

Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE Master's Scholarship Policy

September 2022

Overview:

Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE is New Zealand's Centre of Research Excellence in earthquake resilience. As part of its research budget, QuakeCoRE has Master's scholarships that are available on a contestable basis. Applications for a QuakeCoRE Master scholarship will be assessed by the Scholarship Assessment Committee. Applications are to be submitted to quakecore@canterbury.ac.nz via the Master primary supervisor, who must be willing to sign an agreement with QuakeCoRE if the application is successful.

The intent of all QuakeCoRE scholarships is to attract outstanding candidates to support Masters research that contributes to the QuakeCoRE mission, and increase diversity amongst QuakeCoRE PhD students. QuakeCoRE scholars are expected to act as advocates for QuakeCoRE and the development of a national collaboratory.

The proposed research must be undertaken through enrolment at a New Zealand university. The primary supervisor is likely to be either a QuakeCoRE Principal Investigator (PI) or Associate Investigator (AI). Consideration will also be given for researchers who are newly engaged with the 2021 – 2028 Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE Research Programme.

The application for a QuakeCoRE Masters scholarship does not require a detailed research plan, but must articulate the primary characteristics of the research in a manner that demonstrates alignment with the QuakeCoRE mission and research programme. Information on the research programme is available in the 2021 RfP Guidelines, which is available [here](#). Successful applicants and their supervisor must sign an agreement, which will include the research plan and a copy of the scholarship regulations (see below).

QuakeCoRE Masters scholars must complete annual reporting to confirm that their research is progressing appropriately and continues to be aligned with QuakeCoRE. Scholarship funding may be terminated if the research does not maintain alignment with the QuakeCoRE mission or research priority areas.

QuakeCoRE Masters scholars are expected to present their findings at the QuakeCoRE Annual Meeting and other QuakeCoRE events, participate in relevant QuakeCoRE Research Programme meetings, and are required to acknowledge the funding support provided by QuakeCoRE when presenting or publishing their research findings.

The following type(s) of scholarship support are available:

- 1) A 1 year or 2 year Masters Scholarship for the commencement of a research-based Masters programme. Students must not have started their Research Masters programme at the application is submitted. Students must commence studies within six months from the date of their Award Letter.

Note that funding for existing Masters student scholarships is available through the RfP;

details are available [here](#). Funding for PhD student scholarships is available through a separate process, details are available [here](#).

Only one application can be submitted by any one academic staff member as the primary supervisor in any QuakeCoRE Masters Scholarship round. The primary supervisor must be a QuakeCoRE Programme Area Leader (PAL) or Associate Investigator (AI).

QuakeCoRE may choose to direct scholarships towards key groups to ensure equitable opportunities. These scholarships will be clearly identified in the call for applications. For this call, a minimum of 30 % of scholarships will be awarded to qualified applicants from the following groups: Māori as tangata whenua, Pasifika people, engineers who identify as women and those who are gender diverse.

Assessment criteria:

Successful applicants must be able to establish that they will be outstanding Masters researchers, primarily by articulating their exceptional past undergraduate honours degree performance as related to their intended scope of research for their Masters degree. Because of the broad range of skills necessary to excel at research within the scope of QuakeCoRE, and the need to accommodate applicants from a wide range of backgrounds, the assessment criteria below are intentionally broad.

A Scholarship Assessment Committee will be formed to review each of the applications. Where a member of the Scholarship Assessment Committee is listed as a supervisor for an applicant, they will not be able to serve on the Scholarship Assessment Committee and an alternate member will be recruited.

The Scholarship Assessment Committee will consider the following in allocating scholarships:

1. Evidence the applicant and proposed supervisor have a good understanding of the QuakeCoRE goals and research priorities, clear research objectives and overall goals. The primary evaluation for these criteria will be via the following 3 documents: student ambitions and future career aspirations, summary of the proposed research topic, and letter of support from the primary supervisor.
2. Increasing opportunities for New Zealand citizens and permanent residents, Māori and Pasifika, under- represented groups, early-career researcher supervisors and gender diversity in all QuakeCoRE disciplines.
3. Ensuring diversity of QuakeCoRE PhD Scholarships across the spectrum of QuakeCoRE disciplinary research areas.
4. Evidence the applicant has high potential for research excellence as indicated through:
 - (i) relevant leadership and extra-curricular activities;
 - (ii) any high quality undergraduate final year honours report or summer project report or any significant individually contributed / marked report
5. Academic performance of applicant in past qualifications.
6. Quality of the institution(s) attended for past qualifications.
7. The 'fit' of the proposed research within QuakeCoRE research activities (refer to 2022 RfP

Guidelines – available [here](#)). The application form must indicate the relevant research area that the proposed Masters topic aligns to. The relevant Programme Area Leader (or substitute in cases of a conflict of interest) will provide supplementary information to the scholarships assessment panel as to the ‘fit’ of the proposed research within the QuakeCoRE activities.

8. Track record of the proposed supervisors in terms of: (i) commitment to the vision and mission of QuakeCoRE as a national collaboratory; and (ii) research deliverables, particularly with respect to QuakeCoRE research.

Submission requirements:

Applications will be considered periodically (specific deadlines will be provided for each round).

Where inconsistent information is provided as part of the application process, the coversheet information will be taken as correct.

All applications are submitted by the primary supervisor; NOT by the Masters student themselves. The expectation is that these scholarships will be awarded to the most outstanding Research Masters students, and it is intended that primary supervisors will only propose students that meet this criterion. This process is intended to reduce the burden on the QuakeCoRE Scholarship Assessment Committee tasked with evaluating applications. Only one application per primary supervisor is permitted each round. The application must include the coversheet and supporting documentation detailed in Appendix 2. **All materials must be integrated into one PDF document in the order specified.**

Application outcome:

Applicants will generally be notified within 2 months of the closing date of applications (a specific outcome date will be announced for each round). The primary supervisor will be able to seek summary feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Contracting:

An agreement must be signed by the primary supervisor and the student after a student has been selected to receive a QuakeCoRE Research Masters Scholarship, and before scholarship payments commence. This contract will sit under the QuakeCoRE Collaboration Agreement with the Partners. The intent is to ensure the nature of the research activities are in line with the mission of QuakeCoRE. The contract will include the following items:

1. A research plan.
2. Agreement to QuakeCoRE Masters Scholarship regulations (see below).

QuakeCoRE Masters Scholarship Regulations:

Below are the QuakeCoRE Scholarship regulations as detailed in the agreement template. This scholarship agreement will sit under the QuakeCoRE Collaboration Agreement between the University of Canterbury as the Host and the collaborating organisations as the Partners.

- A1. The QuakeCoRE Masters Scholarship is an annual fulltime student stipend of \$15 ,000 per annum for a period of up to 12 months or 24 months (or until Masters thesis submission, whichever is lesser), plus \$8,000 per annum to cover the payment of university Masters fees and contribute to other related costs.
- A2. The QuakeCoRE Masters Scholarship offer is conditional on the student gaining admission to a New Zealand university that is a Partner of QuakeCoRE. The student will need to apply for admission in the normal way; QuakeCoRE will not directly provide assistance with admission.
- A3. Students which accept a QuakeCoRE Masters Scholarship must meet the criteria for enrolment and commence their research Masters study within 6 months of the QuakeCoRE Masters Scholarship Award Letter date. If unforeseen circumstances arise which delay the start date, communication with QuakeCoRE should be made immediately. Any extension to the deadline to commence their research Masters enrolment is at the sole discretion of QuakeCoRE.
- A4. QuakeCoRE Scholarships are initially offered to the student via a QuakeCoRE Research Masters scholarship offer letter from QuakeCoRE. Successful applicants must indicate their intention to accept the scholarship by signing the letter and returning it to QuakeCoRE within 10 working days of their Masters scholarship offer being made or the offer will lapse. After this letter has been received, the Host will initiate the formal agreement that will cover the scholarship. The formal agreement will be in the form of a Statement of Work.
- A5. The scholarship can only commence once QuakeCoRE has received an official letter from the relevant QuakeCoRE Partner University confirming that the student has begun their research and after the formal Agreement has been signed.
- A6. It is the responsibility of the Research Masters scholar to notify QuakeCoRE when any supplementary funding is received. In order to ensure equity and the appropriate use of CoRE funds, in general, supplementary funding may only be held up to a maximum value of 25% of the total funding awarded under this scholarship, amounts over this threshold will be considered on a case-by-case basis by QuakeCoRE.
- A7. QuakeCoRE Masters Scholarships can be suspended for up to six months for legitimate reasons associated with parental leave, the health and wellbeing of the researcher, or unforeseen delays associated with research that prevent the Masters scholar from being effective. Any suspension must be communicated in writing to QuakeCoRE within ten days of the request being approved by the student's institution.
- A8. QuakeCoRE Masters scholars are expected to present their findings at the QuakeCoRE Annual Meeting and other QuakeCoRE events; and are required to acknowledge the funding support provided by QuakeCoRE when presenting or publishing their research findings. Up to \$1,000 of travel support per annum will be provided to allow for attendance at the QuakeCoRE Annual Meeting.
- A9. QuakeCoRE scholars are expected to act as advocates for QuakeCoRE and the development of a national collaboratory.
- A10. Continuation of the scholarship is conditional on satisfactory academic progress and adherence to the student's host University's statutes and regulations.
- A11. In the event of a recipient's withdrawal from the Research Masters programme, the scholarship will be withdrawn, and any funds paid following the withdrawal period may be recovered.

- A12. A QuakeCoRE Scholarship cannot be held simultaneously with full time employment.
- A13. QuakeCoRE Masters students are required to submit an annual report, which summarises the research progress made. A template for this report will be provided by QuakeCoRE.
- A14. By accepting a QuakeCoRE Research Masters Scholarship, the student provides permission to QuakeCoRE (and the relevant university) to advertise their scholarship success publicly.

In addition to the regulations the agreement requires:

- Reporting to be submitted on reporting templates that will be supplied as required.
- Upon completion on the Research Masters programme, the student must inform QuakeCoRE of the submission date of their thesis and undertake a short exit questionnaire.
- Before publication of outputs, a publication number for inclusion in the publication acknowledgement must be requested
- Acknowledgment of collaboration and funding sources, including the use of the QuakeCoRE logo and website is required where appropriate. The wording of this acknowledgement shall be as follows “This project was (partially) supported by QuakeCoRE, a New Zealand Tertiary Education Commission-funded Centre. This is QuakeCoRE publication number xxxxxx”.
- An electronic copy of any publication is to be emailed to quakecore@canterbury.ac.nz within 30 (thirty) days of its acceptance by any publisher.
- It is expected that the primary supervisor will name QuakeCoRE as one of their affiliations in all published works, presentations and media releases during the tenure of their appointment to this role.
- The primary supervisor acknowledges it is imperative to adhere to the deliverables and reporting schedules in order for the University to meet its obligations to the TEC. Should the primary supervisor experience any difficulties in meeting these requirements, the Primary Supervisor is to advise QuakeCoRE immediately to avoid breach of the Funding Agreement with the TEC.
- The primary supervisor will take an active part in QuakeCoRE activities including, but not limited to, attendance at QuakeCoRE Annual Meetings, participate in relevant QuakeCoRE Research Programme meetings, participate in QuakeCoRE seminars and workshops, as is reasonably expected.
- The primary supervisor will proactively share success stories or research updates for the website, newsletters and any other media releases, as is reasonably required.

QuakeCoRE Research Masters Scholarship

Coversheet Form September 2022

- All applications must be received by Noon on Friday 21 October 2022.
- Applications must be submitted via email to quakecore@canterbury.ac.nz
- LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Student personal details

Family Name		
First Name(s)		
Student Number		
Street Address		
Suburb		
Town/City		
Date of Birth		
Do you require a visa to study in New Zealand?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Email Address		
Has the student previously made an unsuccessful application to QuakeCoRE?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

The Following question is optional.

Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE is committed to Treaty partnership and to developing a diverse research community. Responses to this question will be used to support our commitment to ensuring equitable opportunities and a diverse community.

Do you identify as any of the following ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Māori What are your iwi affiliations (if known)?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pasifika
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineers that identify as women
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Diverse

Institutional Details

Name of University		
Department/School		
Primary Supervisor		
Other Supervisors		
Early Career Supervisors	[Please indicate if any of the Supervisors listed above are early-career researchers. Note that here Early-career Researchers are considered to be researchers that completed their PhD no more than 7 years ago, as at 30 September, 2022, extensions to this timeframe will be considered for parental leave or similar career breaks.]	
PhD Research Title		
Proposed Start Date of Scholarship	[Note: Students must commence their Masters research within 6 months of the QuakeCoRE Masters Scholarship Award Letter date]	
Is the student currently in New Zealand?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Application type and research area

Application Type	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 to 2 Year Full Time Scholarship (1.0EFTS)
QuakeCoRE Research Area	Please select from DT1, DT2, DT3, DT4, DT5, IP1, IP2, IP3, IP4 or other	
Primary supervisor engagement with QuakeCoRE	[Please outline the primary supervisor's previous engagement with QuakeCoRE (eg: Annual Meeting attendance, Annual Meeting poster presentation, Research Programme activities, Outreach, etc.)]	

DECLARATION (Proposed primary supervisor)

I understand that documentation submitted for this application, cannot be returned. I have read and understand the Regulations for this Scholarship and in completing my details below I am accepting the Regulations.

Supervisors' Full Name:	Date:
Supervisors' Email:	

In addition to the previous coversheet, the following information must be provided in order and submitted as a single PDF file. It is the responsibility of the submitter to ensure that applications are complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered. In the event of an inconsistency between the information provided and the coversheet, the coversheet will be taken as correct.

1. Letter of support (max 2pgs) from the proposed primary supervisor, which should include: (i) the relation the student's research has to other QuakeCoRE activities and its vision and mission (including how any necessary research-related costs will be met); (ii) a statement of intention of the student and the supervisor to sign the collaboration agreement if the application is successful; and (iii) the expected date the student will commence the QuakeCoRE Scholarship.
2. A CV (max 2pgs) of the student applicant. The CV should summarize: (i) academic grades in pre-requisite degrees; (ii) relevant research experience including papers published and presentations delivered; (iii) relevant leadership activities; (iv) extra-curricular activities.
3. A summary (max 1pg) written by the student detailing their ambitions and future career aspirations. Student's aspiration statement needs to explicitly comment on why they wish to engage with QuakeCoRE and any existing involvement with QuakeCoRE (if any). Indicate also how they intend to contribute to the broader QuakeCoRE community, including engagement with CEE (Communication, Education & Engagement), DEWI (Diversity, Equity, Wellbeing & Inclusion) or QERC (QuakeCoRE Emerging Researcher Chapters).
4. A summary (max 1pg) of the research the student proposes to undertake, including progress on the research. This could be based on the Masters research plan. It can be developed in collaboration with the supervisor but must be written by the student. Research summary must explain how their research explicitly fits with the QuakeCoRE research programme. This summary will form the basis of the research scope for the Masters Student agreement contract if the student is awarded a scholarship.
5. Official transcripts from all universities attended by the student, with translation to English if necessary. Academic transcripts must include, or be accompanied by, an explanation of the grading scale used.
6. A list of all student financial support which is: (i) secured; (ii) under consideration (in which case the expected outcome date should be noted). Details of the nature, extent, and duration of support should also be provided. A formal letter from the current or past financial support provider also needs to indicate the end date for the existing funding.
7. If available, the application may also include any undergraduate final year honours report or summer project report or any significant individually contributed / marked report.

Checklist for inclusion in the final PDF of application for submission:

- ☐ Cover sheet (max 2pgs – delete the information after the declaration)
- ☐ Letter of Support from Primary Supervisor (max 2pgs)
- ☐ Student CV (max 2pgs)
- ☐ Student ambitions and future career aspirations (max 1pg)
- ☐ Summary of the proposed research (max 1pg)
- ☐ Official Student transcripts (with English translation if required) and any explanatory information
- ☐ List of student financial support
- ☐ Exemplar of Final Year Honours Project Report, Summer Internship Report or any significant individually contributed/marked report.