

# PhD STUDY

## AN ENERGISED AND CONNECTED CAPITAL CITY

**New Zealand offers PhD candidates a thriving and focused academic experience. We provide an unrivalled study opportunity within a safe, clean, and culturally diverse community of leaders, achievers, entrepreneurs, creators, and thinkers.**

Wellington, New Zealand's vibrant capital city, is the pivotal centre for political decision-making, and boasts a bustling food and art scene as the cultural and creative hub of the country. It also offers some of the most pristine nature in the world, including direct access to wildlife, endless hikes, and clean and safe coastlines.

Offering a quality education system, low corruption, and a strong sense of equality, Wellington often ranks as one of the world's most liveable cities (Global Liveability Index 2022). With more than 25 percent of its residents born overseas (WellingtonNZ 2023), the city is also globally diverse and connected as a leader in sustainability, creativity, and wellness.



## OUR RESEARCH IS WORLD LEADING

Victoria University of Wellington has an international reputation for academic excellence in postgraduate teaching and research across eight faculties: Architecture and Design Innovation, Business and Government, Education, Engineering, Health, Humanities and Social Sciences, Law, and Science.

### #1 IN RESEARCH INTENSITY

- Since 2012, Victoria University of Wellington has been New Zealand's top-ranked university for intensity of high-quality research, based on the Performance-Based Research Funding exercise, the country's main measure of research excellence. More than 2,500 publications resulting from our researcher's work were published in 2018.
- Our partners include Google, NASA, Microsoft, and the Wellington-based Academy Award-winning Wētā Workshop and Wētā FX, the companies behind the visual effects for *Lord of the Rings* and *Avatar*.
- Areas of research strength range across all faculties. Some examples include advanced materials and nanotechnology, biodiscovery, global climate change, immunology breakthroughs, public law, restorative justice, strategic studies, sustainable energy, women's health, and much more.
- We are home to more than 50 research centres and institutes. These include the world-leading New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute, Antarctic Research Centre, Ferrier Research Institute (carbohydrate chemistry), Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, Robinson Research Institute (engineering and applied physics), MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, Centre for Strategic Studies, Computational Media Innovation Centre, and International Institute of Modern Letters (whose alumni include Man Booker Prize-winning novelist Eleanor Catton).
- We offer more than 120 doctoral scholarships each year and have an annual research budget of more than NZ\$100 million.

## WHY STUDY FOR A PhD WITH US?

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is the highest degree offered by the University. It is based on original, independent research under the supervision of expert academic staff. At Victoria University of Wellington, a PhD is by research only and is expected to take three to four years.

You can study towards your PhD in any of our subject areas. You may also be able to forge links between subjects through interdisciplinary research.

- International students pay the same tuition fees as New Zealanders, NZ\$8,000–10,000
- Reasonable living expenses average NZ\$1,300 per month.
- PhD scholarships are available covering a stipend (approximately NZ\$24,000) and tuition fees for three years.
- PhD students have unlimited work rights on a student visa.
- On completion of your PhD, you can apply for a post-study work visa to search for employment.
- Your partner can apply for an open work visa for the duration of your studies.
- Your dependent children can attend New Zealand's state primary and secondary schools at the same subsidised rate as child citizens of New Zealand.



“I did a lot of research before I chose to study at Victoria University of Wellington. I liked Wellington for its safety, diversity, high-quality education, and the care and support for international students. I also thought living in the capital would be good for getting a job related to my studies after I graduated. I was very impressed with the student support services when I arrived. For PhD students, the University offers us a lot of great courses to improve our research skills and analytical and critical thinking. The PhD course has provided me with an in-depth knowledge of juvenile justice and many other new skills that have supported me a lot in my current role as a policy analyst.”

**Ha Emery**  
Candidate, PhD in Education

## Indicative PhD tuition fees (NZD) \*

Architecture and Design	\$9,000
Business	\$9,000
Education	\$8,000
Engineering	\$10,000
Health	\$9,200
Humanities and Social Sciences	
Arts	\$8,000
Music	\$9,000
Law	\$9,000
Science	\$9,200

\*Figures are subject to change for 2024.

In addition to tuition fees, all students are required to pay student levies of approximately NZ\$1,040 per year. International students are also required to have appropriate medical and travel insurance, which is approximately NZ\$735 for 12 months. It can be extended to include family members.

[www.wgtn.ac.nz/international/get-ready-to-study/insurance](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/international/get-ready-to-study/insurance)

## WELLINGTON DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Wellington Doctoral Scholarships are the main scholarship for PhD students. They are awarded on academic merit and are open to all full-time PhD applicants. The scholarship will pay you a NZ\$29,500 annual living allowance and will cover the cost of your tuition, but not additional fees such as insurance and student levies. You don't need to submit a separate application for a Wellington Doctoral Scholarship as the application is part of your overall PhD admission application. Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis and availability is limited.

## ELIGIBILITY

A Master's degree or equivalent with a GPA of at least 6.0 on New Zealand's nine-point scale.

An appropriate level of English proficiency, for example, a recent degree taught in English or an IELTS score of at least 6.5 with no sub-score below 6.0.

We recommend prospective PhD candidates visit the Faculty of Graduate Research website to find our detailed information about PhD degrees and the admission requirements, application process, and scholarship funding.

## HOW TO APPLY

There are three application deadlines each year for PhD study and scholarships: 1 March, 1 July, and 1 November. Application for admission and scholarship is a combined process. Applications are submitted online.

PhD students can choose to start on the first day of any month other than the summer months of December and January.

[www.wgtn.ac.nz/phd](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/phd)