Investing in excellence – Te Paewai o te Rangi: The University of Waikato Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement was established in 2017 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 normally awards up to 50 Scholarships for Outstanding Academic Achievement each year on the basis of academic excellence, leadership potential, and community citizenship.

1. Eligibility

1.1. To be eligible, candidates must:

1.1.1. 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;

1.1.2. show exceptional leadership qualities in their school and/or community and/or be actively involved in community initiatives;

1.1.3. be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance in the year of application;

1.1.4. be intending to enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises 120 points) in an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato for the first time in the year after application;

1.1.5. be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

1.2. New Zealand citizens studying at an overseas secondary school in the two years preceding tenure are able to apply if they meet all other conditions.

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1 This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc, except in the case of Te Tohu Paetahi which can be used as a pathway into an undergraduate degree-programme. Other candidates whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in the year of tenure can request special consideration by submitting a scholarship variation request at https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/Scholarship-FAQS.

2 Candidates who have undertaken Unistart papers at the University of Waikato are not excluded by this clause.
1.3. Candidates who are taking ONE ‘gap year’ in the year of application may also be considered, provided they have achieved both NCEA Level 2 and NCEA Level 3 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.

1.4. See Clause 5 for requirements to maintain scholarship eligibility after awarding.

2. Value and Tenure

2.1. The value of each Scholarship will be up to $28,000 over three years, subject to the recipient maintaining the required level of academic achievement (refer to clause 5.3) and choices made by the recipient in Year One and any additional funding the recipient may gain.

2.1.1. In all three years: $1,000 cash will be paid to the recipient after the withdrawal date of A Trimester.

2.1.2. In Year One: The recipient may choose either $10,000 towards accommodation fees in the University Halls of Residence OR the a smaller sum of $5,000 in cash, which will be paid in two instalments; one of $2,000 after the withdrawal deadline for A Trimester, and one of $3,000 after the withdrawal deadline for B trimester.

2.1.3. In Years Two and Three: The Scholarship will be paid as a tuition fees credit of up to $7,500. If funds remain, this will be put towards the Student Services Levy, with any remainder forfeited.

2.1.4. In Years Two and Three: If a recipient’s fees are covered by another scholarship then the recipient may request to receive a portion back as cash (up to $5,000 maximum), which will be paid after the withdrawal date of C Trimester.

2.2. 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 submit:

3.1.1. a Personal Statement (using the prescribed template) that sets out the following:
   (i) leadership experience
   (ii) community involvement and extracurricular activities

3.1.2. a CV of no more than two A4 pages in length

3.1.3. a copy of their NCEA School Results Summary

3.3. Each candidate must also request the submission of:

3.2.1. an online Academic Assessment which is to be completed by the candidate’s Secondary School; and

3.2.2. 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 whānau.

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3 Depending on whether the recipient selects an accommodation credit or a cash award in their first year, and on the value of their fees in years two and three.
4. Selection Panel and Selection Criteria

4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (in the Chair), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Māori, the Deputy Director Strategic Engagement, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor – Pacific, and the Scholarships Manager (or their nominees).

4.2. The Selection Panel will consider 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 as well as 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 their offer of a Scholarship via their MyWaikato portal and must accept by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

5.2. Awarding of the Scholarship will be conditional upon the recipients:

5.2.1. Achieving University Entrance;
5.2.2. Gaining admission to their undergraduate degree programme4; and
5.2.3. Enrolling full-time (i.e. 120 points, usually eight papers).

5.3. The tenure of the Scholarship may continue for consecutive periods of enrolment for up to three years’ duration, provided that the recipient:

5.3.1. remains enrolled full-time (i.e. 120 points, usually eight papers); and
5.3.2. achieves at least a B+ average across all papers taken in each trimester of tenure.

6. Other Conditions

6.1. Recipients must remain enrolled full-time for the period of tenure. Should a recipient withdraw from any papers, without adding sufficient papers to maintain an overall enrolment in a minimum of 120 points for the academic year, the University may ask for the Scholarship to be repaid.

6.2. Recipients who take up this Scholarship are expected to complete at least four trimesters of study at the University of Waikato. Those who withdraw their enrolment before the end of this period will normally be required to pay back the full sum of monies received.

6.3. The Scholarship may not be held in conjunction with any other University of Waikato scholarship or any other University of Waikato funding that includes either a tuition fees credit or accommodation credit as a component. The exception is where a scholarship is for financial hardship (e.g., the D.V. Bryant Trust University of Waikato Residential Scholarship). It may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

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

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4 This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc. However, candidates whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in the year of tenure can request special consideration by submitting a scholarship variation request at https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/Scholarship-FAQS
6.5. 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\(^5\), 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.

6.6. The Scholarship is not refundable to the student under any circumstances, although (in the case of tuition fees payments) a student who withdraws from the University may (under the provisions of the Fees Regulations) apply for a refund of tuition fees paid that were not covered by the Scholarship.

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

6.8. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations, provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

\(^5\) See Code of Student Conduct.