



He Kaupare. He Manaaki.
He Whakaora.
prevention. care. recovery.



Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) Postgraduate Scholarships Regulations

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) was established in 1974. It delivers injury prevention initiatives and no-fault personal injury cover for everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand.

1. Purpose

ACC funds postgraduate research scholarships to deliver evidence that helps address complex challenges and informs longer-term investment decisions in injury prevention and sustained recovery, specifically in the context of injury compensation.

To increase scholarship opportunities, ACC may partner with other organisations to leverage existing longitudinal studies and large datasets and build the health research workforce.

Scholarships will be awarded to eligible full-time or part-time candidates, enrolled in a Master's degree at an approved Aotearoa New Zealand institution, who have started or will undertake research into a topic that relates to ACC's research priorities (see below). These priorities are informed by the dual-framed goals in [ACC's 10-year strategy](#), [Our strategy | Huakina Te Rā](#).

2. Eligibility Criteria

Applications will be accepted from candidates:

- 2.1 who are enrolled in, or eligible to enrol in, a full time or part time Master's degree in an Aotearoa New Zealand university, or an NZQA accredited tertiary institution.
- 2.2 whose research component commenced in the second half of 2025 or will commence in 2026.
- 2.3 whose proposed course of study includes a minimum thesis component of 90 Credits.
- 2.4 whose research thesis focuses on one or more of ACC's research priorities (see [Appendix 1](#)).

Note A: Candidates undertaking only coursework Master's are not eligible.

Note B: Application assessment will be conducted in the strictest confidence to ensure applicant's privacy is maintained.

Note C: Employees of ACC are eligible to apply assuming they meet all eligibility requirements listed in regulation 2 above.

3. Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee awards scholarships based on the following criteria:

- 3.1 Relevance of the research thesis topic to ACC's research priorities ([see Appendix 1](#)).
- 3.2 Demonstrated academic capability
- 3.3 Evidence of commitment to injury and/or health research.

Preference may be given to candidates who have not already received funding from ACC or other funding sources.

4. Applications

Candidates must complete an application using the Universities NZ online scholarships application website by closing date of **31 October**: <https://universitiesnz.communityforce.com>

The Committee requests candidates to submit as part of their application:

- 4.1 a statement detailing how their proposed research relates to ACC's research priorities.
- 4.2 a research plan, detailing the research approach, timeline, and outputs/outcomes.
- 4.3 a statement detailing why they are undertaking the research and what they wish to gain from it, including future career plans.
- 4.4 academic transcript (this will be requested from your university as part of your application).
- 4.5 statement from one referee who is a member of the faculty in the candidate's tertiary institution, who can comment on the applicant's academic ability/capability.

5. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of:

- Manager, Research and Evaluation, ACC, or nominee, who shall be the Convenor of the Selection Committee and have a casting vote.
- ACC senior advisors with expertise in priority areas.
- Universities NZ scholarship committee Chair, or nominee.

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

The Committee may refrain from making an award if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.

The Committee may request that a candidate attend an interview. This will be at the expense of ACC. Interviews may be done virtually or face to face. Applicants may bring their whānau support (at their own expense) to the interview.

A decision may be made purely on the submitted application and associated documentation.

6. Tenure

The tenure of a scholarship will be determined by the Selection Committee; tenure will normally be one calendar year (120 credits) for full time scholars and two calendar years for part time scholars.

Tenure will commence in the year immediately following the year of application, or earlier if agreed by the 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 Convenor of the Selection Committee. In granting permission for co-tenure, the Convenor of the Selection Committee may impose such conditions as they think fit, whether as a reduction in the emolument of the scholarship or otherwise.

6.2 Reports and Thesis

Every scholar shall furnish to the Selection Committee, through Universities NZ, such reports that are required as listed in the scholarship offer letter. An end of tenure report is required once the scholarship/programme of study is complete. One copy of any thesis written is to be lodged with Universities NZ for distribution to ACC. Reporting may also include –

- 6.2.1 a plain language summary written for ACC, with the supervision team, which links to any policy and operational implications for ACC.
- 6.2.2 a seminar presentation in a suitable format to communicate findings with ACC staff.

6.3 Deferral of study

The scholarship may not be deferred unless prior approval is granted from the Convenor of the Selection Committee.

6.4 Suspension or Termination

Following consultation with the scholar, the Selection Committee Chair, or nominee, may at any time suspend or terminate any scholarship and the associated award payments if the Committee is satisfied that the scholar is not diligently pursuing the agreed programme of study during the stipulated tenure, is failing or has failed to comply with these Regulations or any of the other terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded or has acted in a manner that may bring ACC into disrepute (for example, academic misconduct, criminal activity, or any other behaviour that could adversely affect ACC's reputation).

A scholarship may also be terminated if a scholar ceases to pursue the agreed programme of study or defers it without prior approval. 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.

If a scholarship is terminated for any reason, no further payments will be made, and the scholar may be required to return any scholarship money already received.

7. Value

7.1 Number and value of scholarships

Scholarships will be valued at up to \$15,000 per annum for full-time students and \$7,500 for part-time students and may be used in any way that helps the scholars meet the purposes of the award. The selection committee may award a lesser value if the candidate has already commenced the research component of their degree. The value of this award will be determined based on the amount of research already completed and will be allocated on a pro-rata basis.

7.2 Payment

Award payments will be made in even payments on a six-monthly basis and will be dependent on 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.

8. Publicity and Media

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

9. Intellectual Property (IP)

The IP will remain with the scholar and university, unless otherwise negotiated. However, any research must be made available for ACC to use, free of charge, for the purposes of performing its statutory functions. ACC would, as appropriate, acknowledge the source of the information when making use of it.

9.1 Publishing

While the research publishing rights stay with the author, the original thesis and any subsequent submissions to academic or professional journals (or any other media) must acknowledge that the research was supported by funding from ACC.

Appendix 1: ACC's research priorities for 2026

- Ways to keep people at higher risk of injury, safe – see ACC's injury report [Injuries-in-New-Zealand-2024.pdf](#).
- How to enable groups who most need additional support to access the Accident Compensation Scheme – see ACC's [Access Report](#) for information about Scheme access - [Access Report](#).
- What helps people to recover well from injury and stay safe from reinjury.
- Ways to better achieve the dual-framed goals in ACC's 10-year strategy, [Our strategy | Huakina Te Rā](#).