

The Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship is one of the University of Waikato's premier school leaver scholarships. It is for those with strengths in three key pillars: 1) high academic achievement, 2) excellence in a sporting code or creative or performing art, and 3) strong leadership qualities or potential. Recipients will be supported during their studies with a tailored leadership and personal development programme. Up to 15 scholarships will be awarded each year. For more information, visit the website: <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/search/hillary>

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. To be eligible, candidates must:

- 1.1.1. demonstrate high academic achievement with a minimum of NCEA Level 2 with Merit, 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. demonstrate significant achievement to date and potential to further excel in:
 - a) a sporting code, and/or
 - b) a creative or performing art;
- 1.1.3. demonstrate strong leadership or strong potential for leadership;
- 1.1.4. be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance in the year of application (Gap Year students see Clause 1.2);
- 1.1.5. be intending to enrol in an undergraduate degree programme¹ at the University of Waikato for the first time² in the year following application; 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 but must have achieved a minimum of **both** NCEA Level 2 with Merit **and** NCEA Level 3 with Merit, or the equivalent through examinations such as the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination, or the Australian Secondary School examinations.

1.3. Selection of recipients will be based on:

- 1.3.1. Demonstrated strengths in the three key pillars;
- 1.3.2. the Hillary Programme's capability, in conjunction with relevant local agencies, to provide access to facilities and developmental support appropriate to the sport or creative or performing art; and
- 1.3.3. the applicant's ranking by partners. For the current list of creative/performing arts and sporting codes supported, refer to the Hillary Scholarship website

¹ This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc. except for Te Tohu Paetahi, which can be used as a pathway into an undergraduate degree programme. Any other candidates whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study must request special consideration by submitting a 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.

(<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/search/hillary/partners>). For the ranking criteria used, also refer to the website (<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/search/hillary/apply>).

1.4. **Ongoing eligibility** and scholarship maintenance:

- 1.4.1. candidates must, by the withdrawal deadline of A Trimester in the year following application, have gained University Entrance and admission to their undergraduate degree programme.
- 1.4.2. See also Clause 6.

2. Value

- 2.1. The value of each Scholarship is **up to \$10,000 per annum** for the duration of the recipient's undergraduate degree programme, subject to the recipient maintaining the required level of performance (refer to Clause 6) and number of points enrolled (see Appendix 1).
 - 2.1.1. **In Year One:** If a recipient is **not eligible for Fees-Free** under the NZ Government's Fees-Free Tertiary Education Policy, then the Scholarship will first be credited to the recipient's University tuition fees. The remainder may then be credited towards accommodation fees in the University's Halls of Residence **OR** paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal deadline for C Trimester.
 - 2.1.2. **In Year One:** If a recipient is **eligible for Fees-Free** under the NZ Government's Fees-Free Tertiary Education Policy, then the Scholarship may either be credited towards accommodation fees in the University's Halls of Residence **OR** the recipient may receive a smaller sum of up to \$5,000 which will be paid directly to the recipient in two equal instalments, the first after the withdrawal deadline for A Trimester and the second after the withdrawal deadline for B Trimester.
 - 2.1.3. **For Years Two onwards:** The Scholarship will first be credited towards the recipient's University of Waikato tuition fees, with the remainder paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal deadline for C Trimester.
- 2.2. Some Scholarship recipients will enrol part-time as a result of their individual sporting or creative/performing art programme. In these circumstances, the annual value of their Scholarship will vary (refer to the table in Appendix 1 for further details).

3. Application

- 3.1. The closing date for online applications is **31 August each year**. Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible.
- 3.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must submit:
 - 3.2.1. a Personal Statement (using the prescribed template) outlining:
 - a) how their achievements demonstrate alignment with the values of Sir Edmund Hillary in terms of:
 - i) excellence in a sport or creative or performing art and future performance goals (where the applicant has more than one area of excellence ensure these are clearly identified; no more than two areas of excellence may be listed);
 - ii) taking on leadership roles and actively participating in groups, organisations and/or communities; and

- iii) striving to succeed academically; and
 - b) their clear plans/aspirations/goals for the future.
 - 3.2.2. a CV (maximum two A4 pages, including details of any awards and/or media coverage);
 - 3.2.3. a link to a three-minute video of the applicant describing why they should be considered to be a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar and what it would mean for them to be on the programme; and
 - 3.2.4. an up-to-date copy of their NCEA School Results Summary.
 - 3.2.5. **Creative and performing art applicants only.** All dance, design, Māori creative & performing arts, music, screen and media, and theatre studies applicants are required to provide accessible links to copies of creative works or recordings of performances in support of their application. Other arts applicants may choose to do so if they feel such material would be helpful to the Selection Panel.
 - 3.2.6. **'Gap year' applicants only** are required to provide an additional statement (no more than one page) outlining what they accomplished in the year between secondary and tertiary study.
- 3.3. Each candidate must also request the submission of:
- 3.3.1. an online Academic Assessment which is to be completed by the candidate's Secondary School; and
 - 3.3.2. a reference from a person or agency relevant to the sporting code(s) or creative or performing art(s) concerned, attesting to the applicant's abilities in that sport or art, potential to further excel, and leadership qualities and potential. The referee must not be an immediate member of the applicant's whānau.

4. Selection Process and Panel

- 4.1. The partners will be sent the applications for ranking (a list of the creative/performing arts and sporting codes currently supported can be found at this link: <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/search/hillary/partners>). The partners will:
 - 4.1.1. consider and rank the applications and may contact referees on a confidential basis for further relevant information;
 - 4.1.2. may consult with representatives of relevant sporting or creative agencies to assess the standing of any achievements listed in the applicant's portfolio; and
 - 4.1.3. may, at their discretion, require the applicant to undertake an interview or audition.
- 4.2. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (in the Chair) or nominee, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori (or nominee), the Scholarships Manager (or nominee), an academic representative for sport (appointed by the Chair), an academic representative for creative performance (appointed by the Chair), and the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager.
- 4.3. The Selection Panel will consider the applications and rankings provided by the appropriate partners and determine recipients based on the Selection Criteria in Clause 1.3.
- 4.4. The Selection Panel's decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. Awarding

- 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. Acceptance of the offer carries with it a commitment by the student to participate in a leadership and personal development programme provided by the University to assist the student to maximise performance in their sporting or artistic endeavour, and develop leadership skills, while maintaining academic standards.
- 5.3. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 5.4. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

6. Tenure and Continued Retention of the Scholarship

- 6.1. The Scholarship is awarded initially for one year and must be taken up in the year for which it is awarded.
- 6.2. The continued annual tenure of the Scholarship for the consecutive period(s) of enrolment required to complete the relevant undergraduate degree programme will be conditional on the recipient:
 - 6.2.1. achieving at least a 'B+' grade average across all papers taken each year; **and**
 - 6.2.2. sustaining a level of performance in their sporting code or creative or performing art, to the satisfaction of the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager and the School of Graduate Research; **and**
 - 6.2.3. fulfilling the leadership and personal development aspects of the programme, to the satisfaction of the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager and the School of Graduate Research.
- 6.3. Through the School of Graduate Research, and in particular the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager, the University regularly monitors the students' performance, and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a student's progress, conduct or participation is unsatisfactory.

7. Other Conditions

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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).
- 7.3. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize (e.g., the Prime Minister's Scholarship), unless the conditions of the other award preclude this. Where fees are fully or partially covered by another scholarship, recipients will be eligible to receive any unused fees entitlement from the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship as a cash award, noting that:

- 7.3.1. The total cash which a student receives (from both any such payment and any original cash entitlement (Clause 2.1.3) combined) will be capped at half of the value of their award, and as follows: enrolled in 120 points or more = \$5,000; 90 points = \$3,750; 60 points = \$2,500; 30 points = \$1,250
- 7.3.2. This cash entitlement will be paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal deadline for C Trimester.
- 7.4. If, during the tenure of the Scholarship, a student withdraws from any paper(s) after the University's withdrawal deadline, they will be liable for the relevant fees. In special circumstances (such as unavoidable withdrawal from study due to commitments directly associated with the student's sporting, creative or performing art endeavours consistent with the intent of the Scholarship), the Scholarships Committee may offer an exemption or waiver in respect of the provisions of these regulations if an appeal for withdrawal on compassionate grounds is unsuccessful.
- 7.5. Scholarship recipients in the sports of basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rowing and rugby will play for the respective Waikato University Club, being University of Waikato Basketball Club, Hamilton Star University Cricket Club, Waikato Unicol Association Football Club, University of Waikato Hockey Club, University of Waikato Netball Club, University of Waikato Rowing Club, and University of Waikato Rugby Football Club. Under exceptional circumstances, exemptions may be granted after consultation with the relevant sports partner and the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager.
- 7.6. With regard to representative competition, it is preferred that Scholarship recipients represent their sport in the region in which they are studying; Waikato for students at the Hamilton campus or the Bay of Plenty for students studying at the Tauranga campus. However, a Hillary Scholar may, by agreement of the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager, continue to represent their 'home' (or existing) region if it is within the University's primary recruitment area, refer to Appendix 2, and if:
- 7.6.1. the Scholar is in receipt of a Prime Minister's Scholarship; and/or
- 7.6.2. the existing support structures available to the Scholar are such that it would be a disadvantage for the Scholar to change representative status.
- 7.7. Where approval is given for a Hillary Scholar to represent their 'home' (or existing) region, a condition of this approval will be that the Scholar will be asked to support the sport in the area in which they are studying. This will be discussed as part of the Leadership and Personal Development Programme.
- 7.8. 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 University or the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme into disrepute³, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The recipient of a Scholarship will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 7.9. 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.

³ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Appendix 1: Total value of a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship per annum as calculated based on enrolled points

Points Enrolled	Scholarship Value
0 – 15 points	\$1,250
16 – 30 points	\$2,500
31 – 45 points	\$3,750
46 – 60 points	\$5,000
61 – 75 points	\$6,250
76 – 90 points	\$7,500
91 – 105 points	\$8,750
106 – 120 points (or more)	\$10,000

Primary Recruitment Area



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

