

## **New Zealand Postgraduate Development Research Awards**

### **Award Regulations** **The Special Covid-19 Round**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), working with DevNet, is making available Postgraduate Development Research Awards (the Awards) to assist Masters' and Doctoral students meet a proportion of their expenses in carrying out research on development issues.

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#### **A. Goal**

The goal of the Awards is to support research by eligible students studying at New Zealand universities on development issues of relevance to New Zealand's development cooperation efforts, and to foster capacity (development knowledge and research skills) of future New Zealand development professionals.

#### **B. Objectives**

1. Assist postgraduate students studying at New Zealand universities to conduct research on development issues.
2. Foster body of knowledge and future pool of New Zealand expertise on topics of interest to countries and sectors in which New Zealand delivers aid.
3. Build student capacity for conducting development research, and delivering targeted research products to inform policy thinking and development practice.
4. Generate critical analysis and research findings of relevance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, developing country partners and other development organisations.

#### **C. Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply for an award, applicants must:

- be undertaking the research as part of a New Zealand based Master's degree or Doctorate;
- be undertaking the research on and for the benefit of a developing country (or multiple countries) in a sector (or sectors) where the New Zealand Aid Programme is active
- have received (or will receive prior to commencement) university ethics approval to conduct the research.

The following candidates are ineligible to apply for an award:

- Students supervised by a supervisor of a previous award recipient who did not submit a policy brief.
- Students receiving a New Zealand Scholarship from the Ministry to undertake a course of postgraduate study in New Zealand.
- Students who have previously received an award for the same research under the same degree programme in an earlier year. However, if an applicant has previously received an award but is applying for separate research under a separate degree programme then these applications are eligible.

#### **D. Covid-19 special circumstances**

The awards available under the special Covid-19 round are for research undertaken **in or from New Zealand** (no overseas travel) that meet the criteria outlined above.

The decision to exclude offshore travel and fieldwork reflects New Zealand's Safe Travel advisory, as well as the practical impediments to recipients re-entering New Zealand, and entering Pacific countries, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **E. Number and Value**

The number of awards available in any year will be determined by MFAT.

The value of an award in the Covid-19 round is:

- research as part of a Master's programme - NZ\$4,000
- research as part of a Doctoral programme - NZ\$6,000

We expect that the funding from the Award will go towards costs associated with your research, such as domestic travel, stationery, transcription services, survey tools or research assistance in the relevant country.

#### **F. Selection Criteria**

The criteria used to select the most suitable applications will be:

1. Quality of the Research Proposal.
  - a) Well-researched and clearly presented
  - b) Appropriate methodology
  - c) Feasible plan of execution
2. Relevance of the proposed research to MFAT's development cooperation efforts, and our Pacific priorities.
  - Applicants should note that the focus of MFAT remains on the Pacific. While research is allowed in other regions, the application must be able to demonstrate direct relevance to New Zealand's overarching Aid Programme priorities. Information on MFAT's investment priorities and policy priorities is available on the Ministry's website: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-approach-to-aid/our-priorities>.
3. Potential of the proposed research to contribute to development knowledge,

policy, or practice.

4. Supervisor Recommendation on the capacity of the applicant to carry out the proposed research and their commitment to development (e.g. through previous employment, understanding of country context, experience in country, language capability, support in country, previous study and study visits). Special consideration will be given to students intending to contribute to the development profession at the end of their programme.
5. Applications are complete, with all required documents included.

It is the applicant's responsibility to check that all documentation is appropriate, up to date and included in the application.

### **G. Selection**

The Selection Committee will usually consist of:

- at least 1 member nominated by MFAT.
- at least 1 academic member with expertise in Development Studies or related fields.

The Selection Committee will consider eligible applications as soon as possible after the closing date. Applicants will be advised of the results of the committee decisions after the meeting.

If in the opinion of the Selection Committee there are no applications of sufficient merit, then no awards will be made.

The decisions of the Selection Committee are final, and no correspondence will be entered into concerning those decisions.

### **H. Tenure**

The research supported by an award must be carried out in the 12 months following application deadline.

Award holders may hold other awards, scholarships and prizes but may not be recipients of a New Zealand Scholarship from the Ministry to undertake a course of postgraduate study in New Zealand.

### **I. Award Payments**

Award payments will be made in two instalments into the award holder's New Zealand bank account.

The first instalment will be 70% of the value of the award. This instalment will be available after the award holder has formally accepted the terms and conditions of the award and will be paid as soon as possible after all required documentation, as per the eligibility requirements, has been delivered to DevNet.

The final instalment will be the remaining 30% of the value of the award. This instalment will be paid after delivery of a completed Policy Brief that answers the key questions in the template provided with confirmation from the award holder's supervisor that the research has been conducted according to the Research Proposal.

It is the award holder's responsibility to arrange for the policy brief to be sent to DevNet within the 12 months following the application deadline.

## **J. Obligations of Award Holders**

As a condition of acceptance award holders will be asked to commit to the following obligations:

1. To seek prior approval from DevNet if there are any changes to:
  - a) The location in which the research is to be conducted.
  - b) The overall subject matter and objectives of the research
2. To submit a Research Brief within four months of completing the research.
3. Where the completed postgraduate thesis and subsequent presentations or publications by the award holder on their research and/or thesis (work products) acknowledges funding from MFAT/ DevNet, the work products will also include a statement that the views expressed are entirely those of the award holder and do not necessarily reflect the position of DevNet, the New Zealand Government, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade or any other party.
4. To deliver an electronic copy (PDF) of the completed postgraduate thesis to DevNet.
5. To behave professionally and considerately while conducting research and to avoid any course of action or conduct which would reflect adversely on New Zealand.

## **K. Administration**

This Award programme is administered jointly by DevNet and MFAT.

## **L. Power to Vary**

MFAT may at any time vary or revoke any rules or regulations relating to this Award programme, consistent with the general purposes of the Award.