1. Purpose

1.1. The TAPA Awards were established to encourage Pacific students to pursue tertiary studies at the University of Waikato.

1.2. The Awards have been made possible by the Equity Grant administered by the Tertiary Education Commission, with the aim of supporting the achievement and participation of Pacific students in tertiary education.

2. Eligibility

2.1. To be eligible, applicants must:
   a) be enrolled full- or part-time at the University of Waikato;
   b) be enrolled for a full year (A and B semesters) in the year of tenure; and,
   c) be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Pacific Island descent.

3. Value

3.1. The value of the Award is at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

3.2. The value of each Award can vary, and will usually increase in recognition of higher-level study.

3.3. The Award will be paid to the successful recipient in two equal sums in the year of tenure. The first will be paid upon confirmation of the recipient's enrolment in their A semester papers.

3.3.1. The second will be paid on confirmation that the student has enrolled in their B semester papers.

4. Application

4.1. The closing date for applications is 31 March.

4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must:

   4.2.1. Complete and upload the prescribed Personal Statement form that includes (but is not limited to) the following subheadings:
       • My (tertiary-level) academic achievements; and
       • My cultural and community involvement [(both on- and off-campus), especially that with a Pacific focus].

   4.2.2. Request the submission of two references (one academic and one cultural/community’), as stipulated in the application. References cannot be from an immediate family member.

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1 Cultural/community references from outside the University are likely to carry more weight.
5. Selection Criteria

5.1. The Selection Panel will select successful students on the basis of:
   a) academic merit; and,
   b) personal character; and,
   c) cultural and community involvement (both on- and off-campus), especially that with a Pacific focus.

5.2. Preference may be given to applicants from areas of study where Pacific students are underrepresented.

5.3. Financial need may also be taken into consideration.

6. Selection Panel

6.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of the Chairperson of the Scholarships Committee who will Chair, an academic staff member appointed by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee, and the Pacific Student Success Co-ordinator, or their nominee.

6.2. The Selection Panel’s decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

7. Awarding and Retention

7.1. The successful applicants will be offered the Award on condition that they remain enrolled in their programme of study in the year of tenure.

7.2. The Award will have a maximum tenure of one year.

7.3. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of an Award in writing and must advise the University’s Scholarships Office of their acceptance of the offer by the prescribed date. If the applicant fails to accept the Award within the specified time, the offer will lapse.

7.4. The Scholarships Executive may terminate an Award at any time and recoup any funds awarded if it is not satisfied that the holder is following the approved programme of study or is not otherwise complying with the conditions governing the Award and/or the University of Waikato.

7.4.1. The holder of an Award shall have the right to appeal to the Vice-Chancellor against any decision to terminate the Award.

8. Other Conditions

8.1. The Award may be held together with any bursary, prize or student allowance, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

8.1.1. Recipients who have received funding from other Equity Grant awards may be limited to an overall total of funding from any/all Equity Grant funded awards.

8.2. The Awards are intended to support the recipients in the costs associated with their study, i.e. study materials, living costs, conferences, workshops.

8.2.1. The Awards may not be used for the payment of enrolment fees at the University of Waikato.

8.3. By accepting an Award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the University of Waikato. Recipients may also be required to attend a ceremony to recognise the recipients of the Award.