

# Thomas Pay-it-Forward Scholarship – 2020



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

The Thomas Pay-it-Forward Scholarship recognises that for many students financial circumstances may hinder their opportunity to continue their university study and complete their degree. This Scholarship was established in 2019 and was made possible through the generous donation of the [Thomas family](#).

The Scholarship will be awarded primarily on the basis of academic potential and serious financial hardship and/or extraordinary personal circumstances that may hinder the candidate's ability to complete their undergraduate, masters or doctoral degree. Up to two Scholarships will be awarded annually, each providing a tuition fees credit of up to \$5,000.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. To assist current University of Waikato students who demonstrate financial and/or personal hardship to continue studying and complete their undergraduate, masters or doctoral degree at the University of Waikato.

## 2. Eligibility

- 2.1. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must:
  - a) be intending to enrol full-time (i.e. 120 points) in the second year or above of their first undergraduate degree at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure, **OR**
  - b) be a full-time student completing either a Masters degree or a PhD at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure; and
  - c) be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident; and
  - d) meet the conditions outlined in clause 7.1 in regards to co-tenure.
- 2.2. Previous recipients of this Scholarship may apply again as long as they passed all of their papers during the year they were supported by the Scholarship and meet the eligibility criteria above.

## 3. Value and Tenure

- 3.1. Each Scholarship will have a value of **up to \$5,000** and will be credited directly to the recipient's University of Waikato tuition fees in the year of tenure.
- 3.2. The Scholarship will have a tenure of one year.

## 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:
  - Why completing their degree is important to the candidate and their future ambitions;
  - Financial hardship;
  - Any other extraordinary personal circumstances that may hinder the candidate's ability to complete their degree (if applicable); and
  - Any other information that may be of relevance to the Selection Panel.

## **5. Selection Panel and Criteria**

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of two members of the Scholarships Committee (one as Chair) nominated by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee, and the Sponsor or their nominee.
- 5.2. In awarding the Scholarship, the Selection Panel will consider the candidates' academic potential, financial hardship and/or extraordinary personal circumstances.
- 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. Awarding**

- 6.1. The successful applicant(s) 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.
- 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 not be held in conjunction with any other University of Waikato scholarship that contains a tuition fees credit, except those specifically for financial hardship (e.g., the DV Bryant Residential Scholarship). It may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 7.2. 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.

- 7.3. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship.
- 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 Scholarship, University or Sponsor into disrepute<sup>1</sup>, 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.
- 7.5. The Scholarship is not refundable to the student under any circumstances, although (in the case of fees payment) 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.
- 7.6. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 7.7. The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> See [Code of Student Conduct](#).