

The Evelyn Stokes Memorial Doctoral Scholarship was established in 2008 in memory of Dame Evelyn Stokes, who was a Professor of Geography and the longest-serving member of the academic staff at the University of Waikato. Evelyn's early interest in Māori and historical, educational, and gender perspectives in geographical inquiry helped develop geographical knowledge that was exceptional nationally and internationally. The Scholarship commemorates Evelyn's commitment to social justice and transformative politics expressed through indigenous, historical, social, and environmental perspectives in human geography. The funds are held in trust by the University of Waikato Foundation and will be offered periodically when funds allow, until 2029 when it is expected that the funds will be fully depleted.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To support academically achieving students enrolled in a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Geography or Environmental Planning programmes in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. To be eligible, applicants must:

- 2.1.1. be currently enrolled in a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Geography or Environmental Planning programmes, in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Waikato.
- 2.1.2. have a minimum grade point average of A- in the most recent year of full-time study.
- 2.1.3. be seeking to obtain their first doctoral qualification.
- 2.1.4. submit a complete application (i.e., incomplete applications will be marked ineligible).
- 2.1.5. not be employed by the University of Waikato. However, employment as a sessional assistant, or similar, is permitted.

2.2. Selection is based on:

- 2.2.1. academic merit and other tertiary-level academic achievements.
- 2.2.2. the benefit of the scholarship to the applicant and the research.
- 2.2.3. the research topic, and any progress to date.
- 2.2.4. financial circumstances may also be taken into consideration.

2.3. To maintain eligibility, recipients must during the scholarship tenure:

- 2.3.1. remain enrolled in a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Geography or Environmental Planning programmes, in the School of Social Sciences of the University of Waikato.
- 2.3.2. receive only positive progress reports for their doctoral studies.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The scholarship has a value of **up to \$30,000** for up to 36 months of full-time doctoral enrolment, paid in **six-monthly instalments of \$5,000**. Payments will start as soon as practicable after acceptance of the scholarship offer, with each payment conditional on the recipient maintaining eligibility as outlined in clause 2.4. To note:
 - 3.1.1. If the recipient moves to part-time enrolment the value of the Scholarship shall be pro-rata (i.e., \$2,500) during that time.
 - 3.1.2. If the recipient submits their thesis for examination during the Scholarship tenure, and thus is no longer enrolled, the Scholarship will end the same date as the end of the recipient's doctoral enrolment, and any remaining payments will be forfeit
- 3.2. Each Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of up to 36 months full-time study.
- 3.3. The successful applicant will be advised of the offer of a Scholarship via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.
- 3.4. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have:
 - 3.4.1. read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 3.4.2. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **1 February each year**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide information on the following:
 - 4.2.1. how will the Scholarship benefit the applicant's aspirations.
 - 4.2.2. tertiary-level academic achievements.
 - 4.2.3. brief outline of doctoral research.
 - 4.2.4. brief timeline of doctoral degree, including any progress to date.
 - 4.2.5. any extenuating financial circumstances.
- 4.3. The applicant should request submission of two academic references attesting to the applicant's research and academic achievements.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of the Scholarships Committee Representative for the Division of Arts, Law, Psychology and Social Sciences (as Chair), and two academic staff from the Geography and Environmental Planning programmes nominated by the Head of the School of Social Sciences.
- 5.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel's decisions are final, and no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

6. Other Conditions

- 6.1. The Scholarship may be held with any other Scholarship or Award, provided the conditions of the other Award allow co-tenure.
- 6.2. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their scholarship.
- 6.3. If a recipient's circumstances change in a manner which may affect their continued eligibility for this Scholarship, they must inform scholarships@waikato.ac.nz immediately. Any change of circumstances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 6.4. Recipients are not eligible to receive Scholarship funds during periods of suspension of doctoral enrolment for any reason. In the cases of overpayment, the School of Graduate Research will work with the recipient to recoup the funds.
- 6.5. The Postgraduate Research Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the School of Graduate Research in regard to Progress Reports of Scholarship recipients that identify performance that is below expectations.
- 6.6. If a recipient is an international student, they must comply with the conditions of their Immigration New Zealand (INZ) student visa.
- 6.7. The Scholarships Committee may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the Scholarship, University or Donor into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 6.8. The University of Waikato may, from time to time, vary these regulations.

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).