BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics

**Description**

The Scholarship was established in 2019 and is funded by a grant from the Buchanan Charitable Foundation awarded to an academic staff member from the Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to support a PhD student at the University of Auckland who is undertaking research in the area of ocular therapeutics.

**Selection process**

- Nomination is made to the Scholarships Office
- 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 BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded for a period of up to 36 months and will be of the value of up to $27,900 per annum plus compulsory fees for domestic and international students who are eligible to study under the domestic fees policy, and compulsory international student health insurance, where applicable (see Notes II and III). Part-time students will be paid pro-rata for up to 72 months (see Note V).
3. The Scholarship 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. Eligible candidates who have begun their PhD programme in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences may be considered for this Scholarship.
4. The Scholarship is tenable by full-time domestic and international students who are eligible to pay domestic fees (see Note III). The Scholarship may also be available to domestic students for whom socially compelling reasons make part-time enrolment preferable (see Note V).
5. The basis of selection will be academic merit 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 grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) is the basis for entry to the PhD, a candidate must have a GPA/GPE of 7.00 or above (6.50 for Māori or Pacific candidates) in that programme to be eligible for scholarship consideration (see Note IV).

6. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Primary Investigator of the grant, the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (or nominee), and the Head of the Department of Ophthalmology (or nominee).

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. The Awardee must also meet all requirements of their admission and scholarship offer before any payments will be made.

8. The Scholarship 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 Committee in the case of students who have already commenced their programme. A further six months of scholarship funding, subject to Scholarships Committee approval, may be available. These durations shall be pro-rated for part-time scholarship awardees (see Note V).

9. Subject to regulation 8, the Scholarship shall be tenable until the date of either submission or 48 months of active enrolment from the doctoral enrolment date, whichever is the earlier.

10. 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).

11. The BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics 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 scholarship, award or grant where the regulations for that scholarship, 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 BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics. If the value of the co-tenured scholarship exceeds 75% of the BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics stipend value, the emolument for the BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics will be reduced to limit the additional co-tenured stipend value to 75% of the BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics stipend value.

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

13. The University of Auckland Council has the power to amend or vary these Regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.


Notes

I. Further information about the project and possible topics can be obtained from the Principal Investigator Dr Ilva Rupenthal, Director of the Buchanan Ocular Therapeutics Unit (BOTU) – i.rupenthal@auckland.ac.nz.

II. Compulsory fees are those only related to the PhD, 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 and only for the purposes of conducting research.

IV. Where the qualifying 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.
V. Recipients of BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics are normally required to be enrolled on a full-time basis. However, domestic students for whom socially compelling reasons make part-time enrolment 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; an invalid or disabled family / whanau member; or b) medical condition(s), impairment(s) or disabilities. Applicants will not be granted permission to hold a BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics 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 9 and Note VII) 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.

VI. Recipients of a BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics 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 BOTU PhD Scholarship in Ocular Therapeutics is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.

VII. 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.

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