



He Kaupare. He Manaaki.  
He Whakaora.  
prevention. care. recovery.



## **Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) Postgraduate Scholarships**

### **Regulations**

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) was established in 1974. It delivers injury prevention initiatives and no-fault personal injury cover for everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand.

#### **1. Purpose**

ACC funds postgraduate research scholarships to deliver evidence that helps address complex challenges and informs longer-term investment decisions in injury prevention and sustained recovery, specifically in the context of injury compensation.

To increase scholarship opportunities, ACC may partner with other organisations to leverage existing longitudinal studies and large datasets and build the health research workforce.

Scholarships will be awarded to eligible full-time or part-time candidates, enrolled in a Master's degree at an approved Aotearoa New Zealand institution, who have started or will undertake research into a topic that relates to ACC's research priorities (see below). These priorities are informed by ACC's 10-year strategy [Huakina Te Rā](#).

#### **2. Eligibility Criteria**

Applications will be accepted from candidates -

- who are enrolled in a full time or part time Master's degree in an Aotearoa New Zealand university, or an NZQA accredited tertiary institution.
- who are commencing their research component in either 2024 or 2025. Note: Candidates undertaking only coursework Master's are not eligible.
- whose proposed course of study includes a minimum thesis component of 90 Credits.
- whose research thesis focuses on one or more of ACC's research priorities (see Appendix 1).

Note: Application assessment will be conducted in the strictest confidence to ensure applicant's privacy is maintained.

### 3. Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee awards scholarships based on the following criteria –

- Relevance of the research thesis topic to ACC's research priorities (see below).
- Demonstrating taking an explicit approach to including tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti world views, as appropriate.
- Demonstrated Academic capability
- Genuine interest in research topic and evidence of commitment to injury and/or health research.

### 4. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of:

- Manager, Research and Evaluation, ACC, or nominee, who shall be the Convenor of the Selection committee and have a casting vote.
- ACC senior advisors with expertise in priority areas.
- Universities NZ scholarship committee Chair, or nominee.

The decisions of the Selection Committee are final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the assessment of the applications.

The committee may refrain from making an award if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.

The committee may request that a candidate attend an interview. This will be at the expense of ACC. Interviews may be done virtually or face to face.

Applicants may bring their whānau support (at their own expense) to the interview.

A decision may be made purely on the submitted application and associated documentation.

### 5. Applications

Candidates must complete an application using the Universities NZ online scholarships application website by closing date of **15 August 2024**: <https://universitiesnz.communityforce.com>

The Committee requests candidates to submit as part of their application:

- a statement detailing how their proposed research relates to ACC's research priorities, including how it relates to tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti world views, as appropriate.
- a research plan, detailing the research approach, timeline, and outputs/outcomes.
- a statement detailing why they are undertaking the research and what they wish to gain from it, including future career plans.
- academic transcript (this will be requested from your university as part of your application)
- statement from one referee who is a member of the faculty in the candidate's tertiary institution, who can comment on the applicant's academic ability/capability.

## 6. Tenure

The tenure of a scholarship will be determined by the Selection Committee, tenure will normally be one calendar year (120 credits) for full time scholars and two calendar years for part time scholars.

Tenure will commence in the year immediately following the year of application, or earlier if agreed by the Convenor of the selection committee.

- *Co-tenure*

A scholarship may be tenable with any other scholarship, fellowship, or award with the permission of the Convenor of the Selection Committee. In granting permission for co-tenure, the Convenor of the Selection Committee may impose such conditions as they think fit, whether as a reduction in the emolument of the scholarship or otherwise.

- *Deferral of study*

The scholarship may not be deferred unless prior approval is granted from the Convenor of the Selection committee.

- *Payment*

Award payments will be made in even payments on a six-monthly basis and will be dependent on positive and satisfactory progress reports from the scholar and the institution at which the scholar is studying. Unsatisfactory progress may lead to termination of the award.

- *Suspension or Termination*

Following consultation, the Selection Committee may at any time suspend or terminate any scholarship and the associated award payments if the Committee is satisfied that the scholar is not diligently pursuing the agreed programme of study or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded or has acted in a manner that has brought ACC into disrepute.

A scholarship may be terminated, and no further payments made if a scholar ceases to pursue the agreed programme of study. Any changes to the original research topic will require prior approval from the Convenor of the Selection Committee to ensure continuation of the scholarship. Approval from the convenor is not guaranteed.

Scholars may be required to return any scholarship money already received if their scholarship is terminated.

- *Reports and Thesis*

Every scholar shall furnish to the Selection Committee, through Universities NZ, such reports that are required as listed in the scholarship offer letter. An end of tenure report is required once the scholarship/programme of study is complete. One copy of any thesis written is to be lodged with Universities NZ for distribution to ACC. Reporting may also include –

- a plain language summary written for ACC, with the supervision team, which links to any policy and operational implications for ACC.
- a seminar presentation in a suitable format to communicate findings with ACC staff.

## **7. Publicity and Media**

Scholars will agree to have their name and image published and be available for interviews with the media if required.

## **8. Intellectual Property (IP)**

The IP will remain with the scholar and university, unless otherwise negotiated. However, any research must be made available for ACC to use, free of charge, for the purposes of performing its statutory functions. ACC would, as appropriate, acknowledge the source of the information when making use of it.

- *Publishing*

While the research publishing rights stay with the author, the original thesis and any subsequent submissions to academic or professional journals (or any other media) must acknowledge that the research was supported by funding from ACC.

## **9. Value**

Scholarships will be valued at up to \$15,000 per annum and may be used in any way that helps the scholars meet the purposes of the award. The selection committee may award a lesser value if the candidate has already commenced the research component of their degree. The value of this award will be determined based on the amount of research already completed and will be allocated on a pro-rata basis.

## **Appendix 1: ACC's research priorities for 2024**

- Experience of injury and accessing the accident compensation scheme / ACC for:
  - Māori
  - Pacific Peoples
  - Asian People
  - Migrants – focussing on Asian and Pacific Peoples migrants.
  - older people (aged 65 years and over)
  - disabled children (15 years and under).

We are particularly interested in research that takes an intersectional approach.

- Effect of material hardship on injury risk and/or recovery in the working aged adult population.
- Indigenous knowledge (mātauranga Māori) and approaches (Kaupapa Māori) that keep the working aged adult population safe and/or assist them to recover well from injury.
- Effect of comorbid mental health conditions on rehabilitation and/or reinjury.
- What helps injured people stay safe from reinjury after they have stopped receiving formal rehabilitation services.
- Effect of non injury-related disability on the incidence and severity of injury and/or clients' recovery and return to independence.

