University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviour of Proto-cells

**Description**

This Scholarship was established in 2018 and is funded by a Marsden Grant awarded to an academic staff member from the Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Science at the University of Auckland.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to support a PhD student at the University of Auckland who is undertaking research investigating the possibility that the organism-like behaviours demonstrated by simple non-living physical structures facilitated the earliest stages of life’s evolution.

**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 University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded, for a period of up to 36 months and will be of the value of up to $27,500 per annum plus compulsory fees for a domestic or international students who is eligible to study under the domestic fees policy, and compulsory international student health insurance, where applicable. Part-time students will be paid pro-rata for up to 72 months (see Notes I, II, IV and VI).
3. The Scholarship may be awarded only to new students applying for admission to a PhD in the Faculty of Science at the University of Auckland who meet all the requirements of these regulations.
4. 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 and research and publication record. Where a qualifying 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 at least 7.00 (6.50 for Māori or Pacific candidates) in that programme to be eligible for scholarship consideration. Where a qualifying programme is entirely pass/fail, the University may generate a GPA only where the programme consists entirely of a thesis (see Note V).

5. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Primary Investigator of the grant, the Associate Dean (Doctoral) of the Faculty of Science (or nominee), and the Head of the Department of Computer Science (or nominee)

6. Domestic and international students will be required to enrol within 3 and within 6 months respectively 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.

7. 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 Scholarship Sub-Committee approval, may be available. These durations shall be pro-rated for part-time scholarship awardees (see Note VI).

8. 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 VIII).

9. The University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells may not be held concurrently with a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship or with any other New Zealand government or foreign government-funded scholarships or grants. However, it may be held with any other study award or grant where the regulations for that award or grant permit, and where the University of Auckland Council so approves, up to an additional maximum of 75% of the stipend value of the University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells. If the value of the co-tenured scholarship exceeds 75% of the University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells stipend value, the emolument for the University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells will be reduced to limit the additional co-tenured stipend value to 75% of the University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells stipend value.

10. The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the donor, has the power to terminate or suspend a Scholarship if it receives an unsatisfactory report on the progress of a Scholar from the Associate Dean (Doctoral) of the Faculty of Science.

11. 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.


I. For further information about the project and possible topics, contact the Principal Investigator – Dr Matthew Egbert – m.egbert@auckland.ac.nz.

II. Students who have been offered a scholarship must meet all requirements for admission into their intended programme in order to take up the scholarship offer.

III. Compulsory fees are those only related to the PhD, plus Student Services Fee.

IV. To be eligible to pay domestic PhD fees, recipients who are permanent residents of New Zealand or Australia, Australian citizens or international students 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.

V. 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.

VI. Recipients of University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells 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 University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells 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 8 and Note VIII) 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.

VII. Recipients of a University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells 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 University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Simulating the Behaviours of Proto-cells is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.

VIII. Paid work 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.

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