

# *I was awarded a scholarship! So when do I get my money...?*

Judith Mudge

Email: [jmudge@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:jmudge@waikato.ac.nz)

Gwenda Pennington

Email: [gwenda@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:gwenda@waikato.ac.nz)

Kelly Devoy

Email: [kmdevoy@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:kmdevoy@waikato.ac.nz)

Website: [www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships](http://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships)



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**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

This is a fair question! As the average student's finances are never particularly healthy, students are often very keen to know exactly when they will receive the scholarship which they have been offered. Of course, this varies from scholarship to scholarship, and is usually stated in the regulations, so that is the first place to look. However, there are some general guidelines which we can also give you.

Firstly, we cannot pay you until we receive your signed acceptance form (one should be enclosed with the letter offering you the scholarship), so make sure you get this back to us! Remember, this has to be sent to us by the due date stated.

If the regulations of the scholarship state that it is a fees scholarship, we will credit the amount you have been awarded towards your fees soon after we receive your acceptance form. We do have to wait, however, until it is confirmed that enrolment status matches the regulations of the scholarship. So if you are awarded a fees scholarship early in the year, you will normally have to wait until April before we do this. If, in the meantime, you cannot afford to pay the fees personally and you have a student loan, the amount which we credit your account at a later stage will be credited back to StudyLink. This will reduce your loan by the amount of your scholarship.

If you have received a cash scholarship, you will most likely either be paid within three or four weeks of returning your acceptance form, or at a later date in a presentation ceremony (you will be informed when this will take place). More generous scholarships are sometimes paid in two instalments. As with fees scholarships, we often have to confirm that you are enrolled in the courses you should be before we pay you. We will call or email you when your cheque is available for collection, and you can call in to our Office between 8.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. to collect it. Make sure you bring photo ID, as we need to confirm that we're giving the cheque to the right person! Alternatively, we can arrange for cheques to be posted if that's more convenient.

Scholarships with a living allowance (such as the University of Waikato Doctoral Scholarships) are paid in monthly instalments. For these, you need to include a bank deposit slip with your details when you send back your acceptance form, so that we can arrange for these payments.

Some scholarships at graduate or postgraduate level have a final payment withheld. We will hold back a certain amount (normally around 10% of the total you are awarded) until you have completed your research.

And, of course, please remember that in any process, things can go wrong on occasion. For many scholarships we have to invoice the sponsors, and if they do not pay in good time, we cannot conjure your money out of thin air! Rest assured that we will always work very hard to ensure that your payments occur promptly, and please be patient if there is a hiccup.