University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarships

The main purpose of the Scholarships is to encourage and support academically excellent students to study for a PhD in a health-related area in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

Selection process

- The basis of selection will be academic merit and the quality of the research proposal
- The Scholarships are awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Board of Graduate Studies

Regulations

1. The Scholarship shall be known as the University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarships.
2. The University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarships provides a tax-free stipend of up to $27,300 per annum in 2017, with an annual cost of living adjustment to the stipend value, for up to 36 months (see Regulation 9 and Note II) for students enrolled in a PhD. In addition, compulsory tuition fees will be covered for up to 36 months for all domestic students and for international students who are eligible to study under the domestic fees policy (see Note III). International students will also receive compulsory international student health cover. Part-time students will be paid pro-rata for up to 72 months (see Note IV). Up to three Scholarships will be awarded annually.
3. Students will be considered for the award of a University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship at the time of application to the doctoral programme only. Students who have already been admitted to their doctoral programme are not eligible for consideration for a University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship (see Notes XVII, XVIII and XXI).
4. The Scholarships may be awarded for full-time enrolment in the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The Scholarships may also be awarded to domestic students for whom socially compelling reasons make part-time enrolment...
The Scholarships are tenable by domestic and international students who are paying domestic fees.

The Scholarships will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Board of Graduate Studies.

Awarding will be based on academic merit, measured by the grade point average or grade point equivalent obtained in the applicant’s most recent qualifying programme for doctoral study. Awardees must have a GPA/GPE of at least 7.00. The quality of the applicant’s research proposal will also be taken into consideration.

Awardees must be enrolled in their PhD programme by 1 December in the year of the award, otherwise the scholarship offer will lapse. Awardees must meet all requirements of their admission and scholarship offer before any payments will be made.

The University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarships will provide support for up to 36 months of study and payments will commence from the doctoral enrolment date. A further six months of scholarship funding, subject to Scholarships Sub-Committee approval, may be available. These durations should be pro-rated for part-time scholarship awardees (see Note IV).

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.

A University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other doctoral scholarship funded by the University of Auckland (including scholarships funded by faculties), or with any postgraduate scholarship awarded by the Universities New Zealand Committee, Tertiary Education Commission, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Asian Development Bank, Education New Zealand or 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 University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship. If the value of the co-tenured scholarship exceeds 75% of the University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship stipend value, the emolument for the University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship will be reduced to limit the additional co-tenured stipend value to 75% of the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship stipend value.

A Scholarship may be terminated by the University of Auckland Council should it receive a report from the Board of Graduate Studies that a candidate’s academic progress is unsatisfactory.

Notes [I-XXIV] below are deemed to be Regulations.

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

II. Compulsory fees are those only related to the relevant Doctoral study, plus Student Services Fee. In addition, for international students, the single student Health Insurance compulsory charge (as detailed on the tuition fees invoice) is covered by the Scholarship for the duration of the scholarship.

III. 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.

IV. Recipients of University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarships are normally required to be enrolled on a full-time basis. However, domestic students for whom socially compelling reasons make part-time study preferable may apply to hold a scholarship on a part-time basis pro-rated. Socially compelling reasons include a) carer responsibilities for: pre-school and/or school-aged children; and invalid or disabled family/whanau member; or b) medical condition(s), impairment(s) or disabilities. Applicants will not be granted permission to hold a University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship on a part-time basis if they wish to undertake full-time paid employment or substantial part-time employment. Students who hold a scholarship on a part-time basis are subject to the same employment restrictions as full-time scholarship holders (i.e. 500 hours per scholarship
year; refer Regulation 10 and Note XXIII) and are required to change to full-time enrolment if a change in their circumstances means they no longer qualify to hold the scholarship on a part-time basis.

V. Applicants must have obtained a GPA/GPE of at least 7.00 in their qualifying programme. Māori and Pacific applicants with a GPA/GPE of 6.50-6.90 may also be awarded these scholarships. Where the applicant’s most recent qualifying programme is an undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent undergraduate degree or integrated undergraduate or postgraduate degree or MBChB), the GPA/GPE will be calculated over the final two years of full-time study (or equivalent) in the programme. In all other cases, the GPA/GPE will be calculated over the entirety of the most recent qualifying programme.

VI. To be deemed a qualifying programme for the PhD for the purposes of scholarship consideration under Note V of these regulations, an individual programme must satisfy Regulations 2a and 2b of the relevant doctoral regulations.

VII. Where an applicant for the PhD has a qualification which satisfies Regulation 2a but not Regulation 2b of the relevant doctoral programme regulations, and the Board of Graduate Studies allows (on a case-by-case basis for the purpose of programme admission) that qualification to be combined with a subsequent enrolment in an individual research course that satisfies Regulation 2b of the relevant doctoral programme regulations, the Board may also, on a case-by-case basis and subject to Note X, permit the combined GPA/E from that qualification and the research course to be considered the qualifying programme GPA/E under Note V of these Scholarship regulations (“combined GPA/E permission”).

VIII. The Board may not grant combined GPA/E under note VII where the applicant has a previous programme which satisfies both Regulation 2a and Regulation 2b of the relevant programme regulations. In such cases, the applicant’s most recent programme that satisfies both Regulation 2a and 2b of the relevant programme regulations will be their “most recent qualifying programme” under Note V of these Scholarship regulations.

IX. Where the MBChB is a qualifying programme under Note VI and the final two years of the programme are ungraded, the following provisions apply: a) only a student who obtains a “distinction” in each of the final two years of the MBChB is deemed to have a qualifying programme GPA/E of at least 8.00 under Note V; b) a student who obtains a “pass” and a “distinction” across the final two years of the MBChB is deemed to have a qualifying programme GPA/E of 7.50 under Note V; c) a student who obtains a “pass” in each of the final two years of the MBChB is not eligible for scholarship consideration.

X. Where the MBChB is permitted to contribute to the qualifying programme GPA/E under Note VII and the final two years of the MBChB are ungraded, the following provisions apply: a) only a student who obtains a “distinction” in each of the final two years of the MBChB and a GPA of at least 8.00 in the approved research course is deemed to have a qualifying programme GPA/E of at least 8.00 under Note V; b) a student who obtains a “pass” and a “distinction” across the final two years of the MBChB must obtain a GPA of at least 7.00 in the approved research course is deemed to have a qualifying programme GPA/E of 7.00-7.99 under Note V; c) a student who obtains a “pass” in each of the final two years of the MBChB is not eligible for scholarship consideration.

XI. In the case of conjoint degrees, the qualifying programme for the purposes of Note V is the component degree that is relevant to the proposed doctoral study.

XII. For the avoidance of doubt, applicants without a qualifying programme or without a qualifying programme GPA/E are not eligible for scholarship consideration. To be eligible for scholarship consideration, a candidate’s admission to their doctoral programme must accord with either Note VI, VII or XI of these regulations.

XIII. Awardees are required to take up their scholarship by 1 December in the year of the award, or the scholarship offer will lapse. PhD enrolments and scholarship payments must commence on the first of the month.

XIV. A further six month’s scholarship funding, subject to Scholarship Sub-committee approval, may be available to those PhD students who have held a University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship. Extensions are not normally available for students undertaking a 360 point doctoral programme unless there are significant extenuating circumstances.

XV. The Scholarship will not cover any bridging programmes.

XVI. Students who have been offered a University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship, and decline an offer of place, are eligible to be considered for both admission and a scholarship again at a later date provided...
they have not enrolled in a doctorate at the University and held some other doctoral scholarship at the University in the interim. Students who have commenced payment for a University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship are not eligible to hold a subsequent University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship.

XVII. A student who applied to a University of Auckland doctoral programme and received an offer of place prior to 1 October 2015, but was not offered a University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship (whether or not the student applied for the scholarship), will not be eligible for consideration again if they make another application to a doctoral programme at a later date, unless the student’s subsequent application is based on a new qualifying programme.

XVIII. A student who has previously terminated a University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship for health reasons may apply in writing to the Scholarships Sub-Committee for consideration to receive the remaining balance of the scholarship, up to the maximum allowable tenure to support completion of their doctoral programme.

XIX. Students who have already commenced payment may defer their University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship for up to one year in total during their tenure of the scholarship provided they do not hold some other doctoral scholarship in the interim.

XX. Students who transfer from a masters to a doctoral degree will be assessed for this Scholarship, provided they commenced their masters on or after 1 January 2016. This decision will be made at the same time as their application to transfer to the PhD is considered. Students whose start date for their masters degree was prior to 1 January 2016 will not be eligible for consideration for this Scholarship. Students who transfer and are awarded the Scholarship and a) who were enrolled on a part-time basis during their masters degree, will have the tenure of their doctoral scholarship adjusted to account for the masters degree enrolment period on a full-time equivalent basis, and b) who were previously in payment of a University of Auckland Masters/Honours/PG Dip Scholarship, Masters Research Scholarship or Māori or Pacific Graduate Scholarship, will commence payment for their University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship from the date specified by the Board of Graduate Studies.

XXI. The maximum combined period of scholarship tenure for students who a) transfer from one university-funded doctoral scholarship to another, or b) terminate one doctoral degree and commence another, or c) have completed one doctoral degree and return to commence a second, shall be a total of up to 36 months with a possible extension of up to six further months, provided Regulations 8 and 9 are met. Where a masters student is approved to upgrade their partially completed degree to doctoral study and is subsequently awarded a University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship, the tenure of the Scholarship will be up to 36 months from the start date of the research component of their Masters degree.

XXII. Recipients of University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarships 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 University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.

XXIII. 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 a Scholarship may undertake while in receipt of this scholarship.

XXIV. University of Auckland Health Research Doctoral Scholarship holders enrolled in the University of Auckland PhD Internship Programme for three months or less, and who are undertaking an unpaid internship, may continue to receive all or part of their Scholarship, subject to Scholarships Sub-Committee approval.