

Doctoral Scholarships - advice to applicants

Purpose

These scholarships are intended to provide personal support for students undertaking a PhD in basic or clinical neuroscience

Scope

- PhD enrolment must be at a New Zealand university

Who can apply?

- Students with a GPA of 7 or above (calculated from all 300/400 level papers relevant to the major field of study, or Masters GPA)
- New Zealand citizens or permanent residents
- Students completing an Honours or Masters degree, with the intention of enrolling in a PhD
- Students who have already enrolled in a PhD

What is funded?

- An annual tax-free stipend for up to 3 years of full-time enrolment, aligned with the New Zealand living wage (tax-free equivalent)
- University fees (this does not include student services or other internal fees)
- \$5,000 towards the working expenses associated with the doctoral research
- Scholarship recipients are eligible to apply for travel grants of up to \$4,500 towards travelling to conferences and training courses directly related to their PhD. These are applied for separately as travel grants after the scholarship has been awarded

What will not be funded?

- Students who have already been awarded a doctoral scholarship
- Recipients cannot receive any other doctoral scholarship

Closing dates

If the closing date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be extended to the next working day

- 1 October

Process

- Create an application on our online portal at <https://grants.neurological.org.nz/>. You will need to create a new account if you are a first-time user
- Your application will go to your configured research office for review, before being sent on (at the institution's decision) to the Neurological Foundation
- The budget requested should be in NZD. The Neurological Foundation will not award more than is requested in the budget
- Supporting documentation:
 - Your university academic transcript
 - Letter of support from your proposed supervisor(s) which includes information on the resources available and how the research expenses will be funded
 - NZ Standard CVs for the student (if relevant) and their proposed supervisor(s), using the template available on the application form
- Selected applicants will be invited to attend an interview with the Foundation's Personal Awards Committee, where you will describe your project and future plans
- Applicants will be advised of the outcome in November
- Successful applicants will be informed of the conditions of the grant and asked for their formal acceptance of the scholarship contract

General Advice

Purpose

The Neurological Foundation's purpose is to "be a catalyst to improve the future quality of life for New Zealanders impacted by neurological conditions".

This includes diseases and disorders of the central and peripheral nervous systems. The Foundation will accept applications for research that contributes to our understanding of, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, or management of neurological conditions. The research proposal should have a clear outcome, which will add to knowledge about neurological disorders. The Foundation will accept applications designed to enhance knowledge about the pathogenesis of neuropsychiatric and neuropsychological disorders, but applications that deal only with the management of mental health disorders will not be considered.

Resubmission

The Foundation's Personal Awards Committee provides constructive feedback to applicants after each grant round. If unsuccessful, applicants can resubmit their application in a subsequent grant round. However, the Personal Awards Committee believes that a third submission of an unsuccessful application is not appropriate. Therefore, only one resubmission of a doctoral scholarship application will be accepted.

Research contracts

Successful applicants will be offered contracts that outline the conditions of the scholarship, including the following:

- Students must complete enrolment prior to the scholarship being made available
- A Neurological Foundation doctoral scholarship cannot be held simultaneously with any other doctoral scholarship
- The host institution will administer the scholarship
- The scholarship will have a specific start date and end date
- If the contractual details of the scholarship change a variation request will need to be submitted to the Foundation through the application in the grants portal
- Annual progress reports are required on the anniversary of the start date. Reports should be submitted to the Foundation through the application in the grants portal
- A final report will be required within 1 month of thesis submission
- Any presentations or publications resulting from the student's doctoral work will acknowledge the Foundation's support

Questions?

If you have any queries please contact the Foundation for advice at research@neurological.org.nz