

## School of Communication Studies Social Impact Postgraduate Scholarship

**CLOSING DATE: 15 July (Semester Two intake)**

### PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The purpose of this scholarship is to offer a student interested in postgraduate research at the Master level the opportunity of focusing on a subject and research project in communication and/or media that is designed to produce research with a distinct potential to contribute to New Zealand's economy, society, and/or culture, either as a whole or for any of our communities. Research proposals that aim at industry-relevant studies, professional practices, improvements to policy-making or community-relevant policies, fostering social cohesion, progressing social, economic or health outcomes for under-served communities, and building capacity for advancing New Zealand as a wellbeing nation, are especially invited to apply.

### TYPE OF AWARD

The scholarship consists of tuition fees and compulsory student fees (domestic equivalent rate) plus a stipend at the combined total value of NZ\$30,000 for:

- 180 pts at Level 9 in the Master of Communication Studies programme completed within an eighteen-month period (full-time study).

### TENURE

The scholarship tenure is:

- eighteen months of consecutive full-time study only.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Preference will be given to applicants enrolling for the first time in the eligible programme.
- Applicants must have completed their qualifying programme at AUT or any other New Zealand tertiary institution.
- Applicants must be intending to study full-time.
- Applicants must:
  - Achieve a minimum GPA of 7.5 (A-/A) across 120pts in the final year of their qualifying programme; or
  - Be registered in ARION as having Māori or Pasifika first ethnicity and achieve a minimum GPA of 6.5 (B+/A-) across 120pts in the final year of their qualifying programme; or
  - Be able to prove significant financial hardship and achieve a minimum GPA of 6.5 (B+/A-) across 120pts in the final year of their qualifying programme; or
  - Demonstrate exceptional merit of their postgraduate research to meet the purpose of the scholarship as outlined under section 1 above.
- Recipients of this scholarship are not eligible to reapply in subsequent years.
- Students who already commenced studies in the eligible programme may apply, and if successful, the scholarship tenure will be reduced by the studies already completed in the approved programme.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must complete the online AUT Postgraduate Research Scholarship Application available through the AUT Scholarships Database [www.aut.ac.nz/scholarships](http://www.aut.ac.nz/scholarships). Applicants will be asked to upload the following documentation:

- A one-page personal statement outlining the applicant's academic goals, motivation and interest in research study and career aspirations stating why they believe they merit the scholarship.
- A provisional research proposal that evidences the relevance of intended thesis research to the [purpose of the scholarship](#) as outlined above.
- If the applicant is applying under the category Māori or Pasifika, they must outline in the statement their cultural involvement.
- If an applicant wishes to be considered as under financial hardship, they must address this in their personal statement and upload evidence of their financial position, i.e., IRD statement of income, and provide a reference from a person other than a family member who can support the applicant's financial need.
- Academic transcript(s) for any previous tertiary study that was completed at a New Zealand tertiary institution other than AUT.
  - A copy of the applicant's AUT transcript will be added to the application by the Scholarships Office once grades have been finalised.

## SELECTION PROCESS

- Shortlisting and selection of the recipients will be undertaken by a selection committee in the School of Communication Studies, overseen by the Head of School, Head of Research, and Head of Postgraduate.
- The selection committee reserves the right to not award the scholarship if none of the applications fulfil the selection criteria or merit the award, as deemed by the selection committee.
- The decision of the selection committee is final.

## CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

- The award of this scholarship is conditional on the student enrolling full-time in an approved programme. Approved study must commence in Semester 2, 2022.
- The award will be paid as tuition fees and compulsory student services fee; and
- The balance (total award value minus tuition fees / compulsory student services fee) will be paid as a stipend in equal monthly instalments upon enrolment into the Master of Communication Studies programme.
- Stipends are tax exempt and made for the purpose of supporting the recipient's education and attendance at an educational institution. There is no expectation for services to be rendered by the recipient.
- The recipient may hold other scholarships with the approval of the Scholarships Office.
- Scholars will normally enrol in no less than 60 pts in every semester of their study during the tenure of the scholarship; permission to study less than 60 pts will be given only in exceptional circumstances; in such cases the total value of the scholarship will be paid pro-rata to cover the points taken within the scholarship tenure period.
- Recipients are expected to maintain an overall grade average of B+ in any one semester during scholarship tenure. Unsatisfactory progress may terminate payment of the remaining stipend component of the award.
- Recipients of the scholarship will not normally be approved to hold employment for more than 15 hours per week during Semesters 1 and 2 and will be expected to declare their employment.
- The scholarship cannot be deferred.

- Recipients must be enrolled continuously in their programme of study; suspensions or leave of absence for students who have already commenced their programme will not normally be approved unless there are compelling medical or personal circumstances beyond the student's control.
- Suspension requests must be made in writing to the Scholarships Office.
- Recipients who withdraw from the programme of enrolment must inform the Scholarship Office in writing.
- Recipients who take up this scholarship but do not complete at least two semesters of study at AUT may be required to pay back the full value of the scholarship received.