Pratt-Ritschl Award in Theology, Religious Studies and Philosophical Theology

**Code:** 1038  
**Faculty:** Arts  
**Applicable study:** Postgraduate study in Theological and Religious Studies or Philosophy  
**Closing date:** By nomination  
**Tenure:** One year  
**For:** Assistance with study  
**Number on offer:** One  
**Offer rate:** Annually  
**Value:** $750

### Description

The Award was established in 2019 and is funded by Professor Douglas Pratt, Honorary Academic in the disciplinary area of Theological and Religious Studies, in recognition of Dietrich Ritschl, a Swiss scholar of religion who was instrumental in setting Professor Pratt on his academic path.

The main purpose of the Award is to support a postgraduate student undertaking research in contemporary issues in theology, religious studies and philosophical theology including secularism, religious diversity, religion and politics, religion and contemporary society, inter-religious studies, Christian-Muslim relations and religious ethics in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Auckland.

### 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 Pratt-Ritschl Award in Theology, Religious Studies and Philosophical Theology.  
2. One Award will be made annually, and will be of the value of $750.  
3. A student may be a recipient of the Award no more than twice during the entire period of their postgraduate enrolment at the University of Auckland.  
4. The Award may be made to a student enrolled in postgraduate level study in the Faculty of Arts undertaking research in the disciplinary area of Theological and Religious Studies relating to at least one of the following topics: secularism, religious diversity, religion and politics, religion and contemporary society, inter-religious studies, Christian-Muslim relations, philosophical theology and religious ethics. If no candidate is apparent in the disciplinary area of Theological and Religious Studies, the Award may be made to a suitable candidate in the disciplinary area of Philosophy whose research relates to secularism, religious diversity, religion and politics, religion and contemporary
society, inter-religious studies, Christian-Muslim relations, philosophical theology or religious ethics (see Note I).

5. The basis of selection will be academic achievement and the relevance of the candidate's research to the topics listed in Regulation 4. Matters that may be considered in relation to academic achievement include, but are not limited to, the grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) calculated over the most recent qualifying programme, papers prepared for publication, draft chapters related to the research or research proposal (see Note II).

6. The Award will be made by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Deputy Head (Academic) of the School of Humanities (or nominee) in consultation with the Discipline Convenor of Theological and Religious Studies (or nominee) and the Discipline Convenor of Philosophy (or nominee).

7. The Award may not be shared.

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

9. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if in any year there are no candidates of sufficient merit.

10. The Award may be held concurrently with any other scholarship, award or grant as long as a) the terms of that scholarship, award or grant permit and b) the University of Auckland Council is informed and approves.

11. 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.

12. Notes [I]-[IV] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

I. An eligible course must have a minimum value of 30 points.

II. 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 qualifying 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 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.

III. Payments under the terms of this Award 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 Award.

IV. Recipients of a Pratt-Ritschl Award in Theology, Religious Studies and Philosophical Theology will be required to give undertakings that they will comply with the regulations for the Award and will notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment or funding status. The University of Auckland may, in the event that it can be establish that a recipient of a Pratt-Ritschl Award in Theology, Religious Studies and Philosophical Theology is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Award and require repayment of the funds received.

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