

Marsden PhD scholarship – Light Responsive Drug Development Systems

The logo for Auckland University of Technology (AUT) is displayed in the top right corner. It consists of the letters 'AUT' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a black rectangular background.

CLOSING DATE: 10 January 2021

PURPOSE

This synthetic chemistry project aims to develop light-responsive organelle-targeted drug delivery systems to control exactly when and where drugs exhibit their therapeutic activity in a cellular setting. Fluorescence will also be used to track in real-time the distribution of the inactive drug before using light to trigger its activation at the desired subcellular location.

One scholarship is available funded by a Marsden Fast Start grant.

AMOUNT AND TYPE OF AWARD

PhD domestic tuition fees and NZ\$27,500 per annum stipend

TENURE

Three years (subject to satisfactory progress). Anticipated start date is 1st March 2021.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicants must have completed a Bachelor of Science (Honours) or Master of Science in chemistry.
- Knowledge and experience in organic chemistry and techniques for characterisation, including NMR spectroscopy, as well as good communication skills in written and spoken English is essential.
- The successful candidate will demonstrate enthusiasm and have an outstanding academic record and be prepared to conduct the doctoral study at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) based in New Zealand.
- Preference will be given to NZ Citizens, NZ Permanent Residents or international students currently onshore in New Zealand.
- Applying for a scholarship and admission into AUT are separate processes at AUT. Applicants must fulfil all conditions for admission to the Doctoral Programme in AUT. These can be found on the AUT website <https://www.aut.ac.nz/courses/doctor-of-philosophy>.
- Requirements for the Doctoral programme include having completed the required academic qualifications for direct entry and meeting the requirements for English language proficiency. Minimum English language requirement for international applicants – IELTS scores of 6.5 overall with 7 in writing and all other bands 6.0 or higher. A high proficiency in English is essential.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must apply by email to Dr Cassandra Fleming (cassandra.fleming@aut.ac.nz) attaching:

- A cover letter highlighting your research interests and experience.
- A brief (no more than 2 pages) curriculum vitae.
- Academic transcripts and certificates for any previous tertiary study completed at a university other than AUT.
- Details (including phone and email) of two academic referees.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Selection will be based on demonstrated strength in the following:
 - the applicant's academic record
 - past research experience and publication record (if appropriate) relevant to this project
 - the referees' statements
- The Selection panel's decision will be final; if suitable applicants are not available the panel will not award the scholarship. The position may then be re-advertised.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE AND APPOINTMENT

- The stipend cannot be released until the successful applicant is enrolled in the PhD programme at AUT.
- The anticipated start date is 1st March 2021 but will depend on the completion of AUT enrolment and obtaining a student visa (if required). The scholarship must be taken up within four months of the offer of scholarship.
- The successful applicant must be prepared to commit full-time to their programme of research.
- The successful applicant will be required to sign an AUT Research Scholarship Contract.
- This scholarship may not be held in conjunction with any other scholarship without the approval of the selection panel and the Scholarships Office.
- Recipients must be resident in New Zealand to receive stipend payments. Stipends will not be paid to students living off-shore. Reasonable annual holiday leave overseas of no more than four weeks is acceptable.
- Scholarships payments will not be made retrospectively.
- Recipients must notify the School and the Scholarships Office in writing if they wish to apply for a Leave of Absence or withdraw from their programme.