

AUT Vice-Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarships

Closing dates: Category A - throughout the year; Category B - 15 October (see Eligibility Criteria below)

Purpose

To attract highly achieving doctoral research students to AUT University and to encourage and stimulate doctoral studies in areas of the University's research capability.

Value of award

The scholarship consists of the following:

- Annual payment of tuition fees (at the domestic rate) plus the compulsory student services fee;
- An annual stipend of NZ\$25,000 per year.

Tenure

The scholarship is tenable for up to three years. The number of months between first enrolment and the scholarship closing date with a three month grace period will be deducted from the full 36 month period.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must meet English language proficiency requirements as stated in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.aut.ac.nz/calendar>) at the time of application.
- Applicants must meet the normal admission criteria for the doctoral programme.
<http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/entry-requirements/postgraduate-and-graduate-admissionrequirements>
- Recipients of this scholarship will have an excellent academic record, strong academic references and have demonstrated the potential for high quality research.
- Scholarships are awarded on academic merit and recipients of this scholarship will normally have the equivalent of first class honours. Previous study should include research methodology paper(s) and an independent research project, including the writing of a report on that research.
- The applicant's proposed field of study must be one where the University can offer supervision. Applicants should contact potential supervisors prior to application to confirm the availability of supervision for their proposed research.
- Preference will be given to new applicants to the doctoral programme at AUT, including those currently in provisional candidature.

Applications will be accepted in two categories:

1. Category A

- a. *New* doctoral applicants with a **GPA of 8.0 or above** in their most recent qualifying programme will be guaranteed a scholarship provided the qualifying programme was completed at a New Zealand university and they meet the additional conditions below; or
- b. *New* Māori and domestic Pacific doctoral applicants with a **GPA of 7.5 or above**, from their most recent qualifying programme will be guaranteed a scholarship provided the qualifying

programme was completed at a New Zealand university and they meet the additional conditions below. Applicants applying under b) must be citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand.

The following additional conditions apply under Category A

- Applicants must have an unconditional Offer of Place in the doctoral programme.
- Applicants must enrol into the Doctoral programme within three months of the offer of scholarship.
- In 2018 consideration will be given to applicants who have enrolled into the Doctoral programme between 1 November and 31 December, 2017 and who meet all other criteria.

NB: the GPA for AUT Doctoral scholarships will be calculated using the AUT method outlined in the document available from the webpage <http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/fees-scholarships-andfinance/scholarships/vice-chancellors-doctoral-scholarships>.

Category A applicants may apply at any time after 15 January in the year of application.

2. Category B

The contestable October round is open to all eligible applicants i.e. applicants may be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents, or International students. Applications open on 1 August through the AUT on-line scholarship application portal.

Application requirements

Full information is available from www.phdscholar.ac.nz. It is not possible to submit *incomplete* scholarship applications through the online application process. In order for the application to be submitted applicants must complete all sections and request the required support statements. Incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the selection panel. The following documents or statements will need to be uploaded and submitted with the application by AUT VC Doctoral Scholarship On-line Application Form:

- Academic transcript(s) for any previous tertiary study that was completed at a university other than AUT
- A brief C.V. (maximum three pages)
- A two page proposal outlining the intended research using the template provided with the online application form. The applicant will be asked to provide the following details:
 - Proposed Topic/Title
 - Rationale and significance of the study
 - Key Question/hypothesis/problem/issue to be Investigated:
 - Design of the study; the methodology and research technique(s) to be employed in the study
 - Research benefits
 - References

Please note the proposal must be **two pages only** (1,000 words) plus a maximum of one page for any references. If a longer document is provided you will be asked to revise the document to meet the requirements.

Faculty support:

Applicants must contact their faculty in advance of application and seek support for their doctoral research.

Category A: Applications meeting the eligibility criteria for this category will be forwarded to the Primary supervisor or the Head of School and then to the Faculty's Associate Dean Postgraduate. Faculty representatives will then assess your application and recommend the awarding of a scholarship if appropriate. The award of a scholarship will be ratified by the Chair of the AUT Scholarships Committee (or nominee).

Category B: Applicants in this category must seek Faculty approval for their application. This will be either in the form of an unconditional offer of place for the doctoral programme or in the form of a letter or email clearly stating support from a potential primary supervisor or the Head of Programme/ School. The statement of support should state confirm that the applicant's research can be supported within the faculty. Applicants will be asked to upload this evidence during the application process.

Reference statements:

Two academic reference statements are required for all applicants other than those whose qualifying programme was completed at AUT. AUT applicants will be required to provide one referee only. Applicants must not submit referee's reports directly; nominated referees will be sent a request directly from the On-line application system. Please advise your referees that they will be receiving an email requesting a reference statement. Applicants can submit the application without referees' statements. However, the application will be considered ineligible and will not be released to selection panels without the required reference statements.

Selection

- In making the selection panels will give particular consideration to the applicant's status with regard to; New Zealand citizenship, residency, Maori or Pacific Island ethnicity, AUT alumni.
- Applications will be shortlisted by faculties. Applicants who are not shortlisted will be advised within one month.
- For the October round recipients will be selected from the shortlisted faculty nominations by the AUT Scholarships Committee and confirmed by the Vice-Chancellor. Successful and unsuccessful shortlisted applicants will be advised of the outcome within six weeks.
- 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
 - the applicant's research and/or professional background and any publication record • the referees' statements
 - the availability of supervision within the applicant's area of research
- Preference is given to applicants who align with the University's strategic plan.

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Conditions of acceptance

Note: The conditions outlined apply to applicants for, and recipients of, the Vice-Chancellors Doctoral Scholarships, The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee AUT Doctoral Scholarship and other AUT funded Doctoral Scholarships unless specified otherwise in an approved regulations document.

1. The recipients of AUT Doctoral scholarships will be required to sign an AUT Postgraduate Scholarship Contract (the Contract) to formalise the acceptance of the scholarship and agreeing to the conditions below.
2. The Scholar must remain enrolled in a full-time approved programme of research (the programme) during the tenure of the Scholarship and shall abide by the rules and regulations of Auckland University of Technology (the University).
3. The stipend will be paid monthly into the recipient's nominated bank account. Scholarship payments will not be made retrospectively.
4. The Scholar must be resident in New Zealand and studying at AUT to receive stipend payments. Stipends will not be paid to students living off-shore. Short periods overseas for data collection and reasonable holiday leave of no more than one month in any one year, excluding data collection and/or attendance at conferences, will be approved
5. A scholarship allocated under **Category A** is to be taken up within three months of the offer of scholarship.
6. A scholarship allocated under **Category B** i.e. in the October round is to be taken up in the period 1 January to 1 July in the year following application. Application for admission to the programme must be completed by 1 March.
7. Requests for scholarship deferment must be addressed to the Scholarships Committee and sent to scholars@aut.ac.nz and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
8. The University and the Scholar agrees that the Scholarship is provided to support the Scholar's PhD research only. Professional Doctorate candidates may receive support for the research component of their degree only providing they are able to commit full time to their research.
9. The Scholar will be expected to work full-time on the programme required to complete the degree qualification. **Note:** for the purpose of the AUT Postgraduate Contract, full-time is considered to be at least 35 hours per week.
10. The Scholar must inform the Scholarships Office of any other awards held during the tenure of this scholarship. The co-tenure of awards up to one third of the value of this scholarship is permitted but must be approved by the Scholarships Office. Research grants and funding for travel are not

considered under these regulations to constitute an award. A scholarship or award supporting research *other* than that for which the scholar is funded under the Contract may not be held.

11. Approval must be obtained from both the Faculty Associate Dean Postgraduate and the Head of the University Scholarships Office before the Scholar takes any period of leave, other than reasonable holiday leave. This includes any period longer than one month that the Scholar may need to spend overseas to undertake research relating to the programme.
12. The Scholar must advise the Scholarships Office and the primary supervisor immediately of:
 - a. any leave of absence or withdrawal from full-time study in the programme; and
 - b. submission of the Scholar's thesis.
13. The decision regarding whether permission is granted for the Scholar to undertake paid employment, is at the sole discretion of the University. The Scholar must apply to the University Scholarships Committee through the Head of the Scholarships Office for approval to undertake any paid employment during the tenure of this scholarship. Employment should be for no more than 600 hours in any one calendar year (normally no more than a maximum of 12 hours per week will be approved). It is preferred any employment is directly related to the Scholar's field of research e.g. as a teaching or research assistant.
14. If the Scholar takes leave of absence from full-time study, the Scholar may, at the discretion of the Scholarships Committee, be required to reimburse the University all stipend payments to the Scholar subsequent to the date of the leave of absence from full-time study. Should the Scholar receive a retrospective leave of absence the stipend will be stopped for an equivalent period of time.
15. The scholarship tenure will cease within one month of the Scholar submitting their thesis for examination. Where the Scholar submits their thesis prior to end of the period of tenure of the scholarship they may apply for a publishing stipend.
16. If the Scholar, for any reason, withdraws from full-time study in the programme, the Scholar shall reimburse the University all stipend payments to the Scholar subsequent to the date of the withdrawal from full-time study. Further, at the discretion of the University Scholarships Committee, the Scholar may be required to repay the University part, or all, of the scholarship stipend paid to the Scholar during the tenure of the Scholarship.
17. The Scholar agrees to complete all AUT six-monthly progress reports (PGR8) required during the tenure of the Scholarship within the timeframe outlined in the AUT Postgraduate Handbook.
18. The scholar must move from provisional to full registration (PGR9) within the timeframe outlined in the AUT Postgraduate Handbook.
19. The University Scholarships Committee may at any time suspend or terminate the Scholarship if it determines the Scholar is not diligently pursuing the programme or making satisfactory progress, or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the Scholarship was awarded.

