

Purpose

To encourage postgraduate research at Victoria, the University offers scholarships to students about to begin a full-time, research-focussed Master's degree.

Eligibility

Applications are sought from those who are eligible at the time of application, or who will have become eligible at the start of Trimester 2 the following year, to enrol for a Master's degree by thesis worth 90 points or more. In some cases this will be Part 2 of a two-year Master's degree and will usually have the course code 591.

Applicants undertaking a 180 point Master's degree will not be eligible for this scholarship.

Applicants would normally be expected to have completed a Bachelor's degree or Master's degree Part 1 demonstrating academic achievement equivalent to a First-Class Honours degree from a New Zealand University.

Scholarships will be awarded solely on the basis of academic merit by the University Research Scholarships Committee, a sub-committee of the University Research Committee.

Requirements of students not completing all of their study at Victoria University

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 their application. The university will require original documentation prior to enrolment.

Total value

The Scholarship comprises a \$15,000 tax free stipend, plus tuition fees for one year (domestic fees for the thesis component only). Fees will be paid directly to the University by the Scholarships Office. International students other than those from Australia will be liable to pay the difference between the full international student fee and the domestic fee.

The scholarship stipend will be paid to each scholarship recipient in monthly instalments. The first such payment will be made by the Scholarships Office as soon as practicable after confirmation of enrolment. A small allowance of up to \$200 will be paid towards the cost of producing the thesis on receipt of an invoice. Entitlement to this allowance will lapse if it is not taken up within two years of the date of enrolment.

Tenure of award

The scholarship will be tenable for a period of up to one year except as otherwise provided in these regulations.

Closing date for applications

Applications close **1 November**. No late applications will be accepted.

How do students apply?

Enrolling as a Master's student and applying for a Victoria Master's by Thesis Scholarship are two separate processes. The holding of Victoria Master's by Thesis Scholarship is conditional upon the scholarship recipient gaining enrolment as a Master's student.

Terms of Acceptance

Scholarship recipients will sign a Postgraduate Research Scholarship Contract. The Head of School [or Programme] and primary supervisor will sign the contract indicating that they are aware of the terms and conditions of the scholarship.

Approval for the co-tenure of a Victoria Master's by Thesis Scholarship with other awards that total more than \$6,000 must be sought from the Scholarships Office. The co-tenure of other awards may result in a reduction in the value of the scholarship stipend. In the event that other awards include a fees component, the Victoria Master's by thesis Scholarship fees will be adjusted accordingly. Note that Master's by thesis Scholarship cannot be held at the same time as a Victoria Summer Research Scholarship.

Once the period of tenure of a scholarship has commenced, the University Research Scholarships Committee may, at its sole discretion, grant a scholarship recipient a deferment of their scholarship for a period of up to six months. In most cases such a deferment will coincide with a formal suspension from their enrolment in the Master's degree.

A scholarship will be terminated and the corresponding proportion of the scholarship emolument forfeited, if a scholarship recipient ceases to resume the aforesaid programme of research or advanced study within one month of the last day of the period of deferment.

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Commencement

A scholarship will lapse in the event that the scholarship recipient fails to become eligible to enrol for the 90 point thesis component of a Master's degree by Trimester 2 of the following year of being awarded the scholarship.

If a student has already been enrolled for a Master's degree at Victoria for more than three 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 Research Scholarships Committee.

Accountability

Scholarship recipients will 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 Scholarships Office.

Approval may be given for scholarship recipients to undertake paid employment (usually tutoring) for up to a maximum of 600 hours in one calendar year.

Each scholarship recipient and his/her principal supervisor will provide copies of their progress report to the Scholarships Office. Where progress is not satisfactory, the matter will be referred to the University Research Scholarships Committee.

The University Research 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.

Other

At the discretion of the University Research Scholarships Committee, the application of any of the terms and conditions of the Victoria Master's Scholarship may be modified in special circumstances or in order to avoid hardship to any scholarship recipient.

The University Research Scholarships Committee will review the terms and conditions of scholarships from time to time.