HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarships in Psychological Medicine

**Code:** 929  
**Faculty:** Medical and Health Sciences  
**Applicable study:** PhD in Psychological Medicine  
**Closing date:** 1 December  
**Tenure:** Up to 36 months  
**For:** Assistance with study  
**Number on offer:** Up to 2  
**Offer rate:** One-off  
**Value:** $27,300pa plus compulsory fees

**Scholarship description**

These Scholarships were established in 2017 and are funded by a Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment National Science Challenge project.

The main purpose of the Scholarships is to support PhD students in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland who are undertaking research in a topic that supports the co-design and evaluation of digital interventions for common mental health challenges in adolescence or computing research on ways to enhance digital mental health interventions for youth.

**Selection process**

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

**Regulations**

1. The Scholarships will be known as the HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarships in Psychological Medicine.
2. Up to two Scholarships will be awarded for PhD study in Psychological Medicine, for a period of up to 36 months and will be of the value of up to $27,300 per annum plus compulsory fees for all domestic and international students who are eligible to study under the domestic fees policy (see Note iii).
3. The Scholarships may be awarded to new students applying for admission to a PhD in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland who meet all the requirements of these regulations and who will be conducting PhD research within the general area of the co-design and evaluation of digital interventions for common mental health challenges in adolescence or computing research on ways to enhance digital mental health.
interventions for youth. Eligible candidates who have begun their PhD in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences may be considered for this Scholarship.

4. The Scholarships are tenable by full-time domestic and international students who are eligible to pay domestic fees (see Note iv).

5. The basis of selection will be academic merit, evidence of experience working with Māori or Pacific communities and the quality and nature of the research proposal. Matters that may be considered in relation to academic merit include, but are not limited to, academic record, standing of awarding institution, academic references, CV, research and publication record. Where a completed programme with a University of Auckland GPA/GPE is the basis for entry to the PhD, an applicant must have a GPA/GPE of 7.00 or above in that programme to be eligible for scholarship consideration (see Note v).

6. The Scholarships 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 Medical and Health Sciences, the Principal Investigators and a Māori and Pacific representative from the HABITs science advisory team.

7. Domestic and international students will be required to enrol within 3 and within 6 months respectively of the date of their unconditional programme offer, otherwise the scholarship offer will lapse. Awardees must also meet all requirements of their admission and scholarship offer before any payments will be made.

8. The Scholarships will provide support for up to 36 months of study and payments will commence from the doctoral enrolment date in the case of new students, and from the date recommended by the Selection Committee and approved by the Scholarships SubCommittee in the case of student who have already commenced their programme. A further six months of scholarship funding, subject to Scholarship Sub-Committee approval, may be available (see Note vi).

9. To comply with the full-time study requirement in Regulation 4, 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 scholarship year (see Note vii).

10. The HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarship in Psychological Medicine may not be held concurrently with a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship or with any other New Zealand government or foreign government-funded scholarships or grants. However, it 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, up to an additional maximum of 75% of the stipend value of the HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarships in Psychological Medicine. If the value of the co-tenured scholarship exceeds 75% of the HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarships in Psychological Medicine stipend value, the emolument for the HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarships in Psychological Medicine will be reduced to limit the additional co-tenured stipend value to 75% of HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarships in Psychological Medicine stipend value.

11. The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the donor, has the power to terminate or suspend a Scholarship if it receives an unsatisfactory report on the progress of a Scholar from the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

12. 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.

13. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 1 December in the year of the award.

14. Notes [i] – [x] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

I. Further information about the project and possible topics can be obtained by contacting Dr Sarah Hopkins (Project Manager) at s.hopkins@auckland.ac.nz.

II. Students who have been offered a scholarship must meet all requirements for admission into their intended programme in order to take up the scholarship offer.

III. Compulsory fees are those only related to the PhD, plus Student Services Fee.

IV. To be eligible to pay domestic PhD fees, recipients who are permanent residents of New Zealand or Australia,
Australian citizens or international students 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.

V. Where the programme is an undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent undergraduate degree or integrated undergraduate and postgraduate degree), the grade point average or equivalent will be calculated over the final two years of full-time study (or equivalent) in the programme. In all other cases, the grade point average or equivalent will be calculated over the entirety of the programme.

VI. Domestic and international students are required to either a) enrol and begin their studies within 3 and within 6 months respectively of the date of unconditional or within 6 months respectively of the date of unconditional offer in the programme or b) in exceptional circumstances, have obtained approval from the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences for a delayed take up time. PhD enrolments and scholarship payments must commence on the first of the month.

VII. A further six months of scholarship funding, subject to Scholarship Sub-Committee approval, may be available to those PhD students who have held a HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarship in Psychological Medicine.

VIII. Recipients of a HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarship in Psychological Medicine will be required to give undertakings 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. The University of Auckland may, in the event it can be established that a recipient of a HABITs Digital Mental Health Doctoral Scholarship in Psychological Medicine is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.

IX. Paid work that is undertaken as part of an approved University of Auckland Internship, is not counted towards the 500 hours of additional and paid work that a Scholar may undertake while in receipt of a scholarship.