Kauri Drought Doctoral Scholarships

Scholarship description

Drought-induced forest mortality is a global problem caused by increasingly frequent and severe droughts across the world. Kauri (Agathis australis) are amongst the largest and longest-lived trees in the world. They are ecologically and culturally significant and tree ring research indicates they are also highly responsive to climatic conditions.

Dr Cate Macinnis-Ng is establishing a forest drought experiment funded by a five year Rutherford Discovery Fellowship to explore drought responses and adaptations in this iconic ecosystem. There are two PhD scholarships available to high quality candidates with a good MSc or Hons degree in a range of sciences. Students with experience in forest ecology, ecosystem processes, plant ecophysiology, remote sensing, modelling, climatology, hydrology and isotopic analysis are encouraged to apply.

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 Kauri Drought Doctoral Scholarships.
2. Two Scholarships will be awarded, for a period of up to three years, and will comprise a stipend of up to $27,000 per annum plus compulsory domestic PhD fees and compulsory international student health insurance, where applicable (see Notes ii and iii).
3. The Scholarships will be available to new students applying for admission to a PhD at the University of Auckland Faculties of Science or Engineering. Students already enrolled in a PhD at the University of Auckland are not eligible for consideration for this scholarship.
4. To take up the scholarships, the recipients must enrol full-time in a PhD at the University of Auckland Faculties of
Science or Engineering in a topic related to drought responses and adaptations in Kauri (see Note i).

5. The Scholarships are tenable by domestic and international students who are paying domestic fees (see Note iv).
6. The basis of selection will be academic merit and the applicant’s interest and expertise they will bring to the project, evidenced in their CV and personal statement (see Notes ii and v).
7. The Scholarships will provide support for up to 36 months and payments will commence from the doctoral registration date. A further six months scholarship funding, subject to Scholarship Sub-Committee approval, may be available.
8. The Scholarships will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Project Supervisor (or nominee), and two members of Academic Staff from the Faculty of Science, nominated by the Project Supervisor.
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.
10. The Scholarship may not be held concurrently with a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship, or with any other New Zealand government or foreign government funded scholarships. However, it may be held with any other award or grant as long as a) the terms of that award or grant permit and b) the University of Auckland Council is informed and approves. If the value of the co-tenured scholarship exceeds 75% of the Kauri Drought Doctoral Scholarship stipend value, the emolument for the Kauri Drought Doctoral Scholarship will be reduced to limit the additional co-tenured stipend value to 75% of the Kauri Drought Doctoral Scholarship stipend value.
11. The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the Dean of Science, has the power to terminate or suspend a Scholarship if it receives an unsatisfactory report on the progress of a Scholar from the Project Supervisor.
12. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if in any year there is no candidate of sufficient merit.
13. 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 Scholarships.
14. International students may only be outside of New Zealand for a maximum total of 12 months over the period of their enrolment in their doctoral degree and only for the purposes of conducting research (see Note iv).
15. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 9 September in the year of the award.
16. Notes [i]-[viii] below are deemed to be regulations.

Notes

I. Further information about the project and possible topics may be obtained from the Project Supervisor – Dr Cate Macinnis-Ng: c.macinnis-ng@auckland.ac.nz

II. The student offered the 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 relevant Doctoral study 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. 4 weeks annual leave per year, when spent outside New Zealand, does not count towards the 12 months that can be spent overseas.

V. For the purpose of these Scholarships, academic merit is measured by the grade point average or grade point equivalent obtained in the applicant’s most recent qualifying programme for doctoral study. Where the most recent qualifying programme is an undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent undergraduate degree or integrated undergraduate or 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 most recent qualifying programme.

VI. The recipients of the Scholarships will be required to give undertakings that they will comply with the regulations for the Scholarships 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 the recipients of the Scholarships are not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarships and require the repayment of the funds received.
VII. The scholarship holders must, in their third year, give a presentation of their research to the donor.

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