

Transport Research Scholarships (Masters)

Regulations 2021-25

August 2024

During 2021 [NZ Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi](#) (The Funder) has 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 2025-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 maybe awarded addressing one or more of the strategic priorities listed in [Appendix 1](#).

The value of scholarship awarded 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 -

- 2.1 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
- 2.2 who have not previously received a Transport Research Scholarship; and
- 2.3 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
- 2.4 whose proposed course of study includes a research component with between 60-120 credits remaining in their qualification (excludes PhD students); and
- 2.5 whose research focuses on the strategic priorities of importance to the Funder as described in [Appendix 1](#).
- 2.6 Do not work for either the New Zealand Transport Agency or Ministry of Transport.

3. Selection criteria

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

- 3.1 Relevance of the research to The Funder’s strategic priorities detailed in [Appendix 1](#).

- 3.2 Demonstrated academic merit of the candidate.
- 3.3 Genuine interest and evidence of commitment to the research topic.

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.

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Applicants may bring their whānau support (at their own expense) to the interview.
- 4.3 A decision may be made purely on the submitted application and associated documentation.
- 4.4 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 Thursday, 31 October 2024 (closing date) via the [Universities NZ website](#).

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

- 5.1 a cover letter and short curriculum vitae.
- 5.2 a statement detailing why they wish to undertake the proposed research and what they wish to gain from it, including future career plans.
- 5.3 a statement identifying the strategic priority/ies being addressed by the research as detailed in [Appendix 1](#).
- 5.4 a statement detailing how their proposed research relates to the strategic priority/ies detailed in [Appendix 1](#).
- 5.5 a research plan, detailing the proposed research approach, timeline, and outputs/outcomes
- 5.6 an academic transcript (will be supplied by the candidate's university).
- 5.7 statements from two referees:
 - 5.7.1 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.
 - 5.7.2 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.

Note:

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 2](#).

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.

6.1 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.

6.2 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. Where the recipient withdraws from study and a proportion of the scholarship has been paid, the recipient may be asked to return either the funds paid or a proportion of the same.

6.3 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.

6.4 Suspension or Termination

The 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 2024-34 (GPS) are:

[Economic growth and productivity](#) (pages 9-16)

[Increased maintenance and resilience](#) (pages 17-18)

[Safety](#) (pages 19-22)

[Value for money](#) (page 23)

A detailed description of each of the strategic priorities are provided in the 2024-34 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-2024>.

Appendix 2: 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 \(nzta.govt.nz\)](#)
- 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](#)