

Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington

Summer Research Scholarship Programme Conditions – 2026/2027

Purpose

The main purpose of the Summer Research Scholarship Programme is to give current full-time enrolled international and domestic university students an opportunity to experience research, and to thereby encourage them to pursue postgraduate study at Victoria University of Wellington.

The Summer Research Scholarship Programme offers a unique opportunity for students to work together with external organisations, and/or academic researchers at the University on a research project for up to 10 weeks (approximately 400 hours) over the summer trimester.

Each scholarship is valued at \$8,000.

Eligibility

The Scholarship is open to students who have completed at least two years of their undergraduate degree and who are currently enrolled full-time at any New Zealand University in an undergraduate, Honours, or Part 1 of a Master's degree (prior to undertaking any research).

Students currently enrolled in a PhD or Master's by thesis at the time of application are not eligible.

Selection criteria

Participants will be selected upon consideration of the following:

- (a) Academic Merit
- (b) Competencies as related to the specific projects
- (c) Fit with the research supervisor/team

Application process

A completed online application must be submitted by **4:30pm, Tuesday 15 September 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Any required supporting documentation (including references) must also be received by 4.30 pm on the closing date for the application to be considered.

Once applications have closed, students are shortlisted. Students will receive notification of the outcome from the scholarships office at which point successful students will be required to accept their scholarship, agree to the scholarship conditions and upload their bank details.

Selection process

Eligible applicants will be assessed by the project supervisor/s or selection committee within the faculty through which the summer research scholarship project is offered. The Scholarship will be awarded by the Scholarship Office on the recommendation of the applicable supervisor/Selection Committee.

Additional information

All scholarship applicants are required to apply for enrolment into the Summer Research Scholarship Programme course SRCH 301: this is a not-for-credit course and therefore does not require the payment of any tuition fee.

Successful candidates will be fully enrolled in SRCH 301 and are expected to conduct a research project of approximately 10 weeks duration (400 hours) under the supervision of an academic staff member.

Awardees will only pass the course after completion of all required milestones and all conditions are met. Schools and/or faculties may have requirements additional to those outlined in this document (including agreements where necessary).

Scholarship stipend payments are delivered in four instalments over the scholarship tenure; providing students remain engaged with their project and complete relevant milestones.

Conditions

1. The Scholarship is offered in specific areas of research approved by relevant faculty staff in line with Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington’s Research Strategy. Projects must consist of research, or activities directly related to research.
2. Each scholarship is valued at \$8,000.
3. The scholar is expected to contribute approximately 400 hours over a 10-week period. Faculties may request a scholar keeps time sheets.
4. Students should be available to start from mid-November, or prior pending supervisor approval.
5. The scholar agrees to complete an agreed research plan with defined research outputs in consultation with the supervisor.
6. Scholarship applicants must also apply for enrolment in the Summer Research Programme Course SRCH 301 to view projects and be eligible for award. Successful candidates will be fully enrolled in SRCH 301.
7. At the time of application, scholars must be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate, Honours, or Part 1 of a Master’s degree at any New Zealand. (Undergraduate students with relevant experience may apply at the end of their second year if supported by an academic staff member).
8. Scholars are not eligible if they have previously participated in two years of summer research scholarships at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington.
9. To be eligible to hold the scholarship, awardees must not have commenced a master’s research or doctoral programme by the start date of the Summer Research Scholarship or be completing a dissertation or thesis on an extension.
10. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of:
 - a) academic merit;
 - b) expertise in the research area; and
 - c) recommendations from staff associated with the research project.
11. Preference will be made to students moving from 3rd to 4th year of study.
12. During the Summer Research period scholars must not be receiving any alternative scholarship support.
13. Scholars acknowledge they cannot undertake any undergraduate or postgraduate studies at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington, or any other institution, during the term of the Summer Research Scholarship Programme without prior approval from the supervisor and the Scholarships Office.
14. The Scholar must be supervised by a qualified Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington academic staff member or a research team.
15. Projects must be completed by the start of Trimester 1, 2027 at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington (other than under exceptional circumstances).

16. Should the scholar withdraw from the research programme, they must advise the Scholarship Office as soon as possible and may be required to repay a portion of the full funds paid during the tenure of the Scholarship.
17. Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington may require repayment of any funds if it is not satisfied that the scholar is involved in the required research activity and is not complying with the conditions of the award.
18. The Scholarship Office is not obliged to make an award if it is determined there are no candidates that meet the criteria and/or no candidates of sufficient merit.
19. The scholar acknowledges the Scholarship may be terminated at any time at the sole discretion of the project supervisor for:
 - a) failure by the Scholar to make satisfactory academic progress in the approved programme of research;
 - b) any breach of any Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington rule, regulation or agreement by the Scholar; or
 - c) any breach of these conditions by the Scholar.
20. The scholarship will be paid in four equal instalments between November 2026 – February 2027.
21. For externally funded projects, the scholar and supervisor acknowledge that the project cannot commence before the agreement between all parties is signed.
22. Students working on externally funded projects may be required to sign an IP Deed, in line with Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington’s Intellectual Property (IP) Policy.
23. Students working on externally funded projects will:
 - comply with the Partner’s health and safety policies, confidentiality and disclosure of sensitive information policies, and any other reasonable policy of the Partner, provided that the Partner provides copies of such policies to the Student and the University prior to the commencement of the Project;
 - comply with the reasonable instructions of the Partner from time to time; and
 - take reasonable care for his/her/their own health and safety and take reasonable care to ensure that he/she/they do not do anything to adversely affect the health and safety of others.
24. The scholar agrees to participate in any publicity associated with this scheme arranged by Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington.
25. At the discretion of the Deciding Authority, the application of the terms and conditions of the Scholarship may be modified in special circumstances or to avoid hardship to any candidate for the Scholarship.