

Closing Date: 30 November 2026

PURPOSE

The Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust (“the Trust”) intends to provide funds to establish at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) the Nicholas Tarling Memorial PhD Scholarship in Southeast Asia Studies, in memory of Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling. A specialist in the history of Southeast Asia, he published extensively on the region’s history and culture.

The Scholarship will support a student starting or undertaking their PhD at AUT on a topic focused on Southeast Asia and its people (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam) and especially but not exclusively its history, in order to advance knowledge and understanding and advance New Zealand’s interest in the subject.

AMOUNT AND TYPE OF AWARD

- One annual scholarship of \$10,000 will be offered to the successful candidate.
- The scholarship will be funded on an annual basis for five years from 2021.
- The successful candidate is expected to use their scholarship to defray expenses related to their attendance at University.

TENURE

- The tenure is for one year only.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The proposed research must be in a topic focused on Southeast Asia and its people (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam).
- Preference will be given to new applicants in the Doctoral programme at AUT intending to study full-time.
- Priority will be given to New Zealand citizens and permanent residents although international students may apply, especially where their PhD will benefit New Zealand.
- Applicants must meet the normal admission criteria and have received an Offer of Place for the Doctoral programme at AUT.
- Applicants must meet English language proficiency requirements as stated in the Academic Calendar at the time of application.
- Applicants should have an excellent academic record, strong academic references and have demonstrated the potential for high quality research.
- Previous recipients may apply again in subsequent years.

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.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must complete *The Nicholas Tarling Memorial PhD Scholarship* application online available through the [AUT Scholarships Database](#).

In order for the application to be submitted applicants must complete all sections, upload all supporting documents and request the required support statements. Incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the selection panel. The following will need to be uploaded and submitted with the on-line Application Form:

- Academic transcript(s) for any previous tertiary study that was completed at a university other than AUT
- A brief personal statement (one page maximum) outlining the applicant's motivations for doctoral study and interest in research focused on Southeast Asia.
- A maximum three-page proposal outlining the intended research using the template provided with the online application form.

Reference statements:

Two academic reference statements are required. Applicants must not submit referee's reports directly; applicants will send a request to their nominated referees 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 the selection panel without the required reference statements.

SELECTION PROCESS

- The selection panel will be made up of two representatives from AUT and a representative of the Trust.
- If no suitable candidates apply, the scholarship will be held and awarded the following year.
- The decision of the selection panel is final.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE AND APPOINTMENT

1. The Scholar must remain enrolled in a full-time approved doctoral programme of research (the programme) during the tenure of the Scholarship and shall abide by the rules and regulations of Auckland University of Technology.
2. The recipient will normally enrol in full-time study during the tenure of the scholarship. The Trust may give permission to study part-time where the personal circumstances of the recipient are a barrier to full-time study. Evidence of the inability to commit to the programme full-time will be required. Where part-time study is approved, the value of the scholarship will be reduced pro-rata to reflect the less than full-time commitment.
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 full-time at AUT to receive stipend payments. 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. The Scholar may hold other awards during the tenure of this scholarship but must inform the Scholarships Office of any such co-tenure.
6. The Scholar must advise the Scholarships Office and the primary supervisor immediately of any leave of absence or withdrawal from full-time study in the programme.
7. If the Scholar takes leave of absence from full-time study, the Scholar may, at the discretion of the Trust, be required to reimburse all stipend payments made 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.
8. If the Scholar, for any reason, withdraws from full-time study in the programme, the Scholar shall reimburse AUT Foundation all stipend payments made to the Scholar subsequent to the date of the withdrawal from full-time study.
9. When applicable, the scholarship tenure will cease within one month of the Scholar submitting their thesis for examination.
10. Requests for scholarship deferment or suspension must be addressed to the Trust and sent to scholars@aut.ac.nz and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
11. The Trust 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.
12. Any publication arising from the PhD study shall include an acknowledgement of the support provided by the Trust.