

Transport Research Scholarships (Masters)

Regulations 2021-24

July 2023

During 2021 [Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency](#) (The Funder) had established, in conjunction with Te Manatū Waka—Ministry of Transport, established a range Transport Research Scholarships. The Scholarships were established to support students undertaking postgraduate research focussing on transport and its role and impact on New Zealand society with the primary purpose of building the capacity and capability of transport research sector in New Zealand. For the 2024 year, Waka Kotahi will be the sole funder of the award.

Scholarships will be awarded to candidates, who in the year of tenure, will undertake (or have started) research into a topic supporting the current strategic priorities identified by Waka Kotahi.

1. Number and value of Scholarships

One or more Masters research scholarships addressing one or more of the strategic priorities listed in Appendix 1.

The value of the scholarship will be determined by the Selection Committee and would normally be between \$6,000 to \$15,000. In addition, the scholarship will cover the registration fees for on-line attendance at the annual Transport Knowledge Hub conference for the year of the Scholarship.

2. Eligibility criteria

Applications will be accepted from candidates -

1. who are enrolled in, or are eligible to enrol in, full time or part time postgraduate study, at a New Zealand university and are New Zealand citizens or permanent residents; and
2. who have not previously received a Transport Research Scholarship; and
3. who are completing the research component of their degree in the year immediately following the award (part time scholars have a maximum 2 years to complete); and
4. whose proposed course of study includes a research component with between 60-120 credits remaining in their qualification (excludes PhD students); and
5. whose research focuses on the strategic priorities of importance to the Funder as described in Appendix 1.

3. Selection criteria

The Selection Committee will determine the value and tenure of the scholarships based on the following criteria –

1. Relevance of the research to The Funder’s strategic priorities detailed in Appendix 1.
2. Relevance of the research to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
3. Demonstrated academic merit of the candidate.
4. Genuine interest in research topic and evidence of commitment to ensure the role of transportation enables New Zealand society to flourish.

4. Selection committees

The Selection Committee will consist of representatives nominated by The Funder.

The decisions of the Selection Committee are final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the assessment of the applications and notification of successful and unsuccessful candidates.

Note:

1. The committee may request that a candidate attend an interview online or in person. Reasonable costs associated with a candidate attending an in-person interview will be met by the Funder.
2. Applicants may bring their whānau support (at their own expense) to the interview.
3. A decision may be made purely on the submitted application and associated documentation.
4. The committee may refrain from making an award if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.

5. Applications

Candidates must complete an application using the Universities NZ online scholarships application website by Monday, 31 October 2023 (closing date) via the [Universities NZ website](#).

Candidates are requested by the Committees to submit as part of their application:

- A. a cover letter and short curriculum vitae.
- B. a statement detailing why they wish to undertake the proposed research and what they wish to gain from it, including future career plans.
- C. a statement Identifying the strategic priority/ies being addressed by the research as detailed in Appendix 1.
- D. a statement detailing how their proposed research relates to the strategic priority/ies detailed in Appendix 1.
- E. a research plan, detailing the proposed research approach, timeline, and outputs/outcomes
- F. a statement detailing how their proposed programme of study relates to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- G. an academic transcript (will be supplied by the candidate's university).
- H. statements from two referees:
 1. one of whom should be a member of the faculty in the candidate's preferred institution. The academic referee should be able to comment on the applicant's academic ability/capability.
 2. a character reference to be submitted by someone who has known the candidate for a minimum of one year (family members are excluded). The character referee should be able to specifically comment on the applicant's commitment to transportation in New Zealand.

Notes:

To assist with the generation of research topics, links have also been provided in Appendix 2 to a number of key government strategies candidates could use to shape the research topic they put forward.

There is already a considerable body of New Zealand specific transport research funded, commissioned, and published by Waka Kotahi and Ministry of Transport available for students' reference links to the relevant pages on The Funders' respective websites is provided in Appendix 3.

6. Tenure

The amount and tenure of a scholarship will be determined by the Selection Committee which will be, somewhat, determined by the level of study and the size of the research component. Tenure will commence in the year immediately following the year of application. The scholarship may not be deferred unless prior approval is granted from the appropriate Convenor of the Selection Committee.

Co-tenure

A scholarship may be tenable with any other scholarship, fellowship, or award with the permission of the appropriate Convenor of the Selection Committee. In granting permission for co-tenure, the Convenor may impose such conditions as they think fit, whether as a reduction in the emolument of the scholarship or otherwise.

Deferral of study

A deferral of study may be considered on individual cases of hardship or changes in circumstances and will be determined by the appropriate Convenor of the Selection committee.

Payment

Award payments will be dependent on proof of enrolment, positive and satisfactory progress reports from the scholar and the institution at which the scholar is studying. Unsatisfactory progress may lead to termination of the award.

Return of funding if study not progressed

Scholars will undertake to return any scholarship money paid in the event that the chosen course of study is not immediately undertaken once the scholarship is awarded, or other conditions of tenure are not met.

Suspension or Termination

Selection Committee may at any time suspend or terminate any scholarship and award payments if the Committee is satisfied that the scholar is not diligently pursuing the agreed programme of study or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded or has acted in a manner that has brought the funding provider into disrepute.

A scholarship may be terminated, and no further payments made if a scholar ceases to pursue the agreed programme of study. Any changes to the original research topic will require prior approval from the Convenor of the Selection Committee to ensure continuation of the scholarship. Approval from the convenor is not guaranteed.

7. Publicity, media and presentations

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

Scholars will be required to provide two presentations. The first will be a short, five-minute, presentation introducing your research topic. This presentation will be a Transport Knowledge Hub event, timed for late April/early May, alongside the introductory presentations of the other Scholars. The second will be a more substantive presentation of your research to Waka Kotahi/wider

transport sector once your research has been completed (which can also be via a Transport Knowledge Hub event).

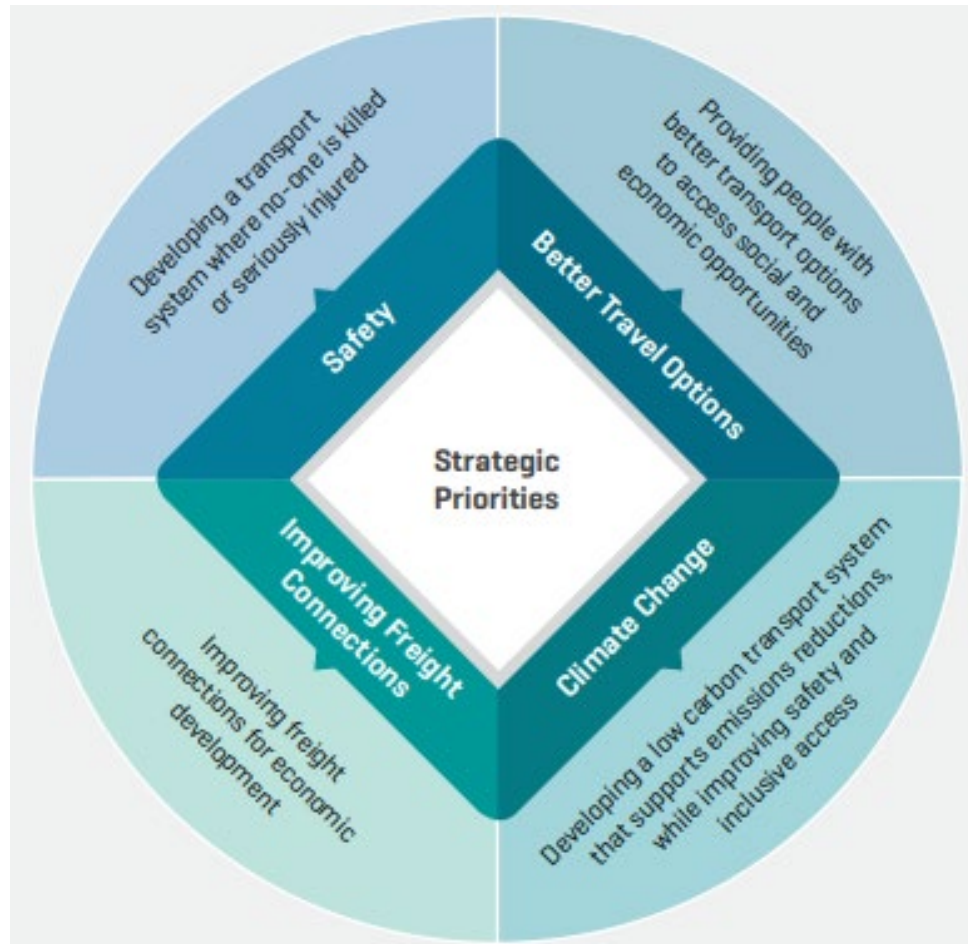
8. Intellectual property

The Intellectual Property (IP) will remain with the scholar and university, unless otherwise negotiated. However, the expectation is that any research would be freely available for the funding provider/s to use for non-commercial purposes, i.e., to inform policies, strategies, and operational decision-making the funding provider/s would acknowledge the source of the information.

While the research publishing rights stay with the author, it is reasonable that the original thesis and any subsequent submissions to academic or professional journals (or any other media) acknowledges that the research was supported by funding from the funding provider/s.

Appendix 1: **Government Policy Statement for Land Transport Funding strategic priorities**

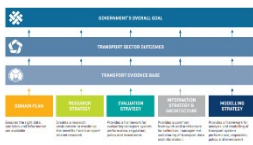
The strategic priority areas listed in the Government Priority Statement for Land Transport Funding 2021-24 (GPS) are:



Source: Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding 2021, page 13

A detailed description of each of the strategic priorities are provided in the 2021-24 GPS is available on the Ministry of Transport website at: <https://www.transport.govt.nz/area-of-interest/strategy-and-direction/government-policy-statement-on-land-transport/>.

Appendix 2: Sources for generating ideas for generating research topics



The [Transport Evidence Base Strategy](#) provides several enduring questions facing the transport sector, that could provide further ideas for potential research topics – refer, in particular, to:

- Research priorities, pages 29-10
- Appendix 3 - Enduring Questions, pages 46-47.



The [Road to Zero Safety Strategy](#) highlights the sector's a strategy to guide improvements in road safety in New Zealand through to 2030 – refer, in particular, to: section 5 – Focus areas, pages 34-59.



The Ministry for Environment's [Emissions Reduction Plan](#) which contains strategies, policies and actions for achieving our first emissions budget and contributing to global efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels – refer, in particular, to: [Chapter 10 - Transport](#)

Examples of previously approved scholarship topics include:

- How can public transport be made more accessible to queer people in Aotearoa
- Lessons from the pandemic: Challenges and opportunities for active and public urban mobility after COVID-19
- Using micro-incentives to encourage behaviour changes in urban and rural contexts
- Equitable access in the event of flooding for people who face mobility barriers
- Theory and practice of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in New Zealand

Appendix 3: Existing transport research

There is already a considerable body of New Zealand specific transport research funded, commissioned and published by Waka Kotahi and Ministry of Transport available for students' reference:

- A list of **active research projects** funded through the Waka Kotahi Sector Research Programme is available here: [Active research projects | Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency \(nzta.govt.nz\)](https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/planning-and-investment/docs/active-research-projects.pdf)
- A list of **published** Waka Kotahi Sector Research Programme **research reports** is available here: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/planning-and-investment/docs/published-research-reports.xlsx>
- Finally, a broader list of **other transport related research** is available on the Ministry of Transport Knowledge Hub here: [Publications | Transport Knowledge Hub](https://www.mot.govt.nz/knowledge-hub/publications/)