

UC Doctoral Scholarship

Waeture | Regulations

Whakamāramatanga | Key Information

Rā whakamutunga Closing date	15 May or 15 October
Whaipainga Value	The scholarship provides financial assistance at a value determined by funds available and stated in the offer. This typically may include a stipend and/or tuition fee payments.
Wā roanga Tenure	The scholarships are usually tenable for the period necessary to complete up to 360 points of enrolment.
Rahinga ia tau Number available annually	Determined annually.
Herenga tika Applicable enrolment/programmes during tenure	The scholarships are tenable by students engaged in study for a research doctoral degree. ¹
Herenga motuhake Special requirements	None

1. Aronga | Purpose

This scholarship supports students for study towards a research doctoral degree at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury.

2. Paearu māraurau | Eligibility criteria

- 2.1 Intending students who already hold a doctoral degree are not eligible for the scholarships.
- 2.2 Applicants must have submitted an application for admission to a research doctoral degree programme at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury before the closing date for scholarship applications.
- 2.3 Candidates must have completed, or be completing, an appropriate qualifying degree or other qualifications at a level judged to be equivalent to a bachelor's degree with first-class honours or a master's degree with distinction at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury. The GPA from their last two years of relevant academic study must be equivalent to a UC GPA of at least 7.0.²
- 2.4 Applicants may not have commenced their doctoral studies at UC more than one year before the closing date for scholarship applications.

3. Tukanga tononga | Application process

- 3.1 Applications must be made online at the Scholarships website³ by 11:59 pm (NZT) on 15 May or 15 October.

4. Tukanga kōwhiringa | Selection process

- 4.1 The number of scholarships available varies annually.
- 4.2 The scholarship is awarded by Te Kaunihera | University Council on the recommendation of the University of Canterbury Research Committee (or sub-committee).

5. Paearu kōwhiringa | Selection criteria

- 5.1 In making the recommendations, the Committee considers:
 - a. academic achievement;
 - b. research capability of the candidate;
 - c. project quality;
 - d. project fit with institutional strategic priorities; and
 - e. recommendation of the Department/School (or delegate).
- 5.2 If, in any year, there are fewer candidates of sufficient merit for a scholarship than there are scholarships available, fewer offers of that scholarship are made.

6. Mahere utu | Value and payment schedule

- 6.1 The scholarship provides financial assistance at a value determined by funds available and stated in the offer of the award for up to 360 points of thesis enrolment. In addition to the stipend, the scholarship may also cover tuition fees for thesis enrolment only, at the Aotearoa New Zealand domestic rate.⁴
- 6.2 For a part-time student, the values of the instalments of the stipend and/or fees payments, and the duration of a scholarship, are proportionate to the student's study workload.
- 6.3 Any tuition fee support is paid directly to a recipient's tuition fees account. Any stipend is paid by direct credit to a recipient's nominated Aotearoa New Zealand bank account, in monthly instalments.
- 6.4 The first stipend payment is made as soon as practicable after the recipient has accepted a scholarship offer, completed enrolment in an applicable doctoral programme at the University, and commenced the thesis component of such a programme.

7. Paearu here | Tenability and retention criteria

- 7.1 A recipient must accept or decline a scholarship offer within one month of receipt of the offer. If the recipient does not respond to an offer of a scholarship from UC within this time limit, the scholarship offer will be rescinded.
- 7.2 A recipient must enrol in the relevant doctoral degree within six months of receiving the offer of the scholarship. If, for whatever reason, a recipient is unable to enrol by that date, they must seek the permission of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate) to defer both their doctoral degree enrolment and commencement date of the scholarship. A request must be received by the Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate), in writing, at least four weeks before the recipient's proposed enrolment commencement date. Without this permission, the offer of the award will be rescinded.
- 7.3 The scholarship is tenable by full-time and part-time students engaged in study for a research doctoral degree at the University.
- 7.4 The scholarships are tenable for the period necessary to complete up to 360 points of enrolment. In the case of a student transferring from a doctoral programme at another university to a doctoral programme at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury, or commencing the scholarship part-way through their studies at UC, the term of a scholarship stipend is equivalent to the minimum remaining period of enrolment (in points) to reach 360 points of enrolment, or as approved by the Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate).
- 7.5 Co-tenure conditions are as follows.⁵ (For a list of the UC Core, Recognition, and Prestige doctoral scholarships referred to in this clause, see <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/scholarships/doctoral-scholarships/uc-doctoral-scholarships>)

- a. UC Core Doctoral Scholarships are not co-tenable with each other.
 - b. UC Core Doctoral Scholarships are co-tenable with Prestige Doctoral Scholarships.
 - c. Recognition Doctoral Scholarships are co-tenable with all other Recognition Doctoral Scholarships, and with all Core and Prestige doctoral scholarships.
 - d. Prestige Doctoral Scholarships are not co-tenable with other Prestige Doctoral Scholarships.
 - e. Core, Recognition, and Prestige doctoral scholarships are not co-tenable with any UC-funded stipendiary scholarship unless permission has been granted by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate).
 - f. Co-tenure of a Core, Recognition, or Prestige doctoral scholarship with any scholarship not funded by UC is permitted only with the permission of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate). In granting such permission, conditions may be imposed.⁶
- 7.6 If a recipient holds any other scholarship that pays tuition fees, that scholarship takes precedence in payment of the recipient's tuition fees. If the other scholarship does not fully cover the tuition fees, then, if this scholarship pays fees, it tops up the other scholarship's payment to the extent that the tuition fees and levies are fully covered. If there is no such shortfall in the other scholarship's coverage of the tuition fees, the scholarship does not pay fees. In any case, the forfeited fees payment(s) may not be reallocated to another programme of study.
- 7.7 Recipients must inform the Scholarships Office immediately if they suspend, complete, or otherwise cease their enrolment in an applicable doctoral programme.
- 7.8 If a recipient suspends their enrolment in the applicable doctoral programme, the scholarship and associated payments are also suspended during this period. Suspension of the scholarship for longer than six months requires the approval of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate). If the recipient does not resume the programme of research within one month of the end of any approved suspension period, the scholarship will be terminated.
- 7.9 Following submission of the thesis, tenure of the scholarship and associated payments will cease.
- 7.10 A recipient, with the permission of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate), may retain their scholarship while enrolled as a distance or extramural student, provided they have sought and obtained the necessary approvals from the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate) before commencing these study modes.
- 7.11 The scholarship may be withdrawn, and any paid funds may be recovered if, during tenure, the recipient does not:
- a. maintain an enrolment that meets the conditions specified in clause 7.3; or
 - b. maintain satisfactory academic engagement and progress;⁷ or
 - c. adhere to the University's statutes, regulations, policies, and rules.

8. Whakamahuki | Background information

The University established the scholarship in 1993.

Rā whakaae | Approval date: February 2026

Tuhinga i mua | Previous versions: August 2012; March 2014; July 2014; August 2014; September 2014; September 2014; October 2014; July 2015; August 2015; August 2015; September 2015; March 2016; May 2016; August 2016; November 2016; March 2017; July 2017; August 2017; July 2018; August 2018; February 2019; September 2019; April 2020; July 2020; October 2021; April 2022; September 2024; December 2025

Award Owner: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Tohutoro | Reference: 52179:XXXX:521SDOCTOR:0:1

Pitopito kōrero | Notes

¹ The scholarship may be held only for the thesis component of a research doctoral degree. For the University's definition of research doctoral degree, see <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/scholarships/glossary-of-terms>

² GPA equivalence can be calculated at <https://www.scholaro.com/>

³ <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/scholarships>

⁴ The scholarship does not directly cover the Student Services Levy, medical insurance, or accommodation.

⁵ The UC Doctoral Scholarship is a UC Core Doctoral Scholarship.

⁶ Usually, scholarship recipients are permitted to hold other awards without reduction of the amount of the scholarship stipend if the total 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.

⁷ Academic progress is detailed in the Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

(<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/regulations/academic-regulations/phd-36/>). For the University's definitions of *satisfactory academic engagement* with regard to scholarships, see <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/scholarships/glossary-of-terms>.