George McWhirter Memorial Masters Thesis Scholarship

**Code:** 963  
**Faculty:** Arts  
**Applicable study:** Thesis year of a Master of Arts or Master of Public Policy  
**Closing date:** 30 January  
**Tenure:** 1 year  
**For:** Assistance with study  
**Number on offer:** 1  
**Offer rate:** Annually  
**Value:** Up to $5,000

**Description**

The Scholarship was established in 2018 by Dianne Sisley (Long) in memory of her grandfather George Edward McWhirter, who was a politically aware, socially minded Massey farmer, a New Lynn councillor, and a builder of state houses in the 1940s.

The intention of the Scholarship is to encourage and support Masters degree research, and raise awareness of state housing, homelessness, the politics of social housing and public policy causes and effects in these areas in New Zealand.

**Selection process**

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office  
- A Selection Committee assesses the applications  
- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee

**Regulations**

1. The Scholarship will be known as the George McWhirter Memorial Masters Thesis Scholarship.
2. The Scholarship will be awarded annually, for a period of up to one year and will be of the value of up to $5,000 paid in one lump sum.
3. To take up and be paid the Scholarship, the candidate must be enrolled full-time or part-time in a masters thesis with a value of at least 90 points in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Auckland, and conduct research in the general area of state housing, homelessness, the politics of social housing and public policy causes and effects in these areas in New Zealand.
4. The Scholarship is tenable by full-time or part-time students who are citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand.
5. The basis of selection will be academic merit as assessed by the grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) calculated over the most recently completed qualifying programme and the relevance of the proposed research. Successful candidates will have a minimum GPA/GPE of 7.00 (see Note i).
6. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Arts (or nominee), an academic staff member from the Faculty of Arts nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and a representative of the donor.

7. Payment will be made in one lump sum in the third week of the first semester of enrolment.

8. The George McWhirter Memorial Masters Thesis Scholarship may be held with any other study award or grant where the Regulations for that award or grant permit and where the University of Auckland Council so approves.

9. The amount of additional and paid work a Scholar may undertake either inside or outside the University shall not exceed a total of 500 hours per year during the tenure of this Scholarship.

10. The University of Auckland Council has the power to amend or vary these Regulations, in consultation with the donor, provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

11. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 30 January in the year of the award.


**Notes**

I. The most recent qualifying programme is defined as the most recently completed programme of study that qualifies the applicant for entry to the research masters programme for which they are applying. Where the most recently completed programme is a conjoint programme the GPA/GPE will be calculated over the entirety of the conjoint programme. The maximum approved exchange or transfer credit that can be excluded from the GPA/GPE calculation for the qualifying programme is 60 points. Where the most recently completed programme is a Transitional Certificate, the qualifying programme is the Transitional Certificate and the most recently completed prior degree.

II. Recipients of a George McWhirter Memorial Masters Thesis Scholarship will be required to give undertaking that they will comply with the regulations for the Scholarship and will notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment, employment or funding status.

III. These regulations are subject to Senate and Council approval.