

The University of Waikato Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship was established in 2021 to support the aspirations of outstanding students of Māori and Pacific descent who are committed to pursuing an academic career at the University of Waikato. The scholarship supports those with knowledge of Mātauranga Māori, te reo Māori and/or knowledge of Pacific language, culture and communities and wider Pacific knowledges while providing a clear pathway into an academic career at University of Waikato. Up to five Scholarships will be awarded each year.

## 1. Purpose

To support pathways into academic careers for outstanding students of Māori and/or Pacific descent.

## 2. Eligibility

2.1. **To be eligible**, candidates must be:

- 2.1.1. of New Zealand Māori and/or of Pacific descent;
- 2.1.2. a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident;
- 2.1.3. enrolling in a doctoral qualification (e.g., a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Health Science (DHSc), Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA), Doctor of Education (EdD), Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD)), or Part 2 of a Doctor of Education (EdD);
- 2.1.4. intending to study full-time for the duration of their doctoral qualification;
- 2.1.5. seeking to obtain their first doctoral qualification;
- 2.1.6. planning to undertake their doctoral qualification either:
  - (1) At the University of Waikato, but with a viable plan to spend *at least* one year of their study at another University, **or**
  - (2) At a University other than the University of Waikato;

2.2. Candidates who are full-time or continuing employees of the University of Waikato **are not eligible** for the Scholarship while they continue to be employees. Employment as a sessional assistant, or similar, may be permitted, provided the hours worked do not contravene Clause 8.3.

2.3. **On-going eligibility for recipients** is conditional on:

- 2.3.1. Within 6 months of acceptance of this scholarship, providing evidence of acceptance into the doctoral programme of the relevant university, or of acceptance to complete a period of study at the relevant university.
- 2.3.2. Formally completing the entry qualifications for, and enrolling full-time in, a doctoral qualification and following the approved programme of study; and

- 2.3.3. Meeting expectations in all doctoral reports. Doctoral reports, endorsed by the Chief Supervisor, must be submitted to [scholarships@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@waikato.ac.nz) at least every 6 months.
- 2.4. If a recipient's circumstances change in a manner which may affect their continued eligibility for this Scholarship, they must inform their Supervisor and the Scholarships Committee immediately (via [scholarships@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@waikato.ac.nz)). Any change of circumstances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### 3. Selection Criteria and Selection Process

- 3.1. **Selection is based** on all of the following:
  - 3.1.1. Academic merit in a discipline of strategic importance to the University of Waikato;
  - 3.1.2. Knowledge of mātauranga Māori, te reo Māori and/or knowledges and languages of their community in the Pacific (as appropriate);
  - 3.1.3. Alignment of the proposed area of study with the strategic staffing plans and research priorities of the University/Divisions/Faculties/Schools and/or Research Institutes; and
  - 3.1.4. In the case that enrolment is at a University other than the University of Waikato, then applications will be judged against the quality, location and strategic alignment to intent of this scholarship of the other university (with a strong preference for the other University to be international).
- 3.2. The University of Waikato reserves the right to solicit applications from suitably qualified individuals.
- 3.3. Applications will be considered by the University of Waikato [Scholarships Executive](#) who will consult with relevant Faculties/Divisions/Schools, the Director (International) **and** the Vice-Chancellor before making decisions to award any scholarships.
- 3.4. The Scholarships Executive's decision is final; no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

### 4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **31 January** and **31 July** each year.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must:
  - 4.2.1. Submit a Personal Statement (using the prescribed template) that outlines the following:
    - (1) **Proposed Research:** title, importance of research, a brief summary of what will be done, and expected outcomes of relevance to academia. Include also a draft timeline.
    - (2) **University where study will be undertaken:** a brief statement outlining the quality of the university/department, the suitability of the proposed academic supervisor to support the research, and anticipated opportunities from studying at that university.

- (3) **Academic Career path:** A brief statement of why the candidate wants to be an academic at the University of Waikato, which school/Faculty/Division they anticipate they would best fit as an academic, and what they would bring to the school/Faculty/Division and University after they complete their doctoral studies.
- (4) **Current cultural knowledge:** a statement outlining knowledge of mātauranga Māori, te reo Māori and/or knowledges and languages of their Pacific communities (as appropriate);
- (5) Any other information that may be of relevance to the Scholarships Executive.

4.2.2. Upload a curriculum vitae in the [RSNZ format](#).

4.2.3. Unless all tertiary study has been completed at University of Waikato upload all previous academic transcripts.

4.2.4. The candidate must also request the submission of two confidential references from different people:

- (1) One from someone who can attest to their character and cultural competencies.
- (2) One from their proposed doctoral supervisor who will outline the importance of the research, collaborations and future possibilities for the student.

4.3. **Candidates intending to enrol at University of Waikato must also** complete their [Application to Enrol](#) in a doctoral degree at the University of Waikato prior to submitting their Scholarship application.

## 5. Awarding

- 5.1. All applicants will be advised of the scholarship outcome within 8 weeks of the closing date.
- 5.2. The offer of the Scholarship must be accepted by the date indicated within the offer or the offer will lapse.
- 5.3. A Scholarship may only be taken up by a candidate who has formally completed the entry qualifications for, and enrolled in, a doctoral qualification.
- 5.4. The Scholarship is awarded only for the period for which the candidate is enrolled in a doctoral qualification, and only for the agreed tenure.
- 5.5. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the regulations and terms and conditions of the Scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 5.6. By accepting the Scholarship offer, the candidate agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

## 6. Value and Tenure

- 6.1. **The value of the Scholarship** shall normally be:
  - 6.1.1. A living allowance of NZ\$**35,000** in total every 12 months, payable in monthly instalments for the agreed tenure of the scholarship.

- 6.1.2. The tuition fees for enrolment in the doctoral qualification during the tenure of the Scholarship at the relevant university;
  - 6.1.3. Student Services Levies, health insurance, removal costs or other additional costs of enrolment at the relevant University as approved by the Scholarships Executive.
  - 6.1.4. A return economy class airfare to the University where study is being undertaken, and relevant costs associated with that airfare, where the airfare is booked through the University of Waikato corporate travel provider.
- 6.2. **The Scholarship tenure** will not normally exceed 36 months (three years) of full-time doctoral enrolment (or equivalent for part-time study).
- 6.2.1. For candidates enrolling in a DHSc, DMA, or SJD programme, the tenure of the Doctoral Scholarship will begin on the date that Part 1 enrolment begins.
  - 6.2.2. Should the doctoral candidate not have completed their qualification after three years from initial enrolment, they may apply for an additional period of scholarship support not exceeding 12 months. Additional tenure is at the sole discretion of the Scholarships Executive on submission of satisfactory evidence that the qualification can be completed in that period of time.
  - 6.2.3. Should a recipient submit their thesis for examination during the Scholarship period (and provided the candidate remains enrolled), the Scholarship will end after its full term *or* upon the recipient's completion of the doctoral qualification, whichever is the earlier date. Completion occurs when the relevant body at the University awarding the degree recommends that it be awarded.
  - 6.2.4. If, for any reason<sup>1</sup>, a recipient's [doctoral enrolment](#) ends during the Scholarship term the Scholarship will end from the same date.

## 7. Co-tenure

- 7.1. If the recipient is offered/already holds another University of Waikato funded doctoral scholarship then they must choose one. To be clear, recipients may only hold one University of Waikato funded doctoral scholarship at any one time.
- 7.2. The recipient may hold any other awards that provide funds for research and/or conference purposes. However, recipients:
  - 7.2.1. may hold lower-value awards which also allow co-tenure, provided the combined value of all other awards does not exceed fifty percent of the living allowance of this Scholarship in any one year.
  - 7.2.2. must seek permission to retain both scholarships where one or multiple award(s) with a combined value higher than fifty percent of the full value of the living allowance of this Scholarship (which also allows co-tenure) have been attained. The recipient must apply to the Scholarships Executive (via [Scholarship Variation Request form](#)), providing adequate details.

---

<sup>1</sup> For example, completion, withdrawal, or termination.

## 8. Part-time Study, Suspension, and Employment While Studying

8.1. The University of Waikato is committed to ensuring the wellbeing of its students. Students are expected to study full time while on this scholarship. **Full-time scholarship recipients:**

8.1.1. Are expected to undertake their doctoral studies full-time (i.e., 37.5 hours per week) and may take up to four weeks holiday each year (not including University and Public Holidays) without applying for suspension of their scholarship.

8.1.2. Are not permitted to undertake paid employment that exceeds an annual total of 500 hours (i.e., not work more than 6 days per week when combining doctoral studies and paid employment). Permission to exceed an annual total of 500 hours paid employment must be sought from the Scholarships Executive (via the [Scholarship Variation Request form](#)) and will only be approved in exceptional circumstances (e.g., where the work is part of the data collection).

### 8.2. Part-time scholarship recipients:

8.2.1. Recipients who have socially compelling reasons for enrolling in part-time study (e.g., illness, disability, parent or carer responsibilities) may apply to the Scholarships Executive for permission to retain the scholarship part-time. The recipient should submit a [Scholarship Variation Request](#) outlining the reasons for the request and providing appropriate evidence of the need to study part-time. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

8.2.2. During any period of part-time enrolment, the value, tenure, employment allowances and duration of a recipient's Scholarship will be adjusted on a pro rata basis.

8.2.3. Recipients will not be granted permission to hold this Scholarship on a part-time basis to undertake full-time paid employment or where combined days worked on doctoral studies and in employment exceed 6 days a week, or where annual holidays are forfeited.

8.2.4. Recipients are required to transfer to full-time enrolment if a change in their circumstances means they no longer qualify to hold the Scholarship part-time.

### 8.3. Suspension of studies

8.3.1. Scholarships may only be paid to enrolled students. This means that doctoral recipients on suspension are not eligible to receive any Scholarship funds for any reason. This includes suspension related to parental, medical or compassionate leave. In the cases of overpayment, the School of Graduate Research will work with the recipient to recoup the funds.

## 9. Bond for Employment Following Completion of Doctoral Study

9.1. As a condition of the acceptance of the Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship, recipients are expected to accept employment as a full-time member of the Academic Staff of the University of Waikato on standard terms and conditions for a period equivalent to the term of their Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship.

9.2. Should the scholarship recipient decline the offer of employment at the completion of the Academic Pathway Doctoral Scholarship, the University of Waikato reserves the right to seek reimbursement of an amount (or, at the sole discretion of the

University, some part of an amount) equivalent to the difference between the living allowance received under this scholarship, and the living allowance that would have been received under a standard [University of Waikato Doctoral Scholarship](#).

- 9.3. If the University of Waikato does not have an appropriate academic position for the Scholarship recipient on completion of their doctoral study, the University of Waikato at its sole discretion will waive the requirement to accept employment at the University of Waikato and also waive the requirement to refund any amount of the Scholarship.

## 10. Other Conditions

- 10.1. If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance, another scholarship, or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.
- 10.2. If a recipient's circumstances change in a manner which may affect their continued eligibility for this Scholarship, they must inform the Scholarships Executive immediately (via [scholarships@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@waikato.ac.nz)). Any change of circumstances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 10.3. The Postgraduate Research Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Scholarships Executive regarding Progress Reports of Scholarship recipients that identify performance that is below expectations.
- 10.4. The Scholarships Executive may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the recipient:
  - 1.1.1. is not meeting expectations in their doctoral progress reports;
  - 1.1.2. is not following the approved programme of study; or,
  - 1.1.3. brings the University of Waikato and/or University of study into disrepute<sup>2</sup>, or otherwise does not comply with the regulations governing the Scholarship.
- 1.2. The Scholarship recipient will have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate a Scholarship by writing to [scholarships@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@waikato.ac.nz), who will forward the appeal to the Research Committee.
- 1.3. The University of Waikato may, from time to time, vary these regulations.

---

<sup>2</sup> See the [Student Code of Conduct](#).