RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

Special Research News
Applied Doctorates Scheme

Applied Doctorates Scheme - Aerospace, Defence & Security Call for Projects Open
Applied Doctorates Scheme

After the success of the Inaugural Call, the Applied Doctorates Scheme is inviting submissions for the second cohort of doctoral-level research projects. The theme for the 2026 call is Aerospace, Defence & Security, with the Scheme looking to fund projects that advance innovative STEM technologies and capabilities in the theme area.

2026 - Aerospace, Defence & Security
This theme supports doctoral research that advances innovative STEM technologies and capabilities in aerospace, defence, and security, with clear connections to industry needs, civilian applications, and workforce development. Projects should align to national priorities around economic impact, resilience, and sovereign capability, with strong industry engagement and pathways o real-world adoption, and may include areas such as aerospace systems (including agritech and earth observation), secure communications and navigation, autonomous systems assurance, and technologies for operations in extreme environments such as space, polar, or disaster-affected settings.

The Applied Doctorate Scheme provides:

- Full tuition fees for 3 years
- An annual stipend (NZD$35,501 in 2026) for 3 years, with a 2% per year increase
- Insurance costs for international students
- Participation costs for the ADS annual conference and professional development programme
- Workshops and a regular online speaker series featuring industry and academic speakers

Each student will be expected to spend a minimum of 6 months embedded with an industry partner and should be supervised by both academic and industry experts

If you are interested in applying, please contact research@otago.ac.nz so our team can help connect you with industry partners and support your application. The call for projects round is available in RAS.

The call for Biotechnology & Bioprocessing will open in 2027