

THE AUCKLAND MEDICAL AID TRUST SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in 2004 and is financed by the Auckland Medical Aid Trust (the “Trust”) to encourage research into social issues concerning being and becoming human.

Purpose

This scholarship provides funds for individuals to undertake research towards a doctoral degree at a New Zealand university.

In New Zealand there are debates around a number of issues that impact on the field of human reproduction — social, medical and technological. This scholarship is designed to further that debate by promoting discussion of the cultural, ethical, legal, and spiritual topics surrounding it.

The Selection Committee will consider projects that intersect with these debates from a number of disciplines across the arts and humanities, including but not limited to: bioethics, sociology, philosophy, anthropology, Māori studies, education, religion and law.

Eligibility

An applicant will be registered as a candidate or will be in the process of registering as a candidate for a doctoral degree at a New Zealand university.

(No award will be made to a candidate who has not successfully completed registration for a doctoral degree.)

Scholars must reside in New Zealand for the duration of their degree.

Applications will be accepted from a wide range of disciplines in line with the Trust’s desire to encourage research into social issues concerning human reproduction in its broadest interpretation.

Value and tenure

The scholarship is valued at up to \$25,000 per annum. It will be awarded for one year but may be extended to a maximum of three years, provided that satisfactory progress is maintained and subject to approval by the Trust.

Payments

Payments of the scholarship emoluments shall be made in such manner and on such conditions as shall be determined by Universities New Zealand.

Co-tenure

The scholarship is tenable with other scholarships, but account will be taken of the aggregate circumstances of the scholar and of the desirability of using available funds to best advantage. Within the application candidates will be required to make clear their position in light of this stipulation.

Applications

Candidates should complete an application using the Universities NZ online scholarships application website:

<https://universitiesnz.communityforce.com>

The closing date is 1 October at 5pm.

The application form will request and applicants must provide:

- information relating to their doctoral candidacy or application for doctoral candidacy
- an outline of the doctoral research project, including its relevance to the scholarship's purpose and their future career
- a curriculum vitae
- information on scholarships and awards received or applied for
- a budget
- a statement which identifies achievements and practical experience relevant to the scholarship
- the names of two referees
- a copy of their academic record.

Requests for references and for the academic transcript will be initiated by the applicant within the online application.

Research design and methodology

The research design and methodology may cover theoretical, empirical, and substantive considerations, but it needs to contribute to philosophical debates in the area.

Applicants whose research projects address areas such as the following will be considered: new perspectives on human reproduction, being and becoming human, the future of 'human' ethics and genetic technology, the social impact of reproductive technologies, political decision making and the influence of legislative change in relation to human reproduction, genealogy and the creation of meaning, conceptions of human subjectivity, and the significance of whakapapa in human reproduction.

For further ideas go to www.amat.org.nz

Selection Committee

The Committee will be convened by the Trust and will consist of the following members:

- one or two representatives of the Trust
- a senior academic from a New Zealand university in any field relevant to the scholarship (e.g. anthropology, women's studies, education, philosophy, sociology, etc.).

The Committee has the power to co-opt further members.

Selection criteria

In assessing applications for the award the Selection Committee will consider academic merit and alignment with the objectives of the Trust.

The Committee shall also take into account the applicant's ability and previous experience in the chosen field, particularly as they relate to successful completion of the research within the allocated timetable and the possible outcomes for the benefit of New Zealand.

In the event that no application of sufficient quality is received, the Committee may decline to make an award.

The Committee's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection.

Reports

The student awarded the scholarship shall report to the Trust two times per year:

1. mid-way through the year with a brief written report (approximately 750 words)
2. at the end of year with a progress report (outlining outcomes and achievements) endorsed by his/her university supervisor.

The scholar will be invited to submit some work (e.g. essays, articles, or a reference list) for publication on the Trust's website. The scholar may be given some assistance to publish his/her research.

At some stage during the tenure of their scholarship the scholar will be invited to give an informal presentation to the Trust on outcomes from their research.

Administration

The scholarship will be administered by Universities New Zealand - Te Pōkai Tara in Wellington, who will be responsible for publicising the availability of the

scholarship, receiving nominated applications, assisting the Committee in the selection process, advising candidates of the results, arranging for payments, and reporting annually on the outcomes.

Power to vary

Universities NZ may make such rules and regulations as it shall from time to time think fit governing the scholarship and may vary or revoke any rules and regulations and may deviate at its discretion from strict adherence to any requirements relating to the scholarship according to the exigencies of the circumstances, provided always that such changes shall be consistent with the general purposes of the scholarship.

Publicity

Scholars will agree to have their name and image published and be available for interviews with the media if required.