BACKGROUND

The Acorn Foundation is a charitable trust which was formed in 2003, to connect generous people who care with causes that matter, forever.

The principal goal of the Foundation is to encourage people to consider making a gift in their will and/or during their lifetimes to benefit the local community forever.

The Acorn Foundation Adult Learner Scholarship for Women has been set up by an anonymous Acorn donor. Originally from England, this donor moved to NZ in 1982, and has lived in Tauranga since 1997. She has been a long-time supporter of Acorn, contributing annually through her participation in a Giving Circle, and through the establishment of the Acorn Foundation Adult Leader Scholarship.

She is passionate about education and views the scholarship as an opportunity to help other women achieve their goals and realise their potential.

1. Purpose

1.1. The Acorn Foundation Adult Learner Scholarship for Women was established to financially assist adult female students (25 years and over) studying at the University of Waikato Tauranga campus. Awards will be made on academic merit, financial circumstances, leadership, and contribution to the community.

2. Eligibility

2.1. To be eligible, applicants must:
   a) be female;
   b) be 25 years or over;
   c) enrol at the University of Waikato Tauranga Campus; and
   d) be currently living in the areas administered by Tauranga City Council or Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

3. Value

3.1. One scholarship will be awarded and shall have a value of $3,000.

   3.1.1. The value of the scholarship may be pro-rated for student who are enrolled part-time over the tenure of Scholarship.

4. Awarding

4.1. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of one year.

4.2. The Scholarship will be paid in one lump sum to the recipient after the withdrawal date for A semester in the year following the award.

4.3. The Selection Panel will take academic merit, financial circumstances, leadership and contribution to the community into consideration when selecting candidates.
5. Application

5.1. The closing date for applications is **30 September annually**.

5.2. The following information must be included on the application:
   a) a personal statement summarising the applicant’s suitability for the award, focusing particularly on community contribution including leadership roles, and financial circumstances;
   b) a brief CV (no longer than four A4 pages in length); and
   c) two references (one academic and one character).

6. Selection Panel

6.1. The panel will comprise of a representative of the Acorn Foundation (in the Chair), the Tauranga Liaison Partnership Manager (or nominee), a representative of the University’s Scholarships Committee, and the Tauranga Manager - Student and Academic Services (or nominee).

6.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.

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

7. Other Conditions

7.1. The Scholarship may be held with any other prize, scholarship or award provided that the regulations of the other awards allow this.

7.2. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship, and the Scholarships Policy.

7.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the Scholarship or the University into disrepute\(^1\), or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.

7.4. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

7.5. The University may from time to time vary these regulations after consultation with the Acorn Foundation.

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\(^1\) See Code of Student Conduct.