The University of Waikato Distinguished Alumni Scholarship was established in 2021. It was funded in the first instance by Dr Andrew Smith, DAA 2019, who was the University’s first Rhodes Scholar. Since 2009, Dr Smith has been the CEO of Prolife Foods, following a strong career in international consumer and grocery markets. Dr Smith gifted the funding for this Scholarship, which aims to help students in their final year who are completing either a conjoint degree or a degree with a double major, including both a Management discipline and a discipline from one (or more) of the Schools of Science, Computing and Mathematical Sciences, or Engineering. Up to twelve $4,000 scholarships are available each year. The Scholarship will be opened for the first time in 2022 for students completing their studies in 2023.

1. Purpose
   1.1. The Scholarship provides financial support to outstanding students in their final year of study in a conjoint degree, or degree with a double major, spanning management and the sciences. It is expected to encourage the best students to complete more than the minimum degree qualification.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria
   2.1. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must:
       a) be enrolled full-time (i.e. 120 points) in the year preceding the final year of their conjoint degree or degree with a double major that includes majors drawn from the Waikato Management School and one (or more) of the Schools of Science, Computing and Mathematical Sciences, or Engineering; and
       b) have achieved at least an ‘A-’ average for their most recent 240 points of study at the University of Waikato; and
       c) be likely to make an impact in the business and science communities after graduation.

3. Value, Tenure, and Awarding
   3.1. **Up to 12 scholarships** will be awarded each year with a value of **$4,000** each.
       a) $2,000 will be paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal date of A Trimester.
       b) $2,000 will be paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal date of B Trimester, and is conditional on the student passing all courses in A Trimester.
   3.2. The Scholarship will have a tenure of one year and this will be the year following application (i.e. the recipient’s final year of study towards their conjoint degree or degree with a double major).
3.3. The successful applicant 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.

3.4. 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.

4. Application

4.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 November each year**.

4.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must submit:
   a) a Personal Statement (using the prescribed template) that outlines the following:
      o Why completing their conjoint degree or degree with a double major is important to the candidate and their future ambitions;
      o Any impact, or intention to make an impact, in the business and/or science community after completion of the degree;
      o Any financial circumstances that are relevant; and
      o Any other information that may be of relevance to the Selection Panel.
   b) As part of the application process, the candidate must also request the submission of a confidential reference from someone who can attest to their character. This may not be an immediate member of their family.

5. Selection Panel

5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, an academic staff member in Waikato Management School and an academic staff member from the appropriate STEM subjects (both appointed by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee).

5.2. The Selection Panel may request a meeting with candidates as part of the selection process.

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

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

6. Other Conditions

6.1. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

6.2. 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.
6.3. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their Scholarship.

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.

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, University or Donor(s) into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or 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.

6.6. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato and/or the Donor.

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

¹ See Code of Student Conduct.