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THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

PhD Scholarship in Ethnicity, Citizenship and Te Tiriti o Waitangi

This is a call for applications for a full-time research scholarship for a **PhD student** to undertake an interdisciplinary study at the University of Waikato on the topic of 'ethnic communities, citizenship and Tiriti o Waitangi'. The successful candidate will undertake a doctoral thesis as part of a Royal Society of New Zealand's Marsden Grant-funded project entitled *He Rau Ringa: Engaging ethnic communities in a Tiriti o Waitangi-centred framework of sustainable citizenship*.

Ethnic communities in the context of Aotearoa New Zealand refer to non-Māori, non-Pasifika and non-Pākehā and broadly include people of Asian, African, Latin American, and continental/Eastern European heritage.

Overview of the larger project

Ethnic minority communities, although a significant presence in Aotearoa, are largely invisible in academic or policy considerations of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, with not enough research on either the responsibilities of ethnic communities to honour Te Tiriti or the obligations of the Crown to equitable outcomes for all communities. A team of ethnic and Māori researchers with expertise in Te Tiriti and sustainable citizenship, will examine whether and in what ways NZ public policy on specific issues are responsive to ethnic communities and explore to what extent diverse ethnic communities are aware of their responsibilities towards honouring Te Tiriti. The research aims to theorise a distinctly Aotearoa New Zealand vision of cultural plurality and citizenship that can feed into an international scholarship on citizenship and critical policy studies, while contributing towards constitutional transformation in Aotearoa.

Scholarship details

- The Doctoral Student Scholarship is available for three years (2024-26) and covers a stipend of NZD \$35,000 per year for each of the three years plus tuition fees.
- The PhD student will work under the overall guidance of the project's Principal Investigators.
- The student will be encouraged to develop their thesis topic on any aspect of the overall project. Projects could revolve around, for example, an in-depth study of a specific policy issue area to examine how an 'ethnic lens' can be applied to make policy more responsive and inclusive; issues of culture, diversity, and citizenship; public engagement, ethnic identities, and Treaty principles; or equity, inclusion, Te Tiriti and transformative politics.
- The detailed thesis topic will be designed and executed in collaboration with the Project Leaders.

Requirements for applicants

Applicants for the PhD scholarship should ideally have a Masters degree broadly in the Social Sciences or Humanities, preferably in Policy Studies, Political Studies, Communication Studies, Management Studies, or Indigenous Studies. Applicants must have an interest in issues around citizenship and sustainability and some familiarity with the Aotearoa New Zealand political and social context. Experience in conducting qualitative primary research, an ability to write clearly and succinctly, and a commitment to meeting project deadlines are also essential attributes.

Applicants are invited to send: (1) a **cover letter** outlining their interest in the project; (2) a **CV** including qualifications, publications or research experience; (3) copies of **academic transcripts**; (4) a one-page **statement of research interests/proposed topic**; and (5) the names and contact details of **two referees**, to either Professor Debashish Munshi (debashish.munshi@waikato.ac.nz) or Professor Priya Kurian (priya.kurian@waikato.ac.nz).

Applications for the scholarship will be received on a rolling basis until the position is filled.