University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Behavioural and Evolutionary Ecology

Scholarship description

The Scholarship was established in 2016 and is funded by a Marsden Grant awarded to an academic staff member from the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Auckland.

The intention of the scholarship is to encourage and support a student to develop their doctoral research project to investigate weapon evolution in monoscutid harvestmen, a group of endemic New Zealand arachnids. Their research will combine behavioural, morphological and evolutionary approaches to understanding the diversity and exaggeration of harvestmen chelicerae (jaws).

Selection process

- Nomination is made to the Scholarships Office by the Selection Committee
- The Scholarships Office assesses the nomination
- 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 University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Behavioural and Evolutionary Ecology.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded, for a period of up to three years, and will comprise a stipend of up to $27,000 per annum plus domestic PhD course fees (see Notes i and ii).
3. The Scholarship will be available to new students applying for admission to a PhD at the University of Auckland Faculty of Science. Students already enrolled in a PhD at the University of Auckland are not eligible for consideration for this scholarship.
4. To take up the scholarship, the recipient must enrol full-time in a PhD at the University of Auckland Faculty of Science.
5. The Scholarship is tenable by domestic and international students who are paying domestic fees (see Note iii).
6. The basis of selection will be academic merit (see Note iv), the applicant’s experience with both laboratory and field observations of invertebrate behaviour (see Note v), their understanding of evolutionary and behavioural processes and their willingness to spend lengthy periods in the field conducting nocturnal observations as represented in a personal statement.

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 Dr Greg Holwell and two members of Academic Staff nominated by the Project Supervisor.

9. To comply with the full-time study requirement in Regulation 5, 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 University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Behavioural and Evolutionary Ecology stipend value, the emolument for the University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Behavioural and Evolutionary Ecology will be reduced to limit the additional co-tenured stipend value to 75% of the University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Behavioural and Evolutionary Ecology.

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 Scholarship.

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 iii).

15. Notes [i]-[vi] below are deemed to be regulations.

Notes

I. The student offered the scholarship must meet all requirements for admission in to their intended programme in order to take up the scholarship offer.

II. For the purposes of this Scholarship, domestic PhD course fees are those only related to the relevant Doctoral study. This Scholarship does not cover the Student Services Fee or International Health Insurance (where applicable).

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. 4 weeks annual leave per year, when spent outside New Zealand, does not count towards the 12 months that can be spent overseas.

IV. For the purpose of this Scholarship, 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.

V. The successful candidate will possess a MSc or Honours degree with a major focus on behavioural ecology and/or evolutionary biology.

VI. The recipient of the Scholarship 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 the recipient of the Scholarship is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require the repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.