

THE AUCKLAND COUNCIL CHIEF ECONOMIST'S RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP IN ECONOMICS

This scholarship was established in 2013 to support and encourage research into urban economics.

The scholarship is funded by the Chief Economist's Unit at Auckland Council.

Purpose

The main purpose of this scholarship is to encourage and support postgraduate research in urban economics or in a related field that has particular relevance to local government in New Zealand.

This Scholarship provides funds to support research as part of a programme of postgraduate study at a New Zealand university.

Research can be in one of two categories:

1. Research that is directly relevant to the Auckland Plan, Auckland Council's Unitary Plan or Economic Development Strategy, or
2. Research that addresses a topic which is relevant to and informs the economic knowledge of local government in New Zealand

Eligibility

1. At the time of application candidates must be enrolled in a programme of postgraduate study at a New Zealand university.
2. Applicants may be enrolled as either full time or part time students.
3. The postgraduate programme must be in the area of urban economics or a related field.
 - Universities NZ and Auckland Council reserve the right to determine the eligibility of a particular area of study.
4. A thesis, dissertation or research report must be a requirement of the postgraduate programme.

Tenure and Value

The scholarship can be held for only one academic year.

Candidates whose programmes are spread over more than one academic year are eligible for only one year's scholarship.

Each year Auckland Council may grant one scholarship with an award of \$4,000 or two scholarships with an award of \$2,000 each.

For candidates who are enrolled on a part time basis the value of the award will still be \$4,000 or \$2,000.

The award funds are intended to help with tuition fees and research costs (eg data costs) and to contribute towards living costs.

Payments

Payments of the scholarship award will be made by Universities NZ on behalf of Auckland Council on the following basis:

- 75% of the award as a first payment, available when the successful candidate has formally accepted the terms and conditions of the scholarship.
- 25% of the award as a second and final payment, available at the conclusion of the research and subject to the conditions described below.

Scholarship - Conditions

On completion of the research the scholar must submit to Universities NZ for Auckland Council:

- .1 a copy of the research report, dissertation or thesis.
- .2 a summary report (up to 5 pages) which outlines the main findings of the research.

The summary report must be of a standard acceptable to Auckland Council. Auckland Council reserves the right to ask for improvements to the summary report.

(The council will not offer comment on the research report, dissertation or thesis).

Payment of the balance of 25% of the award can be made when Auckland Council receives an acceptable summary report.

Scholars will be invited to deliver a presentation on their research to Auckland Council staff.

Co-Tenure

Scholars may hold other scholarships, awards or prizes concurrent with this scholarship.

Applications

Candidates must complete an application using the Universities NZ on-line scholarships application website:

<https://universitiesnz.communityforce.com/>

The closing date by which applications must be complete, with references included, is 30 May.

The on-line application form will request and applicants must provide:

1. the candidate's research plan of no more than four pages which outlines:
 - the issue being studied/the problem being investigated.
 - the research methods to be adopted.
 - the research timeline.
2. a statement of support from the candidate's primary academic supervisor;
 - this statement should indicate the supervisor's judgement of the candidate's capacity to complete the described research in the planned timeframe.
3. any other information that the candidate considers relevant to the application eg. evidence of support from an industry sector or group.

A copy of the candidate's academic transcript can be provided by the candidate's university.

Applications from Auckland Council employees or their families are welcome provided the applicant meets the eligibility criteria.

Any potential conflict of interest must be declared on the application form.

Selection Panel and Selection Criteria

Auckland Council will appoint a selection panel to review and assess all eligible applications.

The selection panel will use the following criteria and weightings:

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| - the relevance of the research topic to a local authority's Plan, Unitary Plan and/or Economic Development Strategy. · please refer to the categories defined in the 'Purpose' section of this document. | 30% |
| - the quality of the research proposal. | 20% |
| - the candidate's academic competence and their ability to undertake the research. | 20% |
| - the candidate's practical ability to complete the research within the proposed timeframe. | 15% |
| - the originality of the research topic. | 15% |

Administration

The Scholarship will be administered by Universities New Zealand - Te Pōkai Tara in Wellington

Universities NZ will receive nominated applications, assist the selection panel in the selection process, advise candidates of the results, arrange for payments to scholars to be made and will report to Auckland Council on the process and the scholar outcomes.

Power to Vary

Auckland Council may at any time vary or revoke any rules and regulations for this scholarship programme.