

PhD scholarship opportunities in New Zealand

PhD scholarships are available for two highly committed research students in New Zealand, one in each of the following priority research areas:

Priority research area one	Understanding the need for, availability of, and interpretation of information by the public during large scale hazard events (e.g. wildfires, floods, earthquakes).
Priority research area two	Building community engagement to support behaviour change, leading to improved fire safety and community resilience

Background

The Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) in partnership with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) are pleased to offer two new scholarships for PhD students. Students awarded a scholarship are required to enrol for study through a New Zealand university, and they will be linked into related research from the CRC's core research program.

Applications that include co-supervision with leading researchers from Australia will be highly regarded. The CRC can assist in identifying co-supervisors.

Students receiving a scholarship are expected to engage regularly with an industry supervisor based in FENZ to build their knowledge of how their research will be utilised, to gain an appreciation of how to present research information to less research-aware communities and to expand their personal networks.

The scholarships

There are two PhD scholarships available for suitable students who are accepted into a PhD program at a New Zealand university. Successful scholarship holders will receive NZ\$28,500 per year for up to 3.5 years under the scholarship program. All scholarships will be paid to, and managed by, the university in which the student is enrolled.

Payment of all student fees is the responsibility of the scholarship holder.

Benefits of these scholarships

Scholarship holders will have access to a range of opportunities during, and after, their period of study:

- Participation in the CRC's knowledge network, including:
 - The annual AFAC Conference in Australia, including the CRC Research Forum (with funding to support participation at least once during the period of study)
 - Relevant CRC Research Advisory Forums in Australia (with funding to support participation at least twice during the period of study)
 - Invitations to participate in:
 - all CRC events
 - relevant FENZ research activities
- Opportunities to apply for travel support through the CRC's Travel Support Grants
- Support from the CRC's communications team to promote the research of scholarship holders through printed, web and social media
- Close links to FENZ.

Priority research areas

Two scholarships are available, one for each of the two priority research areas listed below:

Priority research area one	Understanding the need for, availability of, and interpretation of information by the public during large scale hazard events (e.g. wildfires, floods, earthquakes).
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This would enable a better understanding of:

- the public's needs and expectations for information
 - how the public interpret and respond to different forms of information
 - any challenges for specific communities or populations in accessing or understanding information
 - the impact of regional and cultural variations, the impact of disability and other factors on access to, and interpretation of information
 - identification of the features and attributes of trusted sources and channels
 - how information contributes to community resilience
 - what tools can be used to monitor the ongoing effectiveness of public information and to measure the impact of future changes in communication strategies
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**Priority research
area two**

Building community engagement to support sustained behaviour change leading to improved fire safety and community resilience. This would enable:

- closer exploration of what works for communities when we want to facilitate sustained behaviour change, including motivators and blockers
- an understanding of which traditional or emerging strategies for community engagement demonstrate effectiveness, and in what way
- an understanding of the underlying capabilities that support the development of improved fire safety and community resilience (and as appropriate, how this would apply to improved safety for other hazards)
- exploration of new models of community engagement that are effective and sustainable, and which are strengthened by organic development within communities.

How to apply

This will be a competitive process, and all applicants are encouraged to read the guidelines carefully before submitting their application. Applicants must also have identified a supervisor and research project at their preferred university, and have a letter of offer of a place at the university for the proposed PhD study. If it is not possible to get a letter of offer from the university prior to the closing date, please contact the CRC's Research Director to discuss other evidence that you can use to support your application.

All applicants will need to complete an application form, available from the CRC website (www.bnhcrc.com.au/education) and to submit the form and supporting information on or before the closing date.

Applications should be sent to john.bates@bnhrc.com.au

Assessment of applications

All applications received by the closing date will be reviewed and shortlisted. If required, shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by the selection panel. Applicants will be assessed based on:

- The quality of the project being proposed
- The relevant experience and academic record of the applicant
- The quality and strength of the proposed supervisor and co-supervisor and their knowledge and research strength in the relevant research area.

Where to find more information

Information on the CRC and our scholarships can be found on our website at:

www.bnhcrc.com.au

Information about Fire and Emergency New Zealand can be found at:

fireandemergency.nz/about-us/

fireandemergency.nz/research-and-reports/

Application forms are available for download at:

www.bnhcrc.com.au/education.

Important dates

Applicants are advised to ensure they meet the following Important deadlines:

Applications open:	19 July 2018
Applications close:	31 August 2018
Applicants advised of outcomes:	8 October 2018
Successful candidates commence their studies:	No later than 1 December 2018

Need more information

Should you have any questions about the scholarships and the application process, please contact the CRC's Research Director, Dr John Bates:

email: john.bates@bnhcrc.com.au

phone: +61 3 9412 9666.