

# UC Aho Hīnātore | UC Accelerator Scholarship

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The goal of the UC Aho Hīnātore | UC Accelerator Scholarship is to transition UC's best and brightest current, and recently completed, Masters and Honours students to Doctoral studies at UC.

It is anticipated that a total of 40 UC Accelerator Scholarships will be offered across the University, with eight scholarships reserved for Māori and Pasifika students. Each scholarship is made up of a \$6,000 small project scholarship and, if a student is successful in that small project, they will be awarded a \$28,000 stipend + domestic fees per annum for a maximum of 360 points of enrolment in a UC Doctoral Program. The small project scholarship must include a minimum of \$1,500 co-funding from an external partner or Department/School funds.

## Eligibility

To be eligible students must:

1. Qualify for admission to the PhD at UC.
2. In cases where a student demonstrates particular promise but does not yet meet the research experience requirement of the PhD (and by prior negotiation with the Dean of Postgraduate Research), accelerated admission to the PhD may be approved<sup>1</sup>.
3. Have completed their most recent study at UC, prior to April 2022.
4. Exhibit a minimum GPA of 7 in the last two years of study.

Students are not eligible if they are employed full-time during the project, international students who do not have a valid visa for the duration of the project, or are enrolled in a course during the duration of the project.

## Application Process

1. Potential supervisors and students will complete the application online at the following link: [Accelerator Scholarship Applications](#). This should cover the assessment criteria detailed in the assessment rubric in Table 1.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, (1) a student may have completed a taught Master's degree that does not contain a qualifying research experience component or (2) a student may have completed all coursework towards a Master's degree but has not completed the thesis component. In instances such as these, and with approval from the Dean of Postgraduate Research **prior to application**, the accelerator research project may be used as the qualifying research experience for entry to the PhD qualification.

2. Potential supervisors will get sign-off from their Head of Department/School (budget holder).
3. HoD/HoS will sign off on the proposal. Department/Schools may want to develop criteria to ensure proposals align with their own strategic goals as well as the UC institutional strategy. The due date for this is 3 September 2021.
4. Potential supervisors will submit their proposal to their College's Research Committee.
  - a. Where a College Research Committee does not exist, a working group will be formed to assess proposals submitted to that College.
5. College Research Committee will **score and rank** the top 20 projects they have received.
  - a. Colleges may want to develop criteria to ensure proposals align with their own strategic goals as well as the UC institutional strategy.
  - b. The College rankings and proposals will be sent to the Scholarships Office via email ([scholarships@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@canterbury.ac.nz)) by mid-September.
6. College Research Committee will collate the ranking and proposals and forward to the Central Research Committee.
  - a. All projects must have a confirmed \$1,500 of co-funding associated with them.
  - b. The Department/School budget holder must sign-off on the funding prior to assessment by the Central Research Committee.
7. UC Research Committee will form a selection subcommittee to assess the proposals.
  - a. The central Research Committee will award the scholarship based on the criteria shown in Table 1.
8. The Scholarships Office will notify supervisors and students of the outcome of their proposal by late October.

At the completion of their 12 week period of research, students will be required: (1) submit a written report to the Scholarships Office, signed off by the Senior Supervisor and HoD/HoS, detailing what they accomplished in the project. This will be reviewed by the Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate) and, if approved, the student will be awarded the Accelerator PhD scholarship. Students will also be required to give a Department/School seminar detailing what they accomplished in the project.

### Assessment Criteria

Table 1 shows the kaupapa of the scholarship. It also shows the maximum word count and relative weighting of the sections in the proposal. Not every criterion needs to be addressed in the proposal.

Table 1. UC Accelerator Scholarship Criteria.

	Criteria	Weighting
Description of Project (maximum 500 words)	Does the proposed short project and subsequent PhD: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. show a clear alignment with UC's institutional strategy?</li> <li>b. advancement of knowledge in the field?</li> <li>c. a potential for the project to be trans-disciplinary in nature?</li> <li>d. authentic engagement with UC's commitment to bicultural competence and confidence and equity goals?</li> </ol>	10/25
Supervisory Team (maximum 500 words)	Does the proposed supervisory team: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. have clear expertise in the field of study?</li> <li>b. have a history of supervising research students successfully to timely completion?</li> <li>c. have a diverse composition?</li> </ol>	5/25

	d. incorporate a mentorship aspect to support emerging researchers in student supervision?	
Student (maximum 200 words)	Does the student: a. have a GPA > 7.0 for their last two years of study? b. show particular skills, knowledge, experience, relationships or access that make them specifically suited to this project? c. demonstrate a commitment to completing a doctoral degree? d. Have any relevant publications	10/25

Note: While advantageous, not every criterion must be addressed in the proposal

**Progression to a UC Aho Hīnātore | UC Accelerator PhD Scholarship**

To be offered a UC Aho Hīnātore | UC Accelerator PhD Scholarship:

1. Potential students must first complete the online application. The report should detail how they attained the stated learning outcomes for the period of research. The Evaluation Form is available at: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/postgraduate/aho-hinatore-accelerator-scholarship/>
2. The Senior Supervisor and HoD/HoS must review and agree the student has attained the stated learning outcomes.
3. The Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate) must review and agree the student has attained all learning outcomes.

Students may also be required to present a short summary of their project work at an event organized by UC, to celebrate the accomplishments of the students who have completed UC Aho Hīnātore | UC Accelerator scholarship projects.