Matariki Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Psychologies Rising Stars Award

**Description**

The Award was established in 2018 by the Māori and Pacific Psychology Committee, with support and funding from the School of Psychology. The Award honours Māori, Pacific and Indigenous academic excellence in psychology, taking inspiration from the nine stars visible during Matariki.

The main purpose of the Award is to identify and support promising Māori, Pacific and/or Indigenous students towards postgraduate study in Indigenous research that seeks to improve areas of injustice, health, social inequities, and to facilitate community well-being.

**Selection process**

- Nomination is made to the Scholarships Office
- The Award is made by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee

**Regulations**

1. The Award will be known as the Matariki Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Psychologies Rising Stars Award.
2. Ten Awards will be made annually. One Award will be made at each level to a Māori student and one Award will be made at each level to a Pacific and/or Indigenous student at each of the following levels: Stage I, Stage II, Stage III, Honours or Postgraduate Diploma, Masters (see Notes I-II).
3. The value of the Award will be $500 for Stage I, Stage II, Stage III, Honours and Postgraduate Diploma study, and $750 for Masters study (see Note II).
4. The Award will be tenable by Māori, Pacific and Indigenous students who are enrolled in Psychology courses at undergraduate or postgraduate level (see Notes I-II).
5. The basis of selection will be academic merit in Psychology courses and an essay confirming the candidate’s...
Indigenous identity and ancestry. For Stage I and II students the essay should reflect on their experience learning Psychology at the University of Auckland, for Stage III, Honours, PG Dip and Masters students the essay should outline a proposed research project in Indigenous Psychology. Students who have achieved a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 5.00 in Psychology courses may be invited to submit an essay to be considered for the Award (see Notes I to VI).

6. The Award will be made by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation a Selection Committee comprising three academic staff members nominated by the Māori and Pacific Psychology Committee.

7. The Award will be paid in one lump sum.

8. 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 Award.

9. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an Award if in any year there are not candidates of sufficient merit.

10. Notes [I]-[VI] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

I. This Award is inclusive of Māori, who are Indigenous to Aotearoa, and Pasifika people who are Indigenous to the islands of the Pacific. The Award is furthermore inclusive of students who identify as Indigenous to nation states outside of Aotearoa, as indicated in the following description by Martinez (1995, p86): “Indigenous… peoples… have historical continuity with pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing in those territories… Indigenous peoples… form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories (i.e. Treaty of Waitangi claims), and their ethnic identity (i.e. Māori language revitalisation projects), as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal systems”.

II. Recipients of the Award will be eligible to hold the award again in subsequent years at a higher level of study. The Award may be held once per level of study.

III. The Essay length will be up to 300 words for Stage I and II students; and 500 words for Stage III, Honours, Postgraduate Diploma and Masters students.

IV. Indigenous identity and ancestry statement may include histories of whangai and/or adoption.

V. Proposed research projects must be within the scope of current teaching staff’s expertise.

VI. Stage III, Honours/PG Diploma and Masters awardees may be invited to give a presentation at a Māori and Pacific Psychology Research Group meeting in the following year.