

Regulations

Key Information

Closing date	The closing date is advertised as funding and research opportunities become available for the scholarship. ¹
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$25,000 per annum• Tuition fees for thesis enrolment only, at the New Zealand domestic rate²
Tenure	Up to three years ³
Applicable programme during tenure	The scholarship is tenable by full-time students engaged in study for a PhD degree in Geology.

1. Purpose

This scholarship supports students for study towards a PhD degree in Geology at the University of Canterbury.

2. Eligibility criteria

- 2.1 Applications must be made prior to, or within six months after, enrolment in a programme for a PhD degree in Geology at the University.
- 2.2 An applicant must have completed an appropriate qualification at a level judged to be equivalent to a bachelor's or master's degree with first-class honours at the University of Canterbury (equivalent to a UC GPA of at least 7.0).
- 2.3 Applications are not accepted from candidates who already hold a research doctoral degree,⁴ or from those who have previously made two or more applications for the Brian Mason Doctoral Scholarship or the UC Doctoral Scholarship or both.
- 2.4 By a date that is determined by the Dean of Postgraduate Research in consultation with the Department of Geological Sciences and that is notified in the announcement on the Scholarships website⁵ of the availability of the scholarship:
 - a. applicants must have met the academic requirements for enrolment in a programme for a PhD in Geology at the University;
 - b. applicants must have received final confirmed grades for the qualifying degree;
 - c. applicants requiring admission with equivalent standing must have had this admission confirmed unconditionally (including any English language requirements); and
 - d. applicants enrolled for a master's degree at the University and wishing to transfer to a PhD programme must have completed the transfer.
- 2.5 Students may not take up the scholarship until any non-academic requirements for the qualifying degree have been completed and credited.

3. Selection process

- 3.1 The availability of the scholarship is announced on the Scholarships website⁵ as funding and research opportunities become available. An available scholarship is normally linked to a research topic or theme set by the Mason Trust Management Committee,⁶ and a recipient's thesis study must be associated with this topic or theme.
- 3.2 The scholarship is awarded by the Council of the University on the recommendation of the Mason Trust Management Committee.⁶

4. Selection criteria

In making the recommendation, the Mason Trust Management Committee considers:

- a. academic achievement;
- b. the quality of the institution and programme pertaining to the candidate's qualifying degree(s); and
- c. the candidate's prior relevant research experience, research publications, and other outputs, particularly those relating to any topic or theme associated with the Brian Mason Doctoral Scholarship that is currently advertised.

5. Application process

Applications must be made online at the [Scholarships website](#)⁵ by the date specified in an announcement of the availability of the scholarship.⁵

6. Tenability

- 6.1 The scholarship is tenable only by full-time students engaged in study for a PhD degree in Geology at the University.
- 6.2 The scholarship is tenable for up to three years.³
- 6.3 The scholarship is not co-tenable with any University of Canterbury-funded stipendiary doctoral scholarship. With the permission of the Dean of Postgraduate Research, but not otherwise, a scholarship is co-tenable with any other scholarship, bursary, or award.
- 6.4 Conditions on a recipient's co-tenure may be imposed, such as reducing the amount of the stipend associated with the Brian Mason Doctoral Scholarship. Recipients are permitted to hold other awards without reduction of the amount of the scholarship stipend if the value of the other awards (excluding grants to cover research-related expenses) does not exceed 50% of the stipend value of the scholarship. If the total value of other awards does exceed this limit, the scholarship stipend is normally reduced by the amount by which that total exceeds 50% of the scholarship stipend value.
- 6.5 The Brian Mason Doctoral Scholarship does not pay tuition fees if a recipient is eligible to have those fees paid by another award. In such a case the forfeited fees payment(s) may not be reallocated to another programme of study.
- 6.6 At the request of the scholarship recipient, the amount of the monthly scholarship stipend payments may be reduced to an amount specified by the recipient in accordance with any other remuneration the recipient will receive.

7. Value and payment schedule

- 7.1 The scholarship has a value of \$25,000 per annum. In addition, the scholarship covers tuition fees for doctoral enrolment only, at the New Zealand domestic rate.
- 7.2 The scholarship stipend is paid by direct credit to the recipient's nominated New Zealand bank account, in monthly instalments.
- 7.3 The first stipend payment is made as soon as practicable after the recipient has completed enrolment in a programme for a PhD degree in Geology at the University.
- 7.4 Scholarship stipend payments cannot commence or be backdated to before the recipient's enrolment date in a programme for a PhD degree in Geology at the University.

8. Conditions of acceptance

- 8.1 Unless otherwise specified in the offer letter, an offer of a scholarship lapses if it is not formally accepted within one calendar month of the date of the offer.
- 8.2 Every recipient not already enrolled in a programme for a PhD degree in Geology at the University should normally be enrolled in such a programme by a date determined by the Dean of Postgraduate Research. A recipient who is unable to enrol by the applicable deadline must seek permission from the Dean of Postgraduate Research to take up the scholarship at a later date. Without this permission the offer of the award is rescinded.
- 8.3 Recipients must inform the Scholarship Office immediately if they suspend, complete, or otherwise cease their full-time enrolment in a programme for a PhD degree in Geology at the University.
- 8.4 If a recipient suspends full-time enrolment in a programme for a PhD degree in Geology at the University, the scholarship and associated payments are also suspended. Scholarship payments normally resume automatically upon full-time re-enrolment. In cases of suspensions of greater than six months, including extensions of the suspension period, reinstatement requires the approval of the Dean of Postgraduate Research. If the recipient does not resume the programme within one month of the end of the approved suspension period, the scholarship is terminated.
- 8.5 Following thesis submission, any remaining stipend is paid up until the examination process is complete. Payments cease when the examination process is complete.
- 8.6 In the event of a recipient's withdrawal from full-time enrolment in a PhD programme in Geology at the University, the scholarship is withdrawn, and any paid funds may be recovered.
- 8.7 If it is necessary for their doctoral research, recipients, with the permission of the Dean of Postgraduate Research, may retain their scholarships while carrying out research for specified periods outside the University.
- 8.8 By accepting the award, recipients permit publication and announcement of their acceptance, and indicate that they are willing to engage in University community activities, such as student mentoring, acting as University ambassadors, and being involved with University publicity and outreach as appropriate.
- 8.9 Continuation of a scholarship is conditional on satisfactory academic progress and adherence to the University's statutes and regulations.

9. Background information

This scholarship is made possible from an endowment fund established in Brian Mason's lifetime to support Geological Sciences at the University of Canterbury. Dr Mason graduated from the University with a BSc in 1937 and an MSc(Hons) in Chemistry and Geology in 1939. In 2002 he received an Honorary Doctorate in Science from the University. He was a Senior Lecturer in the department of Geological Sciences at the University from 1945 to 1947 and went on to be the Curator of Meteorites at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in the USA before he passed away in 2009.

Approval date: December 2018

Notes

¹ The scholarship is not normally available annually.

² In no case will the fees payment commence, or be backdated to an enrolment date, prior to a date that is determined by the Dean of Postgraduate Research in consultation with the Department of Geological Sciences and that is notified in the announcement of the availability of the scholarship. The scholarship does not directly cover the Student Services Levy, medical insurance, or accommodation.

³ Recipients may apply to the Scholarships Office for up to a six-month extension to the scholarship, with full or partial stipend and/or fees support, to facilitate the thesis submission and submission for examination. Such an extension would be at the discretion of the Mason Trust Management Committee, and would be available only if funding permits.

⁴ For the University's definition of *research doctoral degree* see <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/get-started/scholarships/glossary-of-terms/>.

⁵ <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships/>

⁶ The Brian Mason Trust Management Committee comprises the Head of the Department of Geological Sciences, co-opted members of the academic staff of the Department, and the Registrar of the University.