



National Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Master's Scholarship

This master's scholarship has been created to encourage and support postgraduate research on countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism.

The scholarship has been established through a new government-funded research institution, the National Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, provisionally named He Whenua Taurikura.

The funding for this round of applications provides for a minimum of 10 scholarships valued at \$15,000 for each scholarship.

We encourage applications from members of under-represented groups within the research community, including Māori, ethnic minority groups, members of the transgender community, and religious and faith groups.

Purpose

The scholarship is intended to support research carried out at a New Zealand university or tertiary institute that will contribute to developing and maintaining breadth, depth and diversity of expertise in preventing and countering violent extremism, including to inform New Zealand policy approaches.

Scholarship applications are welcomed from a broad range of disciplinary and trans-disciplinary backgrounds related to preventing and countering violent extremism, to ensure a holistic approach to these topics.

Relevant fields include a range of social science and humanities disciplines (including Māori studies) that address how related thematic areas such as social cohesion / inclusion contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism, and how social inequality or exclusion may hinder achieving these.

Proposed research should support the vision of New Zealand's Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy¹ of "bringing our nation together to protect all New Zealanders from terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds". Successful applications will have clearly identified policy implications and will directly relate to one (or more) of the Strategy's four pillars:

- mōhio – understand
- mahi tahi – work together
- whakahōtaetae – prevent
- takatū – be ready to respond and recover

¹ See <https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/new-zealands-counter-terrorism-strategy>

The Centre is especially interested in research that contributes to progressing one of the following areas:

- Building an understanding of what violent extremism looks like in Aotearoa New Zealand and the impact of this on communities (part of mōhio – understand).
- Building an understanding of the key causes and drivers of violent extremism in Aotearoa New Zealand, with consideration of its varied forms (online/offline, individual/group, identity- and faith-motivated violent extremism), and identifying the risks of and pathways to extremist violence (part of mōhio – understand).
- Increasing public understanding of the nature of terrorism and violent extremism threats and what people can do to protect themselves and others (part of mōhio – understand).
- Developing and evaluating New Zealand-specific approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, with a focus on prevention and disengagement initiatives (part of whakahōtaetae – prevent).
- Countering violent extremism online (part of whakahōtaetae – prevent).

While not a requirement, scholarship applicants are encouraged to develop their research applications in consultation with relevant policy and operational agencies working on these issues within the New Zealand government, to enable research to directly inform policy approaches. For assistance in facilitating this, please contact HWT@dpmc.govt.nz.

Eligibility

At the time of application, candidates must be enrolled or be eligible to enrol full time in a master's degree at a New Zealand university or tertiary institute in a field relevant to the study of countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism.

This includes, but is not limited to, MA, MSc, MPP, MBus, MCTS and LLM programmes (the selection board reserves the right to determine the eligibility of a particular area of study).

Both taught and research masters' degrees are eligible for this scholarship.

A thesis or research report of at least 15,000 words must be completed as part of the master's programme, together with a short policy brief, article, interview, or other appropriate mechanism for enabling the wide sharing of research findings.

We welcome all applications irrespective of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, faith and religion, disability and age.

Tenure and value

The scholarship provides \$15,000 for students to use towards programme fees, living costs, and research-related expenses (e.g. data collection costs, research related travel). Scholarships are normally awarded for periods of up to one year.

Residency requirements

Students must have the legal right to study in New Zealand.

Closing date

Applications are due by 31 October 2021. Selection decisions will be made in November 2021.

Applications

Applications are to be made using the application form and submitted to HWT@dpmc.govt.nz. Applications must include:

- Completed application form, including full details of intended programme of study.
- Transcript from all universities attended.
- Letter of recommendation from academic advisor.
- 2-3 page statement of intent that includes:
 - Motivation for pursuing postgraduate study in this area.
 - Summary of proposed thesis/research paper topic.
 - How the proposed topic relates to one (or more) pillars of New Zealand's Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy.
 - If applicable, how the proposed topic relates to one (or more) of the identified priority research areas.
 - If applicable, the nature of any proposed consultation on the research with a relevant New Zealand government agency.

Selection

Scholarships will be awarded on the recommendations of the selection committee.

The committee will be convened by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) as the lead agency working on the establishment of He Whenua Taurikura, and consist of senior academics and researchers from a variety of New Zealand universities and research institutions, as well as representatives from relevant government agencies.

The committee may consult with universities, tertiary institutions and others as it deems fit.

The decisions of the selection committee are final and no correspondence will be entered into following selection.

Suspension or termination

The Centre, DPMC or the selection committee may at any time suspend or terminate any scholarship if they are satisfied that the scholar is not diligently pursuing the programme of research or original work or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded.

Scholars agree that they will repay any funds which were not used for the purpose of the scholarship or were not used within the timeframe for which they were awarded.

Power to vary conditions

The Centre, DPMC or the selection committee may vary these regulations at any time provided that such variations are consistent with the general purposes of the scholarship.