



2024 PhD Scholarship

Scholarship level:	Doctoral Research
Closing date:	31 October 2023
Number offered:	Varies
Value:	\$44,000 stipend annually plus domestic tuition fees for up to three years

Description

The PhD scholarships have been created to encourage and support postgraduate research on countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism in the context of Aotearoa.

The PhD scholarship provides funding to support students enrolling in a doctoral degree at a New Zealand university or tertiary institute.

We encourage applications from members of historically excluded groups within the research community, including Māori, Pasifika, minority ethnic and faith groups, members of the LGBTQIA+/Takatāpui communities. Applications are sought from a broad range of disciplinary and transdisciplinary/multidisciplinary backgrounds.

Purpose

The scholarships are intended to support original research carried out at a New Zealand university or tertiary institute that contributes to developing and maintaining expertise in building social cohesion, fostering inclusion, and preventing and countering violent extremism. Research that adds to the breadth, depth, and diversity of thought and experience of these issues is encouraged. Scholarships will be awarded to doctoral research that speaks directly to the priorities of those communities affected by violent extremism and/or informs New Zealand policy approaches and development.

Recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and acknowledgement of Māori as tangata whenua is at the centre of the work carried out by He Whenua Taurikura – and this emphasis should be reflected in the research programme.

He Whenua Taurikura is especially interested in research that contributes to one of the following areas:

- Contributing to an understanding of violent extremism in Aotearoa New Zealand and the impact of this on communities
- Furthering an understanding of the key causes of violent extremism in Aotearoa New Zealand, with consideration of its varied forms (online/offline, individual/group, white identity- and faith-motivated violent extremism), and identifying the risks of and pathways to extremist violence
- Increasing public understanding of the nature of terrorism and violent extremism threats in Aotearoa New Zealand and what people can do to protect themselves and their family, friends, colleagues and communities

- Developing and evaluating New Zealand-specific approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, with a focus on prevention and disengagement initiatives
- Countering violent extremism online in the Aotearoa New Zealand context.

Research considerations

Conducting research in this field is challenging and requires consideration of safety issues and community impact. Information on such considerations should be acknowledged and addressed in your application, including:

- Conducting research on extremism can expose researchers to harmful situations and materials. As a condition of being granted a scholarship, the host tertiary institution will be required to specify how student safety will be managed and ensured. He Whenua Taurikura expects to see how research safety will be addressed as a condition of being funded.
- The expectation is that those undertaking research will work *with* communities, especially those facing hate and hostility, to partner with these communities so that the research can be co-designed.
- Candidates are also encouraged to work with relevant policy and operational agencies who are working on either social cohesion or extremism and violence.

Eligibility

At the time of application, candidates must be enrolled or be eligible to enroll in a full-time PhD degree at a New Zealand university or tertiary institute in a field relevant to the study of countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism or building social cohesion. If candidates are not yet enrolled, the scholarship will only be granted following confirmation of formal enrolment in a New Zealand university or tertiary institute. The Research Committee reserves the right to determine the eligibility of a particular area of study.

He Whenua Taurikura encourages applications from those who are part of communities impacted by hate and terrorism. We welcome the scholarship of all, including those from minority ethnicities, faiths and religions, genders, sexualities, ability status, ages, and the intersections of these identities.

Tenure and value

The scholarship provides a stipend of up to \$44,000 per annum for up to three years to use towards living costs, and research-related expenses (e.g., data collection costs, research related travel). In addition, the scholarship covers domestic tuition fees for up to three years.

Residency requirements

Students must have the legal right to study in New Zealand.

Closing date

Applications are due by 31 October 2023. Selection decisions will be made in November 2023 and applicants notified of the outcome by 8 December 2023.

Applications

Applicants must download and complete the application form and submit it via email with the documentation listed below. Please note that all supporting documents must first be combined into ONE PDF document.

Email the combined PDF file to HWT@vuw.ac.nz.

Applications must include:

1. Completed application form, including full details of intended programme of study.
2. 3-5 page Statement Of Intent that includes:
 - a. Motivation for pursuing postgraduate study in this area.
 - b. Summary of proposed thesis topic and methodological approach.
 - c. The nature of any proposed consultation on the research with a relevant community or New Zealand government agency
 - d. A statement on the relevance of the research to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
 - e. A statement on how you will manage your safety and wellbeing in the course of the project and what support will be offered by your institution and academic supervisor.
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Letter of recommendation from an academic advisor
5. Transcript from all universities attended.

Selection

Scholarships will be awarded based on the recommendations of He Whenua Taurikura Research Committee. Where the number of fundable projects exceeds the funds available, a randomized lottery system will be used.

Selection decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Suspension or termination

The Centre or the Research Committee may at any time suspend or terminate any scholarship if they are satisfied that the scholar is not diligently pursuing the programme of research or original work, or is making insufficient progress, or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded.

Regulations and conditions

- Recipients are required to accept their offer of scholarship within six weeks of the offer

after which the scholarship offer will lapse. The scholarship cannot be deferred to a later year.

- The date of commencement shall normally be no later than six months after the scholarship has been accepted by the scholarship recipient. The Research Committee may grant a scholarship recipient a deferment of the commencement of the scholarship for longer periods if it considers that such a deferment would benefit the scholarship recipient's programme of research.
- If an applicant has already been enrolled for a PhD at a New Zealand university or tertiary institute for more than six months at the time when the offer of a scholarship is made, the maximum length of tenure of the scholarship will be reduced at the discretion of the Committee.
- Scholarship recipients are required to sign an Acceptance Agreement to indicate they are aware of the terms and conditions of the scholarship.
- A thesis of at least 75,000 words (including scholarly apparatus) must be completed as part of the doctoral programme.
- Scholarship recipients will be required to submit an annual progress report to He Whenua Taurikura which includes a statement of support from their academic supervisor(s). Payment of the stipend for years two and three will be conditional upon receipt of satisfactory reports.
- Scholarship recipients will be expected to participate in He Whenua Taurikura events (mostly designed to support the students) and to produce a short (4 page) summary of the research for publication on the He Whenua Taurikura website at the end of the research. A discussion will take place about ensuring that this does not compromise your safety.
- He Whenua Taurikura requires a short policy brief, article, interview, or other appropriate mechanism for enabling the wide sharing of research findings.
- Applicants should be aware that winning a He Whenua Taurikura PhD scholarship does not guarantee admission to a doctoral programme at a New Zealand university.

Power to vary conditions

The Centre or the Research Committee may vary these regulations at any time provided that such variations are consistent with the general purposes of the scholarship.