AUT Summer Research Scholarships

Summer Research Scholarships support and enhance research at the University. Auckland University of Technology (AUT) provides promising undergraduate, final-year honours and first-year master's degree students the opportunity to gain valuable research experience working with leading researchers at AUT. Summer Research can enhance career opportunities and encourage students to pursue postgraduate study by experiencing the challenges and rewards of research.

The Summer Research Scholarships are offered in AUT Research Centres, Schools and Faculties between December and March. The number of Scholarships offered in any year will be determined by the availability of funding and appropriate supervision.

Summer Research projects may be co-funded by external organisations as Summer Research Scholarships offer a unique opportunity for external organisations, academics and students to work together in research.

Value and Tenure of Award
- Summer Research Scholarships will support a student conducting a full-time research project of approximately 10 weeks duration under the supervision of an academic staff member.
- Each scholarship consists of a tax-free stipend of $7,500.
- The scholarship will be paid in four equal monthly instalments: the first (25%) on commencement of the project. The final instalment (25%) will be paid following submission of the final research report within four weeks of the completion of the Scholarship term.
- In the 2023-2024 summer research period a minimum of $6000 may be awarded to support a student conducting a full-time research project of not more than eight weeks.

Eligibility
- Applicants must be enrolled at the time of application at AUT or another New Zealand University in one of the following qualifications and are normally expected to have completed at least three years of undergraduate study:
    i. undergraduate degree
    ii. final year honours degree
    iii. first-year master's degree; or
    iv. a Postgraduate Diploma
- PhD students may apply under exceptional circumstances, as determined by the Faculty Scholarships Committee.
- Preference will be given to applicants whose intention is to continue with study at AUT after the completion of the scholarship.
- The scholarship will not support a student's own Master's (90 or 120pt) thesis or doctoral research.
- If an intended recipient is currently enrolled in a postgraduate research degree, the academic progress of the recipient must be considered to be paramount.

Application Process

Selection of Funded Projects

A Summer Research project should support an AUT academic staff member's approved research programme and be directed towards the completion of a specified research output. The work the student is undertaking must be part of a viable research project, whether already in progress or planned. Student initiated projects may be considered provided the research is not part of a student's master's or PhD research and the project is supervised by an AUT academic (project leader).

The project leader should submit a project outline to the Faculty Research Office by **1 August.** The outline should be of no more than two A4 pages outlining:

- The nature of the research
- Potential research outputs
- How the research will align with the School's research plan or existing research projects
- A detailed time frame
- Student responsibilities and potential benefits to the student

Ethics approval for projects, if required, must be submitted prior to seeking approval for the project. Ethics approval must be obtained before the start of the project or the project approval will be withdrawn. Student applicants must be made aware of this when offered a scholarship.

Potential projects for funding will be assessed for suitability and alignment with the School or Faculty's overall research strategy by the Faculty Research Committee. Successful projects will be advertised by Faculties by **1 September.**

Schools and Faculties should request that projects are advertised on the AUT Scholarships Webpage - Summer Research Projects. (link)

Student Application - Student applications for all Summer Research Scholarships close on **1 October.**

- Students must approach the project leader listed against the project to discuss the potential research. The project leader may then invite the student to apply.
- Students who have been invited to apply must complete the on-line Summer Research application by **1 October**. Complete applications will be forwarded to the Project Leader for assessment.
- Applicants will be expected to upload in the on-line application portal:
    i.   Academic transcripts if previous study was not undertaken at AUT.
    ii.   A statement confirming the applicant's enrolment plans for the following year.

Selection Process

- Recipients will be selected by the project leader who will notify the Scholarships Office of the successful applicant by **1 November.**
- The Scholarships Office will formally notify the student of the outcome and ensure that the student is set up as a payee in the AUT Finance system prior to Finance end of year close down.
- No award can be paid to a student prior to the funds being confirmed. If the scholarship is co –funded contractual requirements must be completed through the Faculty Research Office before the student can be notified.
- Awards are required to be taken up by 1 December. Awards notified to the Scholarships Office after 15 November may not be able to be processed before mid-January of the year following notification.

Guidelines for Project Leaders

Before the scholarship commences the project leader will be required to declare within the Scholarship Management System that the following points are understood by both/all parties.

i. The work the student is undertaking must be part of a viable research project, whether already in progress or planned.

ii. The project leader has met with the student prior to application and will meet with the student again prior to commencement of the scholarship.

iii. If ethics approval is required is this in place before the commencement of the project?

iv. For externally funded projects or co-funded projects the project leader will be expected to meet with the external organisation prior to commencement of the project to discuss what the expected outcomes for the university and the organization.

v. Regular and meaningful contact must be maintained with the student and external organisation (where applicable) throughout the 10 weeks of the research project. This must be agreed upon by the student and project leader before the scholarship.

vi. The project leader is responsible for the pastoral care of students, including health and safety and must ascertain if there any health, safety or support issues that require further consideration. E.g. Will the student be expected to work alone; is access to buildings required; will the student have adequate facilities i.e. desk space, computer, to carry out their research?

vii. If the project leader will be absent for any period of time during the 10 weeks how will contact be maintained; or who will deputise to supervise the student?

viii. If work of publishable quality is likely to arise from the project, is an IP agreement in place before commencing the project?

ix. The project leader and student must all Faculty processes including signing and submitting timely progress reporting and the completion of time sheets if required.

x. The project leader must ensure milestones have been met. For externally funded or co-funded projects this may include final reports being presented to external organisation upon project completion.

Summer Research Conditions (Student)

i. The Scholarships will be offered in specific areas of research approved by Faculty Research Committees in line with AUT's research priorities.

ii. Projects must consist of research or activities directly related to research.

iii. The student agrees to complete an agreed work plan with defined research outputs in consultation with the project leader.

iv. The student is expected to conduct a full-time research project of approximately 10-weeks duration.

v. Summer Research projects are expected to commence by 1 December .

vi. Students should be currently enrolled in an undergraduate, Honours or first year Master's degree AUT or at any New Zealand university.

vii. Students are expected to begin the process of enrolment in the following year by the end of the year of application to be eligible for the scholarship.

viii. During the Summer Research period scholars must not be receiving any alternative scholarship support.

ix. Students are assessed on the following criteria: academic merit; expertise in the research area; recommendations from staff associated with the research project.

x. The student must acknowledge that they cannot undertake any undergraduate or postgraduate studies at AUT or any other institution during the term of the Summer Research Scholarship. The student will be supervised by a qualified AUT academic staff member or a research team.

xi. Should the student withdraw from the research programme, they may be required to repay the full funds paid during the tenure of the Scholarship.

xii. The University may require repayment of any funds if it is not satisfied that the scholar is involved in the required research activity and is not complying with the conditions of the award.

xiii. The scholarship will be paid in four equal monthly instalments; the first payment after commencement of the project, the final payment will be released following the submission of a research report on completion of the Scholarship term. The report must be written in collaboration with the supervisor and is expected to be brief but comprehensive. A copy of the report must be approved by the Associate Dean Research.

xiv. The final payment will not be made before 15 February or after the 1 June (other than under exceptional circumstances).

xv. For externally funded projects or co-funded projects, the student acknowledges that the project cannot commence before the agreement between all parties has been signed.