

George Mason PhD Scholarship in Biological Sciences

Code:	200
Faculty:	Science
Applicable study:	PhD in the School of Biological Sciences specialising in phytophthora agathidicida
Closing date:	By nomination
Tenure:	36 months
For:	Assistance with study
Number on offer:	One
Offer rate:	Varies
Value:	Up to \$28,200 pa in 2020 plus compulsory fees, and \$8,000 towards lab costs and consumables

Description

The Scholarship was established in 1999 and is financed by the George Mason Trust.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and support an academically excellent domestic student to undertake doctoral study at the University of Auckland, undertaking research into saving Kauri trees from phytophthora agathidicida.

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 George Mason PhD Scholarship in Biological Sciences.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded for up to 36 months, and will comprise a stipend of up to \$28,200 per annum in 2020, compulsory fees for domestic students, and an additional payment of up to \$8,000 per annum for lab costs, consumables and travel. Part-time students will be paid pro-rata for up to 72 months (see Notes I and III).
3. The Scholarship may be awarded to a new student applying for admission to a PhD in Biological Sciences in the Faculty of Science at the University of Auckland who meets all the requirements of these regulations, and who is undertaking research into saving Kauri trees from phytophthora agathidicida.
4. The Scholarship is tenable by full-time domestic students who are eligible to pay domestic fees (see Note II). The Scholarship may also be available to domestic students for whom socially compelling reasons make part-time enrolment preferable (see Note III).
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 Associate Dean (Postgraduate Research) of the Faculty of Science (or nominee) and two members of academic staff from the Joint Graduate School in Plant and Food, nominated by the Director of the Joint Graduate School in Plant and Food.
7. Domestic students will be required to enrol within three months of the date of their unconditional programme offer, otherwise the scholarship offer will lapse. Awardees 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. 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. 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 III).
10. The George Mason PhD Scholarship in Biological Sciences may be held concurrently with any other scholarship, award or grant where the regulations for that scholarship, award or grant permit, and where the University of Auckland Council is informed approves. It is the responsibility of the recipient to declare to the Scholarships Office all other scholarships, awards or grant funding received and for which the awardee receives payment while also in payment for this Scholarship.
11. 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 Research) of the Faculty of Science.
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. Notes [I]-[IX] below are deemed to be regulations.

Notes

- I. *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.*
- II. *To be eligible to pay domestic PhD fees, recipients who are permanent residents of New Zealand or Australia, or Australian citizens 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.*
- III. *Recipients of George Mason PhD Scholarship in Biological Sciences 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 George Mason PhD Scholarship in Biological Sciences 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 V) 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.*
- 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 qualifying programme.

- V. Paid work that is required as part of an approved doctoral programme (such as an internship for some named doctorates) or 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.*
- VI. Recipients of a George Mason PhD Scholarship in Biological Sciences 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 George Mason PhD Scholarship in Biological Sciences is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.*
- VII. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship remain tax-free as long as they are used for the payment of costs associated with an awardee's programme of study and to assist the awardee with living costs while studying. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Scholarship.*
- VIII. At the end of 6 months of registration the recipient of the Scholarship will be required to submit a report to the donor outlining their process to date.*
- IX. The Scholarship holders must in their third year, give a presentation of their research to the donor.*