Marsden PhD Scholarship in Statistics

Auckland University of Technology

Auckland, New Zealand

Apply


A Marsden funded PhD Scholarship in Statistics including all tuition fees and a tax-free stipend is available at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) in Auckland, New Zealand starting as soon as possible for a period of three years.

BACKGROUND

The successful applicant will work on a cross-faculty project dealing with identifying inflammation biomarkers for depression in Pacific youth in New Zealand (NZ). The project is led by Professor Richard Siegert (Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences) and Dr El-Shadan Tautolo (Director of the Centre for Pacific Health & Development Research), and includes researchers from the AUT Roche Diagnostics Laboratory and AUT’s School of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences. International collaboration with researchers at Deakin University in Australia and Nottingham Trent University in the UK is also involved.

Pacific youth in NZ have a higher rate of depression than the general population. There is evidence that depression and inflammation occur together but little understanding of how they impact on each other. The aim of this research project is to assess depression and inflammation markers in the blood of 875 Pacific youth aged 20 who have been participants in AUT’s longitudinal Pacific Islands Families Study (PIFS) since birth.

The successful PhD applicant will apply modern analytics and biostatistics to identify depression subtypes and relationships among demographic, epidemiological, psychosocial and blood-assayed risk features of depression. These analyses will involve the use of both traditional statistical techniques and machine-learning algorithms.

This position provides a unique opportunity for a student with a Masters or Honours qualification in analytics or statistics to gain valuable experience in healthcare analytics and biostatistics as well as to work with an international team and contribute to a highly important health issue in New Zealand and internationally.

For informal enquiries, contact Professor Ajit Narayanan (Ajit.Narayanan@aut.ac.nz)
VALUE AND TENURE

• The annual value of the scholarship is NZ $27,500 for up to three years plus PhD fees over this period (subject to satisfactory progress). Stipend payments are considered income but are exempt from tax at source.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

• Applicants must have completed a Masters or Honours qualification in analytics or statistics, with first class Honours or equivalent.

• The successful candidate will demonstrate enthusiasm and have an outstanding academic record and be prepared to conduct the doctoral study at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) based in Auckland, New Zealand.

• Applying for a scholarship and admission into AUT are separate processes at AUT. Applicants must fulfil all conditions for admission to the Doctoral Programme in AUT. These can be found on the AUT University website www.aut.ac.nz.

• Requirements for the Doctoral programme include having completed the required academic qualifications for direct entry and meeting the requirements for English language proficiency. Minimum English language requirement for international applicants – IELTS scores of 6.5 overall with 7 in writing and all other bands 6.0 or higher. A high proficiency in English is essential.

Note: The award of this scholarship is conditional on acceptance into the AUT doctoral programme. International applicants should contact phdadmissions@aut.ac.nz for advice regarding the admissions process for international students.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must apply through the AUT Scholarship application portal, where full details of this opportunity are available: https://www.aut.ac.nz/study/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships-and-awards-at-aut/scholarships-database/detailpage?detailCode=501312&sessionID=30228923&sourceIP=&X FORWARDED FOR=.

To learn more about working & living in New Zealand, please visit: www.jobs.ac.uk/new-zealand

Closing date: 15 April 2019

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