The Scholarship was established in 2005 and is financed by the Estate of Diana Miriam Wilsie.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage Postgraduate research on the study of Marxism-Leninism Scientific Socialism or research in areas concerning the history, philosophy and practice of socialism that relates to it.

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 Bill McAra Scholarship in Politics and International Relations.
2. The Scholarship will be awarded to a student undertaking a postgraduate degree in Politics and International Relations Studies at the University of Auckland where the research is related to the study of Marxism-Leninism Scientific Socialism or research in areas concerning the history, philosophy and practice of socialism.
3. The basis of selection will be academic merit as determined by the Selection Committee comprising the Dean of the Faculty of Arts (or nominee), the Head of Politics and International Relations in the School of Social Sciences (or nominee) and one academic member of staff in Politics and International Relations. The availability of appropriate supervision by Politics and International Relations academic staff for the proposed research project will also be a consideration in selection.
4. The Scholarship is tenable by a student who is a citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand.
5. The Scholarships will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee.
6. The Scholarship’s emolument will be paid in two instalments; one in the first and one in the second semester.
7. The University of Auckland Council has power to terminate or suspend a Scholarship, if it receives an unsatisfactory report on the progress of a Scholar from the Head of Politics and International Relations.
8. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if in any year there is no candidate of sufficient merit.

9. The University of Auckland has 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.

10. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 1 December in the year preceding the award.