

Victoria PhD Scholarship - Information and Regulations

Information

For the purpose of encouraging postgraduate research Victoria offers PhD scholarships to those about to commence their doctoral studies. These scholarships are awarded on academic merit and are open to New Zealand and international students in any discipline. The Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Research Scholarships are Victoria PhD scholarships targeted at specific research topics that highlight the research strengths and priorities of the University in a particular year.

The scholarship consists of a \$21,000 per annum stipend plus a domestic tuition fees-waiver. Scholarships will be awarded in two selection rounds. Mid-year Victoria PhD scholarships across all disciplines and Vice Chancellor's Strategic Research Scholarships will be offered; in November there will be a further round of general Victoria PhD Scholarships across all disciplines.

Applicants who do not clearly meet the above academic criteria may be considered under any of the following categories for a Victoria Doctoral Assistantship.

- The applicant has significant work experience or significant peer esteem in the research field to which they are applying.
- The applicant has a recognised record of publications.
- The applicant's proposed research would contribute significantly to the School, Institute or Centre's Research Plan.
- The involvement of the applicant in the School's programme of research would assist in building a 'critical mass' of research and/or involve collaboration between institutions.
- The strategic direction of the proposed research could involve joint initiatives with the business community to develop future commercialisation of the research.

The Victoria Doctoral Assistantship consists of a \$15,000 per annum stipend for three years plus a tuition fees-waiver and an offer of employment as a tutor or research assistant in the School, Institute or Centre for the term of the scholarship. The employment component of the Victoria Doctoral Assistantship is worth \$5,000 per annum.

Applications must be made on the forms obtainable from the Scholarships Office or on the Scholarships Website: www.vuw.ac.nz/scholarships. Scholarship applicants must contact directly the School in which they wish to enrol so that their research proposal and the feasibility of supervision can be assessed. Enrolment for a PhD and applying for a PhD scholarship are two separate processes. The holding of Victoria PhD Scholarship is conditional upon the scholarship recipient gaining provisional enrolment as a PhD student.

Applicants, other than those who have completed all of their study at Victoria, must include a certified copy of their academic record from other institutions with this application. Applicants whose degree has been conferred at any university other than a New Zealand University will be considered in two categories:

Category 1 - applicants from the UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, Germany or Australia must supply an original or certified copy of their university transcript.

Category 2 - applicants from any other country must have their transcript verified and assessed with a course by course evaluation of the prerequisite degree by the below educational evaluators:

Educational Credential Evaluators <<http://www.ece.org/>>

All applicants for the midyear rounds of Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Research Scholarships and general Victoria PhD Scholarships will be notified of selection within one calendar month of the closing date. First offers of Victoria PhD November round Scholarships will be made in mid to late December of the year of application. Please note if your application is unsuccessful this will be by email only. Some applicants may be placed on a reserve list and will not be finally notified of the success or otherwise of their applications within two months of first notification.

Regulations

These regulations apply to the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Research Scholarship, Victoria PhD Scholarship and to any other PhD Scholarship funded by Victoria University.

1. Applications are sought from those who are eligible at the time of application, or who reasonably expect to become eligible within three months of their application, to register as a candidate for a PhD.
2. Applicants would normally be expected to have completed a Bachelor's or Masters degree with academic distinction equivalent to a First Class Honours degree at a New Zealand University.
3. Academic staff at Victoria University of Wellington may not hold a Victoria PhD Scholarship.
4. A scholarship offer shall lapse in the event that the scholarship recipient has not gained provisional enrolment as a PhD student by the time the scholarship commences.
5. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academic merit by the University Scholarships Committee, a sub-committee of the University Research Committee.
6. Every scholarship shall be tenable at Victoria for a period of up to three years except as otherwise provided in this statute. If a recipient submits within the tenure of the Scholarship, stipend payments will cease no more than one month after submission. Such candidates may be eligible to apply for a Victoria Doctoral Completion Award.
7. If a student has already been enrolled for a PhD at Victoria 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 University Scholarships Committee.
8. The tenure of every scholarship shall commence on a date to be determined in each case by the University Scholarships Committee. The date of commencement shall normally be no later than three months after the scholarship has been accepted by the scholarship recipient.
9. The University Scholarships 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 and the University.
10. The scholarship's emolument shall be paid to each scholarship recipient by monthly instalments in advance during the tenure of the scholarship. The first such payment shall be made by the Scholarships Office as soon as practicable after confirmation of enrolment. Up to \$500 will also be paid towards the cost of producing the thesis. The thesis allowance entitlement will lapse if it is not taken up within four years of the original enrolment for PhD.
11. Tuition fees will be paid only on confirmation of enrolment and on the presentation of the fees assessment documentation to the Scholarships Office. This is not an automatic process.
12. Scholarship recipients must inform the University Scholarships Manager of any other award held. Approval for the co-tenure of awards of greater than a total of \$6000 may result in a reduction in the value of the Victoria PhD scholarship stipend.
13. Scholarship recipients will be expected to sign the *Postgraduate Research Scholarship Contract*. The Head of School or Programme and the primary supervisor will also sign the contract indicating that they are aware of the terms and conditions of this scholarship.
14. Once the period of tenure of a scholarship has commenced, the University Scholarships Committee may, at its sole discretion, grant a scholarship recipient a suspension of their scholarship for a period not exceeding

one year. In most cases such a deferment will coincide with a formal suspension from their PhD enrolment.

15. A scholarship shall be terminated if a scholarship recipient ceases to resume the aforesaid programme of research within one month of the last day of the period of the deferment.
16. Scholarship recipients shall be required to devote themselves full-time to their programme of research during the tenure of the scholarship and may not hold a position of emolument without the approval of the University Scholarships Manager. Approval may be given for scholarship recipients to undertake paid employment (usually tutoring) for up to a maximum of 600 hours in any one calendar year. All requests to undertake part-time employment must be supported in writing by the supervisor.
17. The scholarship recipient must complete six monthly reports outlining their progress to date and ensure that copies of these reports are submitted to the Scholarships Manager. Where progress is not satisfactory, the matter will be referred to the University Scholarships Committee.
18. The University Scholarships Committee may at any time suspend or terminate a scholarship, or require the forfeiture of such proportion of the scholarship emolument as it may determine, if the scholarship recipient is not diligently pursuing their programme of research, has violated the University Statute on Conduct, or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded.
19. At the discretion of the University Scholarships Committee, the application of any of the terms and conditions of a Victoria PhD Scholarship may be modified or relaxed in any special circumstances or in order to avoid hardship to any scholarship recipient.
20. The University Scholarships Committee shall review the terms and conditions of the scholarship from time to time.

Applications for the Victoria PhD Scholarships close on 15 June and 1 November. Applications for the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Research Scholarships close 15 May.

**Applications should be made to:
Scholarships Office, Office of Research and Postgraduate Study
10 Kelburn Parade
Victoria University of Wellington
P.O. Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand
Email: scholarships-office@vuw.ac.nz**