

[The Māori & Psychology Research Unit](#) (MPRU) Thesis Scholarship was established in 2023 to facilitate the professional development of Māori researchers and to continue to develop future leaders in Māori focused research and psychology. MPRU provides critical research that centers the priorities of Māori communities. MPRU offers invaluable research experience through research opportunities, quality dissemination and professional development activities. Scholarships are funded by the MPRU. If after reviewing the MPRU website (<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/research/institutes-centres-entities/entities/maori-and-psychology-research-unit-mpru/>) you still have questions around eligibility and/or fit of research to the MPRU, your query should be directed to admin.mpru@waikato.ac.nz.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Scholarship offers supports to students enrolled full or part time in thesis papers of masters level and higher, offered by the School of Psychology, whose research is of direct relevance to the [MPRU](#) and [MPRU staff](#).

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. To be eligible, applicants must be:

- 2.1.1 currently enrolled in one of the following papers (PSYCH593, PSYCH594, PSYCH800, or PSYCH900 Psychology).
- 2.1.2 undertaking a research project on a topic of relevance to the MPRU.
- 2.1.3 willing and able to:
 - a. collaborate with their supervisor on a research output (e.g., journal article, conference proceeding, book chapter).
 - b. provide a [student profile](#) for outreach purposes.
 - c. present their research at an MPRU symposium in the year of award.

2.2. Selection will be based on:

- 2.2.1 Academic ability.
- 2.2.2 Fit of research topic with the [MPRU](#) mission and projects.
- 2.2.3 Preference will be given to applicants:
 - a. of Māori descent
 - b. who have not previously held a MPRU Scholarship.

2.3. To maintain eligibility recipients must:

- 2.3.1 remain enrolled in the paper(s) listed under clause 2.1.2 during the year of tenure; and
- 2.3.2 attend and present research at the MPRU Symposium in the year of award.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. Each scholarship will have a value of **\$4,000** or **\$5,000** and will be paid in two instalments as follows:
 - 3.1.1 **\$3,000** will be paid in cash directly to the recipient as soon as practicable after acceptance of the Scholarship.
 - 3.1.2 Dependent on the total value of the award offered, **either \$1,000 and \$2,000** will be paid in cash directly to the recipient as soon as practicable after confirmation has been received from the [Director of MPRU](#) that the recipient has presented at the MPRU Symposium.
- 3.2. The total value of each scholarship is at the discretion of the panel, and will be based on criteria such as, but not limited to, total points enrolled, quality and strength of the application, and total funding available.
- 3.3. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of one year.
- 3.4. Successful applicants 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, and the scholarship offered to the next reserve applicant.
- 3.5. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 June each year**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide information on the following:
 - 4.2.1 A brief outline of the research topic, including: title, aim (or questions/objectives), and background/description of topic and methods.
 - 4.2.2 Timeline of key activities and milestones for your research project; including what has been completed already and what has yet to be completed.
 - 4.2.3 Expected research outputs, including intention to collaborate with supervisor.
 - 4.2.4 The name of the research supervisor and research involvement to date and/or anticipated with the MPRU staff member.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will include the representative of the Māori Academic Board from the Scholarships Committee (in the Chair), the Director of MPRU, a Kaupapa Māori Psychology staff member nominated by the Director of MPRU, and the Head of School of Psychology (or nominee).

- 5.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant(s) of sufficient merit.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

6. Other Conditions

- 6.1. The Scholarship may be held together with any other scholarship, award, or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 6.2. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their Scholarship.
- 6.3. 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 Sponsor into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.
- 6.4. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.
- 6.5. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato and/or the Donor.

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#)