

Approved by Research Committee of Academic Board: 14 June 2011

Closing date : 23 September 2011

The purpose of the AUT Vice-Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarships is to encourage and stimulate doctoral studies in areas of University research capability.

Amount and type of award

The scholarship covers the following:

- Annual payment of Tuition fees (at the domestic rate) and Learner Service Levy;
- The scholarship does not include the Students' Association fee;
- An annual stipend of \$25,000 per year.

Tenure

The scholarship is tenable for a period not exceeding three years.

Application requirements

The following must be supplied to the Scholarships Office by **4.30pm** on the **closing date**:

- AUT VC Doctoral Scholarship Application Form;
- Academic Transcript(s) - (the Scholarships Office will not provide these);
- The names and contact details for two academic referees who will testify in writing on the applicant's qualifications and research abilities. Your referees should send their reports directly and confidentially to the Scholarships Office by 4.30pm, 23 September 2011 (Do not supply referees' reports directly);
- Two page statement outlining your research proposal using the template provided with the application form;
- Written support from your proposed primary supervisor;
- Incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the selection panel.

Criteria

- The scholarship is open to applicants who are qualified to register for full-time study in a doctoral degree at AUT.
- Applicants must meet the normal admission criteria to the doctoral programme, including, minimally, second class (first division) honours or equivalent as stated in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.aut.ac.nz/calendar>).
- The proposed field of study is one where the University can offer supervision.
- Preference will be given to new applicants to a doctoral programme, including those in provisional candidature at AUT.
- The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence.

Selection

- The Scholarships Office will forward to faculties the applications from students who have applied from that faculty. The faculties will then nominate a shortlist from their applications and forward these to the Scholarships Office, who will then organise the final selection meeting.
- Recipients will be selected from the faculty nominations by the AUT Scholarships Committee.
- The scholarship is awarded by the Vice Chancellor.
- Selection will be based on demonstrated excellence in the following:
 - the applicant's academic record (including prizes, awards and any publications)
 - the applicant's research proposal and background
 - the referees' statements
 - and any other relevant information that may be available, including that which meets the University's strategic needs
- Preference will be given to applicants whose research area aligns with the University's strategy.
- Should a successful applicant decline the award, and there is another suitable applicant, then the scholarship will be offered to that applicant.
- No scholarship will be awarded upon any occasion if the selection panel is of the opinion that there is no applicant of sufficient merit applying for the award.

Conditions of acceptance

- The stipend will be paid monthly into the recipient's bank account.
- The scholar must be usually resident in New Zealand and studying at AUT to receive stipend payments.
 - Stipends will not be paid to students living long term off-shore
- This scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other bursary or scholarship, without the express approval of the AUT Scholarships Committee.
- The scholar must notify the University Scholarships Office of their acceptance of the scholarship offer within two weeks from the formal date of notification.
- The scholarship may be taken up in the period 1 January until the end of the first semester of the year of award.
 - Application for admission to the programme must be completed by 1 March 2012 and the student must be fully enrolled by the end of Semester 1.
- Doctoral registration must be complete before the scholarship can be taken up
- The University Postgraduate Centre will provide the Scholarships Office with an annual report on the scholar's progress and a final report on completion of the programme
 - Unsatisfactory reports will be forwarded to the Scholarships Committee for consideration
- Every scholar will be required to devote the whole time during the tenure of the scholarship to the programme of research and may not undertake a level of employment that would interfere with their research. A recommended employment limit is 600 hours per annum. Anything above this must be approved by the Scholarships Committee.
- Every scholar will be required to sign a standard scholarship contract with AUT formalising the acceptance of the conditions of acceptance of this scholarship
- The scholarship tenure will cease when the recipient submits their thesis for examination.
 - Where a recipient submits their thesis prior to end of the period of tenure then they may apply for a publishing stipend.
- The AUT Scholarships Committee may at any time suspend or terminate any stipend, if it determines that the scholar is not diligently pursuing the programme of advanced study or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded
 - In cases of suspension the AUT Scholarships Committee may impose conditions upon the scholar which must be met in order to have the scholarship reinstated
 - In circumstances where the scholarship is terminated no further payments will be made. This will also apply if a scholar ceases to pursue the programme of research
- Should the scholar withdraw from the research programme, the Scholar may be required to repay AUT University for the full scholarship money paid to the Scholar by AUT University during the tenure of the Scholarship. This shall be determined by a sub-committee of the Scholarships Committee
- The scholar shall reimburse AUT University for any money paid to the Scholar by AUT University subsequent to the date of any suspension from full time study in the approved programme of research.
- The scholar must advise the Scholarships Office and Faculty Postgraduate Office immediately of:
 - any suspension or withdrawal from full time study in the approved programme of research;
 - any change of supervisor;
 - the date of submission of the Scholar's thesis.