University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Visual Neuroscience

**Description**

The Scholarship was established in 2019 and is funded by a Marsden Grant awarded to an academic staff member from the School of Optometry and Vision Science in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to support two PhD students at the University of Auckland who are undertaking research in visual neuroscience.

**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 Visual Neuroscience.
2. Two scholarships will be awarded for a period of up to three years and will be of the value of up to $27,900 per annum in 2019, with an annual cost of living adjustment to the stipend value, plus compulsory fees for domestic and international students who are eligible to study under the domestic fees policy, and compulsory international student health insurance, where applicable (see Notes II and III).
3. The Scholarship may be awarded only to new students applying for admission to a PhD in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland who meet all the requirements of these regulations.
4. The Scholarship is tenable by full-time domestic and international students who are eligible to pay domestic fees (see Note III).
5. 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, research and publication record. Where a completed 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 7.00 or above (6.50 for Māori or Pacific candidates) in that programme to be eligible for scholarship consideration (see Note IV).

6. 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 (Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (or nominee), and the Head of the School of Optometry and Vision Science (or nominee).

7. 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.

8. 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 Scholarships Committee approval, may be available.

9. To comply with the full-time study requirement in Regulation 4, 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 VI).

10. The University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Visual Neuroscience 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 Visual Neuroscience. If the value of the co-tenured scholarship exceeds 75% of the University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Visual Neuroscience stipend value, the emolument for the University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Visual Neuroscience will be reduced to limit the additional co-tenured stipend value to 75% of the University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Visual Neuroscience stipend value.

11. The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the donor, has the power to terminate or suspend a Scholarship if it receives a report of unsatisfactory progress of a Scholar from the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

12. 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 Scholarship.


Notes

I. Further information about the project and possible topics can be obtained from the Principal Investigator - Professor Steven Dakin - s.dakin@auckland.ac.nz.

II. Compulsory fees are those only related to the PhD, plus Student Services Fee. In addition, for international students, the single student Health Insurance compulsory charge (as detailed on the tuition fees invoice) is covered by the Scholarship for the duration of the scholarship.

III. 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.

IV. 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 programme.

V. Recipients of a University of Auckland Marsden Grant PhD Scholarship in Visual Neuroscience 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 Visual Neuroscience is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.

VI. 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.

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