47 weeks a year. Candidates will not be granted permission to hold a University of Auckland PhD Top-Up 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 scholarship period) and are required to change to full-time enrolment if their circumstances means they no longer qualify to hold the scholarship on a part-time basis.
  - V. To take up the scholarship means to commence the tenure of the scholarship and requires the awardee to have commenced enrolment in the PhD programme.
  - VI. Where the annual value of the supplement to match the stipend value of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship is \$1,000 or less, the University of Auckland PhD Top-Up Scholarship may be paid in one annual instalment, as determined by the Scholarships Office.
  - VII. Where a top-up scholarship is held at the time of withdrawal from or termination of enrolment in the PhD programme, tenure of the scholarship shall terminate effective on the date determined by the Scholarships Committee.
  - VIII. Subject to regulations or conditions for the other source of funding, an additional 12-month suspension period is available to any holder who becomes a parent during their tenure of the Scholarship.
  - IX. In exceptional circumstances Scholarships Committee may approve a suspension of this Scholarship beyond the suspension periods stated in Regulation 13 and Note VIII. Applications must be made in writing to the Scholarships Office.
  - X. A University of Auckland PhD Top-Up 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.
  - XI. 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 PhD Top-Up Scholarship stipend.
  - XII. 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.
  - XIII. 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.
  - XIV. 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.

- XV. *As the tax-free status of this Scholarship is under current legislation, the University of Auckland cannot guarantee this tax-free outcome.*
- XVI. *Where the externally funded PhD Scholarship has a duration of up to 42 months (full-time equivalent) and an annual value of at least 75% of the annual value of the UoADS, the Central Selection Committee may consider extending Top-Up Scholarship support for up to the final 6 months of the externally funded scholarship. Approval is discretionary and subject to the availability of resources, the consideration of any factors deemed relevant by the committee and the satisfaction of any requirements and conditions imposed by the Central Selection Committee in consultation with the Scholarships Committee. To avoid doubt: externally funded scholarships of more than 42 months' (full-time equivalent) duration are not eligible for consideration for Top-Up Scholarship support beyond 36 months' (full-time equivalent) duration.*
- XVII. *The PhD Top-Up-Scholarship Guidelines and Process for Academic Staff can be found at <https://www.staff.auckland.ac.nz/en/central-services/a-z-central-services/scholarships-office/doctoral-scholarships.html>.*