

# WELLINGTON GENERAL PRACTICE RESEARCH TRUST POSTGRADUATE STUDY FEES SCHOLARSHIPS INFORMATION SHEET FOR AWARDS

The Wellington General Practice Research Trust (WGPRT) Postgraduate Study Fees Scholarships are intended to support nurses and doctors currently practising in primary health care settings to undertake postgraduate thesis research in primary health care. The scholarships are to be used for university fees.

The purpose of the fees scholarships is to assist doctors and nurses to undertake a thesis, either a Masters or PhD, in the Department of Primary Health Care and General Practice in the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences, which has direct relevance to New Zealand (NZ) primary health care.

## Primary Health Care

*The WGPRT Board has been at the forefront of academic primary health care development. In 1997, it funded the establishment of the Chair of General Practice and then continued to accrue funds to support general practice and primary health care research.*

*This aim is in sympathy with the Primary Health Care Strategy (Ministry of Health: Feb 2001) to support primary health care professionals in reducing health inequalities and address the causes of poor health outcomes. Building capacity to undertake research will allow current practising primary health care clinicians an opportunity to explore research questions affecting clinical practice. Research questions are likely to focus around the six key objectives of the Primary Health Care Strategy: effectively working with local communities and enrolled populations; identifying and removing health inequalities; offering access to comprehensive services to improve, maintain and restore people's health; co-ordinating care across service areas; developing the primary health care workforce and continuously improving quality using good information.*

*The WGPRT Board Postgraduate Study Fees Scholarships have been established to support a practising primary health care doctor or nurse working in the Wellington Faculty area to become engaged in research whilst undertaking a higher degree, either a masters or PhD, in the Department of Primary Health Care and General Practice. The focus of the research leading to a thesis, will be on NZ primary health care and there is an expectation that the Department staff will support the student to publish at least one research paper in a peer reviewed journal.*

## Selection panel

Successful recipients of a scholarship will be selected from among the applicants by an interdisciplinary panel which may include: Head of Department, Postgraduate Convenor, Higher Degrees Convenor, Department academic staff and a representative of the Wellington General Practice Research Trust Board.

The selection panel reserves the right to make full and final decisions, including not awarding scholarships to the full amount available.

## Eligibility

All applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- are New Zealand registered nurses or doctors
- are currently clinically practising in New Zealand primary health care settings within the Wellington Faculty of General Practice geographical area, bordered by Taranaki, Taihape, Hawke's Bay, Nelson and Marlborough
- have been admitted to, or applied for admission to, Masters or PhD by thesis through Otago University
- have an effective plan for the timely completion of their thesis work

- have a thesis proposal of direct relevance to NZ primary health care
- in the case of applicants who have already received a WGPRT Postgraduate Study Fees Scholarship, have, in the judgement of their academic supervisor(s), successfully completed the work to date.

### **Value and number of the scholarships**

Up to four fees scholarships may be awarded in any given academic year.

The value of each scholarship shall be equivalent to the university fees which apply to the course for which the recipient is enrolled during tenure of the scholarship.

### **Application**

Application should be made on the prescribed Application Form, which is available from  
Postgraduate Coordinator [contact details below]

- Each applicant will receive an acknowledgement letter or email on receipt of his or her application.
- A successful Masters applicant may apply for a second fees scholarship in a subsequent year to progress or complete the degree.
- A successful PhD applicant may apply for a second or third scholarship in a subsequent year to progress or complete the degree.
- Applicants for a second (or third) scholarship must support their application with a written supervisors report on progress to date.
- Each applicant will be notified of the panel's decision.

### **Scholarship payments**

The Otago University Fees Office is notified of each successful recipient of a scholarship, and invoices the WGPRT directly for the fees due.

If you nevertheless receive a fees invoice, please advise Postgraduate Coordinator, who will make arrangements for payment.

### **Change of thesis topic**

If after having been awarded funding based on a specific thesis proposal, a successful applicant wishes to change topic, s/he must advise the selection panel in writing that the change of topic has been approved by Otago University, must show that the revised topic has direct relevance to New Zealand primary health care, and seek the panel's confirmation that the terms of the award of the scholarship are met under the revised topic.

### **Closing dates**

Closing date for each year is **October 31<sup>st</sup>**.

### **Further information**

For further information please contact:

Postgraduate Coordinator  
Department of Primary Health Care and General Practice  
Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
PO Box 7343,  
Wellington 6242  
Tel: (04) 385 5995  
Email: [primarycare.distance@otago.ac.nz](mailto:primarycare.distance@otago.ac.nz)