

The Dick and Mary Earle Scholarship in Technology

Dick and Mary Earle have established this scholarship for the support and encouragement of postgraduate research in New Zealand universities into aspects of technology.

Technology is important to the wellbeing and the enhanced social fabric of the community and it is hoped that through this scholarship suitably qualified graduates will improve their own capacity to advance technology and also will make a contribution to technological knowledge relevant to New Zealand.

Purpose

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide funds for individuals to undertake research towards a masterate or doctorate degree at a New Zealand university or research institution in one or both of these fields:

- innovation and product development
- bioprocess technology.

However, the Selection Committee reserves the right to award a scholarship in a related field of technology if:

- a) the candidates in the desired areas fail to meet the "Selection Criteria", as listed below or,
- b) there are no applicants in the above fields.

Eligibility

Applicants will be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents who have resided in New Zealand for at least three years immediately preceding the year of selection.

Applicants will have completed the requirements for a BTech, BEng, BE degree or equivalent, with honours where they are awarded, at a New Zealand university and in a field appropriate to their intended postgraduate study.

Tenure

The scholarship is available for up to three years according to the course of study.

Tenure will commence in the year following the year of application.

Normally, it would be expected that scholars study for one degree at a university.

Award payments will be made six-monthly and will be dependent on positive and satisfactory progress reports from the institution at which the scholar is studying.

Unsatisfactory progress may lead to termination of the award.

It is intended that, subject to availability of finance, there will be up to six scholarships at any one time, one being offered annually in each of the two fields designated.

Value

The scholarships will be valued at \$17,000 per annum at Masters level and \$25,000 per annum at PhD level, and may be used in any way that helps the scholar meet the purposes of the award. The value of these scholarships may be reviewed from time to time, depending on the availability of funds.

As the Earle Scholarship is tenable with other scholarships, account will be taken of the aggregate financial circumstances of the scholar and of the desirability of using the funds available to best advantage. Candidates at the interview will be required to make clear their financial 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 September.

The application form will request and applicants must provide:

- proof of NZ citizenship or permanent residency
- evidence of other awards, achievements or practical experience that is relevant to the scholarship.
- an outline of the postgraduate research project, including its relevance to the scholarship's purpose and to the candidate's future career.
- the names of two people that the candidate has asked to provide references on their behalf.
- any other information that the candidate considers relevant to their application.

The on-line application will prompt applicants for a new scholarship to request a copy of their academic transcript from their New Zealand university.

A candidate's research proposals and arrangements will often still be in development so details included in the application may be tentative.

Because of the significance of the research project in the selection criteria for the scholarship, candidates may wish to alter or add to their research proposal.

This can be done as a supplement to the application, which must reach the Scholarships Manager at Universities New Zealand by 15 September if it is to be taken into consideration.

Interviews will be held in early to mid-November.

Selection criteria

In assessing the applications, the Selection Committee will use the following criteria:

1. Practical relevance of the proposed study to New Zealand industry with regard to product development and innovation particularly in, but not limited to, the food and bioprocessing industries:
 - What are the possible positive outcomes in terms of employment and exports?
 - Does the candidate have a well-developed research plan?
 - What are the prospects for the conclusions to be adopted and extended?
 - Is there potential to build the scholar's skills?
 - Is the project original, useful, appropriate, imaginative, exemplary and world class?
2. Backing for the project:
 - How much written, financial, collaborative, industrial and university support is there, especially with regard to the applicant's living expenses and research funding?
 - Is there evidence of industrial backing through funding, equipment, testing, advice and/or collaboration?
3. Capability of the candidate to deliver by successfully completing the project within the allocated timetable:
 - What is the character, work ethic, flair, promise, enthusiasm, presentational skills, organisational skills and imagination of the candidate?
 - Is the candidate in his/her future career likely to be an innovation leader in New Zealand?
4. Academic record:
 - ability as judged by academic performance but weighted towards relevance for subject choice, success in appropriate courses, practical capability and original project/design work.

Short list and interview

The selection criteria will be used to select a short list of candidates who will be invited to be interviewed by the Selection Committee.

At the interview particular emphasis will be placed on the project. Candidates should be prepared to discuss their project in detail.

The development of creativity and the generation of new product or process ideas for practical application are important elements in the concept of this scholarship and so should be given due weight by the candidate.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of:

- the Convenor of the Universities New Zealand Scholarships Committee or their nominee.
- a professor from a New Zealand university informed in the fields of the scholarship.
- professional technologists or engineers with expertise in the fields of the scholarship.
- representatives of the Dick and Mary Earle Technology Trust.

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

Administration

The scholarships will be administered by Universities New Zealand, Wellington, which will be responsible for publicising the availability of the scholarships, receiving nominations from the universities, assisting the Selection Committee in the selection process, advising candidates of the results, arranging for payments, and reporting annually on the outcomes.

Power to vary

Universities New Zealand may make such rules and regulations as it shall from time to time think fit governing the scholarships and may vary or revoke any rules and regulations and may deviate at the discretion of Universities New Zealand from strict adherence to any requirements relating to the scholarships 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.