

# Memorandum



To   Ki:	UC Academic Staff
From   : Nā	Professor Lucy Johnston, Tumu Tuarua Rangahau   Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation Professor Brigid McNeill, Amo Rangahau   Dean (Postgraduate Research)
Date   Rā	30 April 2025
Subject   Kaupapa:	<b>Call for applications: UC Connect Doctoral Scholarships</b>

The University of Canterbury is calling for applications for Connect PhD Scholarships focused on **sustainability**. For the purposes of these scholarships, sustainability is considered in broad terms. We welcome proposals from any discipline area that addresses gaps in knowledge about sustainability from an economic, social and/or environmental perspective. This could include research directly relevant to achieving any of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

UC Connect Doctoral Scholarships are co-funded by the University of Canterbury and external partners from industry, business and community. There are up to 12 Connect PhD scholarships available for commencement in 2025 or Semester 1 2026. Candidates who hold a Connect scholarship will collaborate with the partner organisation for the duration of their degree.

This scheme offers real benefits to both parties:

- For the research partner, the contribution of a researcher who will help to develop answers to the questions the partner organisation is pursuing, and to translate research outcomes into real world applications. The research partner is also able to be involved in research supervision.
- For the research candidate, the opportunity to be immersed in a real-world environment and conduct research on current initiatives and problems in sustainability, while completing a research degree with the support of their university supervisors. The candidate will have an excellent opportunity to develop transferable skills and grow their professional networks.
- For the supervisor, the opportunity to develop new or grow existing partnerships and promote research collaborations. For the research candidate and the supervisor, having a group of students from across disciplines researching the same broad theme provides opportunity for cross-disciplinary interactions and support.

## Scholarship Value and Contributions:

Both parties to the partnership provide, each year over 3 years:

- \$16,000 toward an annual PhD stipend (total \$48,000 per partner)  
In addition, the University of Canterbury will cover tuition fees for the thesis enrolment for up to a total of 360 points.

### **Application Process:**

This process will involve several steps:

1. Submission of the Joint Expression of Interest (EOI) form by the UC Researcher(s) and Research Partner detailing the research project. EOIs are due **16 June 2025** and should be submitted to [brigid.mcneill@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:brigid.mcneill@canterbury.ac.nz). A student does not need to be identified at this stage.
2. EOIs will be reviewed by a panel comprised of members of Graduate Research Committee with notification of outcomes by **27 June 2025**.  
The EOIs will be evaluated on the following criteria:
  - (a) Alignment of the research with the sustainability theme
  - (b) The benefits of the research for the research partner
  - (c) Suitability of the proposed project for PhD research
  - (d) Preference may be given to cross-disciplinary/cross-faculty projects
  - (e) Experience of the supervisory team, particularly in regard to undertaking collaborative supervision and/or research with external partners.
3. Programme announcement and candidate recruitment. Successful candidates must meet the criteria for admission to the PhD programme at UC. The Connect scholarships are available to domestic and international students.
4. Scholarship contracting.