

## Wallace Scholarships for tertiary student research in 2009 related to the 2008 general election

The Electoral Commission invites applications for Wallace Scholarships to support tertiary student research work in any discipline exploring a topic related to the 2008 general election and the use, understanding, trust, or valuing of New Zealand's electoral framework and processes.

Topics could include (but are not limited to):

- understanding aspects of turnout
- the election online
- the election in the school classroom
- third party campaigning
- political or electoral marketing

The piece of work may form all or part of a thesis, dissertation or research project with a points value (for the project or portion to which the scholarship applies) of at least a quarter of a fulltime equivalent year. The work must include original research. Comparative work is acceptable, subject to it including New Zealand.

Wallace scholars will usually receive a sum of money in the range of \$500 to \$2000. The commission may also provide working space to out of town scholars visiting Wellington for their research. We expect completion of the work, or the portion for which the scholarship was granted, within a year of award.

**Applications close on 2 February 2009 and winners will be announced on 16 February. Further details of the scholarships and the simple application process are detailed at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz). Look for the quick link in the "I want to..." menu.**

*Wallace Scholarships are named for the first president of the Electoral Commission, Sir John Wallace, who also chaired the 1985-6 Royal Commission on the Electoral System which recommended New Zealand adopt the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) electoral system. Previous scholars include:*

**2008 - Alexandra Maretz**, University of Canterbury, role of internet-based media participation in the 2008 general election. **Bronwyn Wood**, Victoria University of Wellington, *Action or apathy in youth of Aotearoa New Zealand?: The role of social studies education.* **Holly Donald**, University of Canterbury, *The value of the vote for under-30s: Understanding the motivations of young 'principled' non-voters in New Zealand.* **Margaret Joiner**, University of Auckland, *The Electoral Finance Bill: A Case Study in Public Participation?* **Thomas Lee**, University of Canterbury, *A Desire for Active Citizens: The challenge of citizenship education for youths and migrants in New Zealand.*

**2007 - Jessica Buck**, University of Canterbury, Political attitudes and efficacy of young Asian New Zealanders. **Wakaiti Dalton**, University of Canterbury, *"Indigenous language acquisition and children's political participation: Comparative Perspective".*

**2006 - Kirsten Chambers**, University of Canterbury, *'Use of Māori media during the 2005 election campaign, with an emphasis on how it is used to encourage voting'.* **Nicky Wilson-Kelly**, University of Canterbury. Personal political efficacy amongst newly enrolled women, comparing those who voted and those who did not. **Jacky Zvulun**, Otago University, *'Political participation in New Zealand local elections, under STV and FPP'.*

**2005 - Kim Summersby**, University of Auckland, study of Māori electoral representation in local government. **Shee-Jeong Park**, University of Auckland, *'Political Participation of Asian New Zealanders'*