The Sir Edmund Hillary Senior Leader Scholarship was developed in 2019 to provide a pathway for Sir Edmund Hillary Scholars who have demonstrated both exceptional leadership and excellent grades during their undergraduate studies and who will benefit from further study in a higher qualification. Up to 10 Scholarships will be awarded annually.

1. Purpose
   1.1. To assist Sir Edmund Hillary Scholars who demonstrate excellence in leadership and academic ability as well as alignment to the values of Sir Edmund Hillary to continue studying at a higher level at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility
   2.1. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must:
       2.1.1 be a current or previous Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar intending to enrol full- or part-time in a higher qualification\(^1\) at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure; and
       2.1.2 have already graduated, or be expecting to graduate within the next six months, as a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar; and
       2.1.3 have achieved a minimum grade average of A- for their most recent 120 points of study; and
       2.1.4 be accepted into their programme of study.
   2.2. Previous recipients of this Scholarship may apply for it again as long as they received at least an A- average during the year they were supported by the Scholarship and meet all of the other eligibility criteria above.

3. Value and Tenure
   3.1. The Scholarship will include:
       3.1.1 A tuition fees credit of up to $7,500 that will be applied directly to the recipient’s University of Waikato tuition fees (not including the Student Services Levy) in the year of tenure.
       a) The amount offered for this Scholarship is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and will based on criteria such as, but not limited to, total available funding, grades, number of credits enrolled, number of applicants, period of enrolment, etc.

\(^1\) Includes Honours, PGDip, Masters and Doctoral.
Some Scholarship recipients will enrol part-time as a result of their individual sporting or creative/performing art commitments. In these circumstances, the annual value of their Scholarship will be pro-rata.

Recipients are encouraged to apply for other funding in support of their studies. Where fees are fully or partly covered by another scholarship, the Hillary Senior Leader Scholarship will be credited towards the recipient’s University of Waikato tuition fees first, with any remainder paid directly to the recipient as cash.

A 12-month membership to UniRec.

Continued involvement in the existing Leadership Pathway Programme offered by the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme, and ongoing support from the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager.

Recipients will be eligible to apply for the Sir Edmund Hillary Medal (if they meet the eligibility criteria of that award).

The Scholarship will have a tenure of one year, and may be held on more than one occasion (i.e., previous holders of the Scholarship may apply for it again).

4. Application

The closing dates for online applications will be **31 October and 30 April each year**.

As part of the online application process, each candidate must submit:

A personal statement outlining:

a) Why undertaking a higher degree is important to the candidate, their future ambitions and ability to represent the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme;

b) Their previous leadership experience, especially in regards to their sport or art, community and at the University during their time as a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar, and their leadership plans for the year of tenure;

c) How their achievements demonstrate alignment to the values of Sir Edmund Hillary; and

d) Any other information that may be of relevance to the Selection Panel.

Applicants should seek submission of two references in support of their application that attest to the applicant’s leadership qualities and potential.

The High Performance Student Scholarship Manager will provide details at the selection meeting on the previous performance of the applicant in regards to their grades, commitment, involvement and engagement in the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme.
5. Selection Panel and Criteria

5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the members of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme Executive, which includes: the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (in the Chair), the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager, the Scholarships Manager, an academic representative for Māori, an academic representative for sport, and an academic representative for art.

5.2. In awarding the Scholarship, the Selection Panel will primarily consider the potential of the applicant to be a leader, their previous academic performance, and their ability to ably represent the University and the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme.

5.3. Short-listed applicants may be requested to attend an interview.

5.4. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a decision if it finds no candidate(s) of sufficient merit.

5.5. The Selection Panel’s decisions are final and no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

6. Awarding

6.1. The successful applicant(s) will be advised of the offer of the Scholarship via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

6.2. Recipients of this Scholarship may study at either the Hamilton or Tauranga campus (or both).

6.3. Through the School of Graduate Research, the University monitors recipients’ performance and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a recipient’s performance is unsatisfactory.

7. Other Conditions

7.1. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize unless the conditions of the other award preclude 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 University’s Scholarships Policy.

7.3. In accepting the Scholarship, recipients agree to be involved in Hillary Scholar events as leaders and role-models to new Sir Edmund Hillary Scholars.

7.4. 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 University or the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme into disrepute\(^2\), or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the

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\(^2\) See [Code of Student Conduct](https://www.waikato.ac.nz).
University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.

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

7.6. The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations.