



University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship: FAQs

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure the information we have supplied is correct and up to date. However, the [University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations](#) take precedence over all other material. You are strongly advised to read the scholarship regulations for complete information, to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria for scholarship consideration, and that you understand the implications of any regulations, awarding value and selection criteria.

How much is the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship worth?

The University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship provides a tax-free stipend of up to NZ\$28,984.50 annually in 2022, for up to 36 months.

In addition, while in receipt of the scholarship, the University will cover your tuition and student services fees in full, as well as (single-student) international health insurance (international students only).

This applies to all domestic students, and international students who are eligible to study under the domestic fees policy.

Stipends for students currently in payment for University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships will increase to NZ\$28,984.50 from 1 January 2022.

How do I apply for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

As part of your Application for Admission for a doctoral programme, you will have the opportunity to confirm whether or not you also wish to be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship - you don't need to apply separately.

There are no scholarship "rounds" or application forms. You can apply for a place on a doctoral programme when you are ready and you will also be assessed for the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship when your grades are confirmed.

Scholarship offers will be made alongside offers of places in doctoral programmes. For all other doctoral scholarships, a separate application must be submitted.

How do I accept the offer of a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

When you are made a firm offer of a doctoral place at the University, you will be directed to an online form that you need to complete in order to accept the scholarship offer. You need to do this within two weeks of the date of the email containing your scholarship offer.

When will I be notified if I have been awarded a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship offers will be made alongside offers of place in doctoral programmes.

How can I apply to hold my University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship part-time?

You are permitted to hold a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship on a part-time basis only if you have a socially compelling reason. You won't be permitted to hold the scholarship on a part-time basis if you wish to undertake full-time employment or substantial part-time employment. Please refer to the scholarship regulations.

If you meet the criteria to hold your scholarship part-time, you will need to apply to the Scholarships Committee (SC) for approval.

The application should consist of the following:

1. A letter from you detailing the reason(s) for part-time status.
2. A letter or statement of endorsement from your supervisor.
3. Endorsement from your Head of Department
 - a. In case your supervisor is also the Head of Department, then the Associate Dean or Postgraduate Dean of your faculty needs to endorse your supervisor's letter.
4. A medical certificate if it is a medical reason.

Completed applications should be emailed to scholarships@auckland.ac.nz.

When do I need to start my study if I have been offered a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

Domestic students:

If you are a domestic student, you must be enrolled at the University within three months of the date of the unconditional programme offer, otherwise the scholarship offer will lapse.

International students:

If you are an international student with a New Zealand qualifying programme, you must be enrolled at the University within three months of the unconditional programme offer otherwise the scholarship offer will lapse. If you are an international student with an overseas qualifying programme, you must be enrolled at the University within six months of the date of the unconditional programme offer, otherwise the scholarship offer will lapse.

Doctor of Clinical Psychology and Doctor of Education:

Doctor of Clinical Psychology and Doctor of Education students must be enrolled by the next available start date of those programmes, or the scholarship offer will lapse.

Your doctoral enrolment must commence on the first day of the month.

Can I be paid my University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship if I am starting my programme off-shore because of COVID-19 and border closures?

Yes, you can start your scholarship off-shore but the scholarship will only pay your fees and administrative costs while you remain off-shore. The stipend component will only commence once you arrive in New Zealand and set up a local bank account.

Once you've set up your New Zealand bank account, we will start making fortnightly stipend payments to that account (and we'll continue to pay your fees and administrative costs). Over the first 12 months after your arrival, you will also receive a second fortnightly payment to cover the payments that were not made while the borders remained closed. We will confirm to you what these payments will be, so you know what to expect each fortnight.

If, by the time you are able to travel to New Zealand, you submit your thesis in fewer than 12 months, we will pay your backdated stipend in equal instalments as though we were payment it for 12 months, and then any outstanding amount will be paid as a lump sum on the submission of your thesis.

What if I am not eligible for, or not successful in securing, a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

Domestic and international doctoral students are encouraged to apply for other scholarships offered by both the University and generous donors and organisations.

To find a list of these, visit [Scholarships and awards](#).

You can also talk to your supervisor and your faculty to find out about suitable funding. Some faculties have their own sources of funding (like grants), so check with your faculty if there is any funding that you might be eligible for.

What is a qualifying programme?

A qualifying programme is the most recently completed programme of study that qualifies you for entry to the doctoral programme for which you are applying.

Applicants using publications to establish eligibility for PhD admission do not have a qualifying programme.

To qualify an applicant for entry to a doctoral programme, an individual programme must satisfy regulations 13a and 13b of the PhD Statute or Regulation 2a and Regulation 2b of the relevant named doctoral regulations and supporting guidelines.

For example, postgraduate programmes that do not include a research component of at least 25% of one year's full-time study, or which are entirely comprised of creative practice research, are not qualifying programmes for the PhD.

In certain circumstances, a bridging programme approved by the Board of Graduate Studies may be permitted to count towards a "qualifying programme" for scholarship purposes. See the [University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations](#) for details.

What are the requirements to be guaranteed a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

Scholarships are guaranteed for new doctoral applicants with a grade point average (GPA) of 8.0 ('A' grade) or higher in their most recent qualifying programme for doctoral study, provided the qualifying programme was completed at a New Zealand university.

Scholarships are also guaranteed for new Māori and domestic Pacific students who are citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand with a GPA of 7.5 or higher in their most recent qualifying programme for doctoral study, provided the qualifying programme was completed at a New Zealand university.

A qualifying programme is the most recently completed programme of study that qualifies you for entry to the doctoral programme for which you are applying.

There are eight universities in New Zealand: University of Auckland, AUT, University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, Massey University, University of Otago, University of Waikato, Victoria University of Wellington.

How can I find out if I am eligible for a guaranteed postgraduate scholarship?

The University does not assess eligibility for a University of Auckland postgraduate scholarship prior to application for a place on a programme. So you must submit an application for admission in order to be considered for a scholarship. You will be advised of your eligibility once we have received your final grades and you have a firm offer of place for your chosen programme.

If you need to find out your grade point average (GPA) and you are a current student at the University of Auckland, the grades from your current programme of study are shown on your transcript, which can be accessed from Student Services Online at any time.

How is my qualifying programme grade point average (GPA) calculated for the purposes of University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship assessment?

Your application for some University of Auckland scholarships will be assessed based on the Grade Point Average (GPA) of your qualifying programme. Your qualifying programme is your most recently completed programme of study that qualifies you for entry to the programme for which you are applying.

Your GPA is usually calculated across all courses attempted (see the [University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations](#) for exceptions).

Grades are assigned a numerical value on a nine-point scale:

- 9 for an A+
- 8 for an A
- 7 for an A-
- 6 for a B+
- 5 for a B
- 4 for a B-
- 3 for a C+
- 2 for a C
- 1 for a C-
- 0 for a D+, D, D-; did not sit; did not complete.

Courses where the only grades are Pass, Fail, Completed (CPL) or W (Withdrawn) do not contribute to the GPA.

Each grade value is then multiplied by the points value for that course.

The grade points are added together, and the sum divided by the total points value of all courses counting towards the GPA.

Undergraduate honours and integrated undergraduate and postgraduate degrees where the most recent qualifying programme is an undergraduate honours degree or integrated undergraduate and postgraduate degree, the GPA/E will be calculated over the final two years of full-time study in the programme (or equivalent).

Overseas university

If your qualifying programme is from a recognised overseas university, we will convert your final grades into a University of Auckland equivalent as part of our assessment.

Conjoint degree

In the case of conjoint degrees, your qualifying programme is the component degree that is relevant to the proposed doctoral study.

Courses not assigned to your qualifying programme

Courses that are not assigned to your qualifying programme will not be included in the qualifying programme GPA. This includes courses taken as part of a Certificate of Proficiency (COP) or Transitional Certificate.

How are internationally qualified students assessed for the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

Outstanding new doctoral applicants who completed their qualifying programme outside New Zealand will be considered for but are not guaranteed a scholarship. Applicants will be considered on the basis of performance in their qualifying programme (including standing of awarding institution).

The University will review the grades the applicant achieved in their qualifying programme and convert them into a University of Auckland equivalent as part of their assessment. Matters considered by the University will include GPE and academic record in the qualifying programme, academic references and the standing of the awarding institution.

Each Faculty Dean also has the discretion to recommend the award of a Scholarship to an applicant on the basis of academic merit and any other factors the Faculty Dean considers relevant in the circumstances. Matters that may be considered by the Faculty Dean in relation to academic merit include, but are not limited to, academic record, standing of awarding institution, academic references, cv, research and publication record. The number of scholarships available across the University through the discretion of Faculty Deans is very limited, and the Faculty Dean may choose not to exercise this discretion in any given year.

Please see the [University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations](#) for full eligibility criteria.

All University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships are awarded at the time of offer of place only.

I am studying/studied at a New Zealand tertiary institution that is not a university. Can I be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

There are eight universities in New Zealand: University of Auckland, AUT, University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, Massey University, University of Otago, University of Waikato, Victoria University of Wellington.

New doctoral applicants with qualifying programmes from a New Zealand institution that is not a university may be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship at the discretion of the Faculty Dean, provided the qualifying programme GPA is not lower than 7.00. The number of scholarships available across the University through the discretion of Faculty Deans is very limited, and the Faculty Dean may choose not to exercise this discretion in any given year. Please see the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations for full eligibility and selection criteria.

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What if I don't have a qualifying programme GPA/E – can I still be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

If your qualifying programme is entirely pass/fail, the University can generate a GPE only where the only where the programme consists entirely of a thesis.

Doctoral applicants with New Zealand MBChBs are directed to the provisions within the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations.

Doctoral applicants who are without a qualifying programme GPA/E may be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship at the discretion of the Faculty Dean. The number of scholarships available across the University through the discretion of Faculty Deans is very limited, and the Faculty Dean may choose not to exercise this discretion in any given year. Please see the [University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations](#) for full eligibility and selection criteria.

All University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships are awarded at the time of offer of place only.

What if I am being admitted to the PhD without a qualifying programme – am I eligible for University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship consideration?

You may be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship at the discretion of the Faculty Dean. The number of scholarships available across the University through the discretion of Faculty Deans is very limited, and the Faculty Dean may choose not to exercise this discretion in any given year. Please see the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations for full eligibility and selection criteria.

All University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships are awarded at the time of offer of place only.

What if my most recent qualifying programme GPA is 7.00-7.99 from a New Zealand university – am I eligible for consideration for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship?

You may be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship at the discretion of the Faculty Dean. The number of scholarships available across the University through the discretion of Faculty Deans is very limited, and the Faculty Dean may choose not to exercise this discretion in any given year.

Please see the [University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations](#) for full eligibility and selection criteria.

All University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships are awarded at the time of offer of place only.

What is the basis for assessment for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship by a Faculty Dean/Director of LSRI?

Each Faculty Dean and the Director of an LSRI has the discretion to recommend the award of a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship to a new doctoral applicant on the basis of academic merit and any other factors the Dean/Director considers relevant in the circumstances.

Matters that may be considered by the Faculty Dean/Director in relation to academic merit include, but are not limited to, academic record, standing of awarding institution, academic references, CV, research and publication record.

The number of scholarships available across the University through the discretion of Deans/Directors is very limited, and the Faculty Dean/Director of LSRI may choose not to exercise this discretion in any given year.

Where a qualifying programme is the basis for entry to the doctoral programme, an applicant must have a GPE/GPA of 7.00 or above in that most recent qualifying programme to be eligible for scholarship consideration at the discretion of the Faculty Dean/Director of LSRI.

Please see the [University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship regulations](#) for full eligibility and selection criteria.

All University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships are awarded at the time of offer of place only.

I'm required to take additional courses to establish eligibility for the DClinPsy, do these courses count towards my qualifying programme GPA for University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship purposes?

In the case of the DClinPsy, the GPA/E for the most recent qualifying programme is calculated over the entirety of the programme that satisfies Regulation 2a of the DClinPsy regulations. Where additional courses are required for the applicant to satisfy Regulation 2b of the DClinPsy regulations, these grades shall also be included in the calculation of the GPA/E for the most recent qualifying programme.