



**Investing in excellence** – Te Paewai o te Rangi: The University of Waikato Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement has been established to contribute to the University’s Vision of achieving excellence, distinctiveness and international connectedness.

Te Paewai o te Rangi can be translated to mean the water horizon. It is the place where the ocean meets the sky, and where the sun sets and rises every day. This is the transition point where Tāne traveled on his quest to ascend into the heavens and to suspend the stars in the sky. Metaphorically, Te Paewai o te Rangi describes a person’s journey to achieve excellence. It is the pathway to the stars; an unending pursuit to reach the pinnacle of your desires which in the case of this Scholarship is education and knowledge.

Te Paewai o te Rangi is also a pathway where the terrestrial becomes the celestial and people move on to a higher state of being and understanding. It is a point where change occurs and people push the boundaries and go beyond the norm. It is fitting therefore that this Scholarship provides a platform for outstanding students to strive for excellence in a programme of study at the University of Waikato and to reach the stars.

The University of Waikato will award up to 50 Scholarships for Outstanding Academic Achievement annually on the basis of academic excellence, leadership potential, and community citizenship.

## 1. Eligibility

1.1. To be eligible, candidates must:

- a. be enrolled in the New Zealand secondary school system or be a New Zealand citizen studying at an overseas secondary school in the two years preceding tenure (see also clause 1.2);
- b. be enrolling full-time (a full-time academic year comprises 120 points) in undergraduate study at the University of Waikato for the first time in the year of tenure;<sup>1</sup>
- c. have achieved NCEA Level 2 with Excellence or the equivalent through examinations such as the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination, or the Australian Secondary School examinations;
- d. be expecting to achieve NCEA Level 3 with Excellence (or equivalent as outlined above in 1.1.c); and
- e. show exceptional leadership qualities in their school and/or community and/or be actively involved in community initiatives.

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<sup>1</sup> Candidates who have undertaken Unistart papers at the University of Waikato are not excluded by this clause.

- 1.2. Candidates who are taking ONE 'gap year' in the year of application may also be considered, provided they meet the remainder of the eligibility criteria.

## 2. Value

- 2.1. The value of each Scholarship will be **up to \$25,000 over three years, subject to the recipient maintaining the required level of academic achievement** (refer to clause 5.3). This will be awarded as up to \$10,000 in Year One, and up to \$7,500 in each of Years Two and Three.
- 2.2. **In Year One:** The Scholarship may be used **either** for accommodation fees in the University Halls of Residence **OR** the recipient may receive up to \$5,000 cash, which will be paid directly to the recipient in two instalments of \$2,500 after the withdrawal deadlines for A and B trimesters.
- 2.3. **In Years Two and Three:** The Scholarship will be paid as a tuition fees credit of up to \$7,500.
  - a. If a recipient's fees are fully covered by an external scholarship, the recipient may request to receive up to \$5,000 in cash, instead.
- 2.4. The tenure of the Scholarship will be up to three years (see clause 5.3 for ongoing requirements).

## 3. Application

- 3.1. The closing date for online applications is **31 August each year**.
- 3.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must provide:
  - a. a Personal Statement (maximum two A4 pages) that sets out the following:
    - (i) future aspirations
    - (ii) leadership experience
    - (iii) community involvement and extracurricular activities
  - b. a CV of no more than two A4 pages in length
  - c. a copy of their NCEA School Results Summary
- 3.3. Each candidate must also request the submission of:
  - a. a completed Principal's Assessment form
  - b. a reference attesting to the applicant's leadership qualities and/or community involvement. The referee must not be an immediate member of the applicant's whanau.

## 4. Selection Panel and Selection Criteria

- 4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Vice-Chancellor (or nominee), the Dean of the School of Graduate Research (in the Chair), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Māori, the Associate Director Future Students, and the Scholarships Manager.
- 4.2. The Selection Panel will consider the applications and may contact referees on a confidential basis for further relevant information.
- 4.3. The Scholarship will be awarded primarily on the basis of excellent academic achievement, strong leadership qualities, and community involvement.

- 4.4. The Selection Panel's decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

## 5. Awarding and Continued Tenure

- 5.1. Successful applicants will be advised of the **conditional offer** of a Scholarship and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.
- 5.2. **Awarding of the Scholarship will be conditional upon** the recipients achieving:
- NCEA Level 3 Certificate endorsed with Excellence, or the equivalent in the Cambridge International Examinations or the International Baccalaureate;
  - University Entrance; and
  - Admission to their programme of study.
- 5.3. The tenure of the Scholarship may continue for consecutive periods of enrolment for up to three years' duration, provided that the recipient:
- remains enrolled full-time (i.e. 120 points, usually eight papers);
  - achieves at least a B+ average across all papers taken in each semester of tenure; and
  - participates in any prescribed leadership and personal development activities that may be offered.
- 5.4. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a Scholarship 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 Scholarship or the University into disrepute<sup>2</sup>, 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 will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.

## 6. Other Conditions

- 6.1. The Scholarship may not be held in conjunction with any other University of Waikato scholarship that contains a tuition fees or accommodation credit component, except those for personal hardship and extraordinary circumstances (e.g., the D.V. Bryant Trust University of Waikato Residential Scholarship). It may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship or award, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 6.2. In signing and returning the Scholarship acceptance form, the student will be deemed to have read, understood and accepted the conditions for the award and retention of the Scholarship.
- 6.3. By accepting a Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship as arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 6.4. The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations.

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<sup>2</sup> See [Code of Student Conduct](#).