

**Waikato Graduate Women Educational Trust
Ngā Raukura Wāhine Mātauranga o Waikato**

Dr Vivienne Cassie-Cooper Award – Information

This award recognises Dr Vivienne Cassie-Cooper's continued research output over her lifetime, often unpaid. It was first awarded in 2018.

1. Purpose

To enable women returning to study (full-time or part-time) after a period in the paid or voluntary workforce or caring for whānau, to enrol in their first Masters degree. Women already enrolled can apply but the award will be *pro rata*.

2. Funding available

\$5,000 over two years (or part-time equivalent). Instalments will be transferred to the recipient's nominated bank account, subject to satisfactory progress.

3. Closing dates

30 April and 30 September

Applications, which must be received by the closing date, can be emailed to awards@wgweducationaltrust.nz or posted to the Waikato Graduate Women Awards Committee, PO Box 148, Hamilton 3240.

4. Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- a. be women students who, at the time of applying for the Award are at least 30 years old;
- b. have spent at least three years in the workforce/community service and/or caring for family/whānau members since graduating with their most recent tertiary qualification;
- c. have evidence of being accepted in a Masters programme at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute, Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, the University of Waikato, or the Waikato Institute of Technology;
- d. be a New Zealand citizen or have held permanent residence for at least two years;
- e. can be enrolled full or part-time.

5. Application process

Applicants must provide:

- a. evidence of completing a qualification allowing entry to a Masters programme;
- b. a synopsis of up to 500 words describing the benefits of the proposed study to the individual and the community, future career plans; any special circumstances; and study plan for their masters (e.g. part/full time study, schedule for completed and/or proposed papers);
- c. a brief (maximum two pages) curriculum vitae outlining work, community and family/whānau responsibilities;
- d. evidence of New Zealand citizenship, or permanent residence of at least two years;
- e. name and contact details of a referee qualified to comment on your experience and capability to undertake masters study. The Trust must receive the confidential report by the closing date.

6. Selection

- a. The Awards Committee of the WGNET will administer the Award;
- b. The Awards Committee will take into consideration the academic merit of the degree proposal and the relevance of the course of study to the community;
- c. The number of awards is subject to availability of funds and the standard of applications. If, in the opinion of the Committee, applications are not of an acceptable standard, no award will be made;
- d. The Committee's decision is final.

7. Awarding

Award winners will be informed in June for April applications, and in November for September applications.

8. Recipient report requirement

Recipients must provide the Waikato Graduate Women Educational Trust an annual progress report and a final report upon completing their Masters. The Trust may use the reports Trust for publicity.