

The Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme was introduced by the University of Waikato in 2005 and provides a pathway for developing future leaders by fostering excellence and leadership. First established in 2012, the Step Higher Award represents the crucible of the Hillary Scholarship Programme as an aspirational and challenging goal for Sir Edmund Hillary Scholars who are leading by example and giving back to their community. The Award promotes leadership excellence and provides a unique experience for Sir Edmund Hillary Scholars which is intended to inspire them to go on and make a difference in the world.

Step Higher Award winners trek through the Khumbu Valley, Nepal, a stunning part of the Himalayas and the pathway to Mount Everest. The Khumbu Valley is where the real Sir Edmund Hillary legacy can be seen, with schools, hydro projects, bridges, an airport and hospital all bearing the Hillary name – many of which are supported by the Himalayan Trust. The two/three week trip involves visiting many of these projects and connecting with Sir Ed's legacy as well as the values associated with his efforts and the Hillary Scholarship. Each Step Higher Award winner is required, as part of the Award, to raise \$1,000 for the Himalayan Trust prior to leaving for Nepal, and there is an expectation that they will continue as ambassadors for the Trust after their return from the Step Higher trip.

## 1. Eligibility

- 1.1. To be eligible, applicants must be a current Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar.
  - a) Scholars must be intending to re-enrol at the University of Waikato in 2020 in order to be eligible to apply for this Award.

## 2. Value

- 2.1. The Award will cover the recipients' travel, tour costs, accommodation, insurance, vaccinations and visa costs. However, any additional costs outside of the specifics of travel to the Khumbu Valley will be at the expense of the Scholar.

## 3. Selection Criteria

- 3.2. Applicants must demonstrate commitment to the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme by continually meeting the requirements of the three pillars of the Scholarship. In particular, applicants must demonstrate leadership excellence, defined as 'engaging others to strive for shared goals that positively impact the community'.

#### **4. Application**

- 4.1. Applications close on **30 April annually**.
- 4.2. Along with the prescribed online application form, applicants must submit:
  - a) a Personal Statement that clearly articulates the following:
    - How you exemplify the values of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme in terms of the three main pillars:
      - Sport or Creative/Performing Art performance
      - Leadership performance
      - Academic performance
    - How you exemplify the values of Sir Edmund Hillary himself; and
    - Why you want to go on the trip to the Khumbu Valley in Nepal and what you would want to get out of the experience.
  - b) a CV (maximum four A4 pages); and
  - c) a reference in support of your suitability for this award from a referee who can attest to your qualities in line with the sport/art, leadership and academic performance criteria for this Award.

#### **5. Selection Panel**

- 5.2. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (as Chair), the University of Waikato High Performance Student Scholarship Manager, a representative of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme Executive, and a representative of the Himalayan Trust (or their nominees).
- 5.3. The Selection Panel is likely to give preference to senior Hillary Scholars.
- 5.4. The Selection Panel will consider the applications and develop a short-list. Short-listed applicants will be required to attend an interview with the Panel.
- 5.5. The Selection Panel may refrain from making any recommendations if it finds no applicants of sufficient merit.
- 5.6. The Selection Panel's decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

#### **6. Awarding**

- 6.2. All applicants will be advised electronically of the outcome of their application.
  - b) Successful applicants must be willing to promote and share their stories with other University of Waikato students and agreed persons.
- 6.3. Successful applicants must be enrolled at the University of Waikato in 2020.
- 6.4. Recipients are expected to take a leadership role in meeting a fundraising target of \$1,000 each for the Himalayan Trust. They can achieve this through leading fundraising activities as approved by the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager.
- 6.5. Recipients will be expected to undertake their trip in February in the year following the granting of this Award.

## 7. Other Conditions

- 7.2. Recipients of the Award will plan details of their trip and expenses in advance with the University of Waikato High Performance Student Scholarship Manager. Once these details have been approved by the Chair of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme Executive, all travel arrangements will be made in conjunction with the University's preferred travel agent, Orbit Corporate Travel.
- 7.3. The Award may be held with any other bursary, scholarship or award, unless the conditions of the other funding preclude this.
- 7.4. The Scholarships Committee may terminate an Award at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato during the tenure of the Scholarship, brings the University or the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme into disrepute<sup>1</sup>, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Award. The recipient of an Award will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Award.
- 7.5. By accepting an Award, recipients agree to participate in any events and publicity concerning the Award, including a presentation to the Himalayan Trust and the Hillary Scholarship Programme upon their return from Nepal.
- 7.6. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 7.7. The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> See [Code of Student Conduct](#).