

June Opie Fellowship

Code:	84
Faculty:	All
Applicable study:	Students with a disability undertaking postgraduate study
Closing date:	30 November 2023
Tenure:	One year
For:	Assistance with study
Number on offer:	Two
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	Up to NZ\$20,000 each

Description

The Award, available to citizens and permanent residents of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, is designed as an incentive for students of high academic achievement who have a severe disability. It is intended for those who plan to undertake postgraduate study with a view to preparing themselves for a role in the professions, in politics, or more particularly, in university teaching and research and who have disability issues as a continuing interest.

The Award is made to enable the recipient to secure such assistance, by travel, by the preparation of computer software, or by other means as will facilitate effective study and preparation for the future. This is the first Fellowship of its kind in the world and its principal purpose is the pursuit of excellence. New Zealand, Australia and Canada were selected as the countries on which to focus initially in search of recipients.

Selection process

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- A Selection Committee assesses the applications
- The Award is made by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee

Regulations

1. The Award shall be known as the June Opie Fellowship.
2. The Fellowship will be administered through the University of Auckland.
3. Up to two Fellowships may be awarded annually for a period of up to one year, and will be of the value of up to NZ\$20,000 each.
4. To be eligible for Award consideration, an applicant must i) be a citizen or permanent resident of Australia, Canada or New Zealand, ii) have a severe disability (see Note II), iii) be enrolled, or intending to enrol, in a postgraduate programme at a tertiary institution located in either the applicant's home country or abroad and iv) undertaking, or intending to undertake, research or other activity that will further the advance of ideas and technology of benefit to all people of whatever disability (see Note V), in the following year.
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 recent qualifying programme (see Notes III to IV); the quality of a personal statement detailing the proposed course of study or research, what the applicant hopes to gain from it, the applicant's proposed future occupation, and what the applicant expects to contribute to their profession in respect of disability issues (see Note V); two academic references attesting to the applicant's qualifications, ability to carry out the proposed study according to the intentions of the Fellowship, the applicant's character, initiative, perseverance and capacity for leadership, and the standing of the tertiary institution at which the study is being undertaken; and one medical reference attesting to the nature and degree of the applicant's disability.

6. The Fellowship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Vice-Chancellor of Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland (or nominee), the Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales (or nominee who may be from any Australian university); and the President of the Simon Fraser University (or nominee who may be from any Canadian university).
7. To be paid the Award, awardees must be i) enrolled in a postgraduate programme of study, and ii) undertaking research or other activity that will further the advance of ideas and technology of benefit to all people of whatever disability.
8. The Award will be paid in one instalment.
9. The Award may be held concurrently with any other scholarship, award or grant as long as the regulations for that scholarship award or grant permit and the University of Auckland Council is informed and approves. It is the responsibility of the awardee 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 Award.
10. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if it is determined there is no candidate that meets the criteria and/or no candidate of sufficient merit.
11. Payments under the terms of this Award remain tax-free as long as they are used for the payment of costs associated with an awardee's programme of study and/or to assist the awardee with living costs while studying (see Note I). Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Award.
12. The University of Auckland Council can amend or vary these Regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.
13. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 30 November in the year preceding the award.
14. Notes [I]-[VII] below are deemed to be regulations.

Notes

- I. *The tax-free status of this Fellowship is under current legislation. The University of Auckland cannot guarantee this tax-free outcome.*
- II. *Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland defines disability as any physical, psychological, cognitive or sensory impairment which, in interaction with social and systemic barriers, restricts a person's full and effective participation in university life on an equal basis with others*
- III. *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.*
- IV. *The University of Auckland uses a 0-9 grading scale, which has a pass mark of 1.00. The GPE will be calculated using the Grade Point Equivalent calculator available at <https://www.gpecalculator.auckland.ac.nz/#/>.*
- V. *It is important that applicants have a knowledge of what has been and is happening in their field and the centres where it is happening. They must have a vision of the future that is of principal importance in considering disability issues. Awardees will be expected to participate verbally or in writing, or both, in the discussion of disability issues; write or work with writers of computer software programmes and make a contribution to the advancement of people with disabilities.*
- VI. *Awardees will provide a report on their research at the end of their tenure, which will be made available to all three university faculties involved.*
- VII. *Awardees will be required to comply with the regulations for the Award and will notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment or funding status. Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland may, in the event that it*

can be established that an awardee is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Award and require repayment of the funds received.