The Pacific Excellence Scholarship supports the University of Waikato’s commitment to recognise and foster the excellence of our Pacific students. The Scholarship was launched in 2018 and is awarded on the basis of meritorious achievement coupled with connection to the Pacific community. Normally, 25 Scholarships are offered each year.

1. **Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

   1.1. **To be eligible**, candidates must:

   1.1.1. have achieved NCEA Level 2 with at least Merit (or the equivalent through examinations such as the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) or the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination);
   1.1.2. be of Pacific Island descent;
   1.1.3. demonstrate involvement in, and commitment to, the Pacific community;
   1.1.4. be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance in the year of application;
   1.1.5. 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 of tenure; and
   1.1.6. be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

   1.2. 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 at least Merit (or the equivalent through examinations such as the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) or the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination).

   1.3. **Selection is based on:**

   1.3.1. academic ability;
   1.3.2. contribution to and/or positive engagement with the Pacific community; and
   1.3.3. commitment to succeed in university study.

   1.4. **To maintain eligibility**, students offered the Scholarship must:

   1.4.1. gain University Entrance;
   1.4.2. be accepted into an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato;
   1.4.3. In Year One, recipients must participate fully in the Imua Programme (the Pacific Student Success Coordinator will send a report to Scholarships);
   1.4.4. in each year of tenure enrol full-time as outlined in Clause 1.1.5 and achieve at least a B average across all papers.

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1 This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc., except for the Te Tohu Paetahi. Recipients 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 Variation Request here [https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request](https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request).

2 Candidates who have undertaken Unistart papers at the University of Waikato are *not* excluded by this clause.
2. Value and Awarding

2.1. The value of each Scholarship will be up to $15,000 (see clause 1.4 for ongoing requirements that could result in a lesser amount being awarded).

2.1.1. In Year One: The recipient will receive:
- $1,000 paid to the recipient as soon as practicable after the withdrawal date of A Trimester; and
- $9,000 to be put towards either accommodation fees in the University Halls of Residence OR to deferred tuition fees in years 2 and 3; deferred tuition fees will be split evenly between both years (i.e., $4,500 each year).

2.1.2. In Year Two: The recipient will receive a tuition fees credit of $3,000. (For those who have deferred $4,500 from year one, then they will receive a total of $7,500 in tuition fees credit).

2.1.3. In Year Three: The recipient will receive a tuition fees credit of $2,000. (For those who have deferred $4,500 from year one, then they will receive $6,500 in tuition fees credit).

2.2. In all cases, the Student Services Levy is not covered by the scholarship.

2.3. If in any year that the value of the scholarship is more than the tuition fees, the student will forfeit any remainder.

2.4. If a recipient is not eligible for Fees-Free under the NZ Government’s Fees-Free Tertiary Education Policy in Year One and does not opt for their award to be put towards accommodation, then the recipient may request (via the Variation Request Form: https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request), that the $9,000 be credited towards tuition fees in that year (not including the Student Services Levy) with the remainder of the Scholarship to be forfeited.

2.5. The tenure of the Scholarship will be up to three years (see clause 1.4 for ongoing eligibility requirements).

2.6. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of a Scholarship via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

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

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:

3.2.1. A Personal Statement (using the prescribed template) that sets out the following:
   a) Academic Achievements
   b) Future aspirations and motivation to succeed at University
   c) Community engagement and commitment to the Pacific community

3.3. Each candidate must also request the submission of two references:

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

3.2.3. A reference attesting to the candidate’s activities and roles (especially those with a Pacific focus) in the wider community. The referee must not be a member of the immediate applicant’s family.
4. Selection Panel

4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pacific) or nominee, the Pacific Student Success Coordinator, the Future Student Advisor – Pacific, and a Pacific staff member appointed by the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pacific).

4.2. The Selection Panel will consider the applications, and may contact referees on a confidential basis for further relevant information.

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

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

5. Other Conditions

5.1. If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance, another scholarship, or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.

5.2. 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.

5.3. 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.

5.4. 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 specifically for financial hardship. It may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

5.5. 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, 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.

5.6. The Scholarship is not refundable to the student under any circumstances, although (in the case of 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.

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

5.8. 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.

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3 See Code of Student Conduct.