George McWhirter Memorial Scholarship

Description

The Scholarship was established in 2018 by Dianne Sisley (Long) in memory of her grandfather George Edward McWhirter, who was a politically aware, socially minded Massey farmer, a New Lynn councillor, and a builder of state houses in the 1940s.

The intention of the Scholarship is to encourage and support postgraduate research, and raise awareness of state housing, homelessness, the politics of social housing and public policy causes and effects in these areas in New Zealand.

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 George McWhirter Memorial Scholarship.
2. One or more Scholarships will be awarded annually, for a period of up to one year and will be of the value of up to $8,000 in total.
3. To take up and be paid the Scholarship, the candidate must be enrolled full-time or part-time in a thesis or dissertation with a value of at least 45 points in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Auckland, and conduct research in the general area of state housing, homelessness, the politics of social housing and public policy causes and effects in these areas in New Zealand.
4. The Scholarship is tenable by full-time or part-time students who are citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand.
5. The basis of selection will be academic merit as assessed by the grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) calculated over the most recently completed qualifying programme and the relevance of the proposed research. Successful candidates will have a minimum GPA/GPE of 7.00 (see Note i).
6. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Arts (or nominee), an academic staff member from the Faculty of Arts nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and a representative of the donor.

7. Payment will be made in two equal lump sums in the third week of the each semester of enrolment.

8. The George McWhirter Memorial Scholarship 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 so approves.

9. 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.

10. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 13 January in the year of the award.

11. Notes [I] – [II] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

I. The most recent qualifying programme is defined as the most recently completed programme of study that qualifies the applicant for entry to the postgraduate programme for which they are applying. Where the most recently completed programme is a conjoint programme the GPA/GPE will be calculated over the entirety of the conjoint programme. The maximum approved exchange or transfer credit that can be excluded from the GPA/GPE calculation for the qualifying programme is 60 points. Where the most recently completed programme is a Transitional Certificate, the qualifying programme is the Transitional Certificate and the most recently completed prior degree.

II. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship remain tax-free as long as they are used directly for the payment of costs associated with an awardee’s programme of study. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Scholarship.

III. Recipients of a George McWhirter Memorial Scholarship will be required to give undertaking 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 that it can be established that a recipient of a George McWhirter Memorial Scholarship is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.