

AUCKLAND COUNCIL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP IN URBAN ECONOMICS

This scholarship was established in 2013 to support and encourage research into urban economics, funded by the Chief Economist's Unit at Auckland Council.

Purpose

The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage and support postgraduate research into urban economics that has relevance to local government in New Zealand, and to Auckland in particular.

Research will be carried out at a New Zealand university in one of two categories:

1. **Economic** research that is directly relevant to the Auckland Plan or Auckland Council's Unitary Plan, particularly studies related to transportation and infrastructure economics, market forces in the development of cities, land, housing and urban economics, and environmental economics.
2. **Economic** research that addresses a topic which is relevant to and informs the economic knowledge of local government in Auckland and New Zealand, particularly with regard to challenges we are facing including housing, infrastructure, social inequity, climate change/environmental outcomes.

Eligibility

- At the time of application candidates must be enrolled or planning to enrol in a postgraduate programme at a New Zealand university (applicants may be enrolled as either full time or part time students).
- The postgraduate programme must be **in the area of economics**. Universities NZ and Auckland Council reserve the right to determine the eligibility of a particular area of study.
- A thesis, dissertation, or research report must be a requirement of the postgraduate programme.

Tenure and value

The scholarship will be held for one academic year.

Each year Auckland Council may grant one scholarship with an award of \$3,000. For candidates who are enrolled on a part time basis the value of the award will be \$1,500.

The award is intended to help with tuition fees and research costs (e.g. data costs), and to contribute towards living costs.

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

Applications

Candidates must complete an application using the Universities NZ scholarships application website <https://universitiesnz.communityforce.com/>

The closing date is 1 February.

The application form will request and applicants must provide:

- their research plan of no more than four pages outlining:
 - the issue being studied/the problem being investigated
 - the research methods to be adopted
 - the research timeline
- any other information that the candidate considers relevant to the application, e.g. evidence of support from an industry sector or group

Applicants will use the online application form to request an academic transcript from their New Zealand 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.

Conditions

At the end of the year covered by the award the scholar is required to present a progress report on their research.

The report must be of a standard acceptable to Auckland Council and no longer than five pages. Auckland Council reserves the right to ask for improvements to the summary report and to withhold final payment until it is satisfied with the report's standard.

The Council will not offer comment on the research report, dissertation or thesis.

A requirement of the award is that the scholar makes a presentation of their research to Council in Auckland.

Any travel related costs are to be borne by the scholar.

Payments

Award payments will be made by Universities NZ on behalf of Auckland Council.

- 50% of the award will be paid when the successful candidate has formally accepted the terms and conditions of the scholarship and provided UNZ with proof of enrolment.

- 50% of the award will be paid upon submission of the final research progress report and presentation, which must be by the end of the scholar's academic year.

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

Power to vary

Auckland Council reserves the right to vary or revoke any rules and regulations for this scholarship at any time.

Publicity

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