The University of Waikato International Excellence Scholarship was established in 2015 to promote educational opportunities, foster internationalisation and support talented international applicants who are enrolling as new students into undergraduate or postgraduate programmes¹ at the University of Waikato. The Scholarships have a value of up to NZD$20,000 for undergraduate students and up to NZD$15,000 for postgraduate students, and will be awarded to applicants who have demonstrated excellent academic achievement. Successful applicants may also be called upon to become global ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

The Scholarship will be applied to tuition fees only and is not transferrable.

1. **Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

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

   1.1.1. be applying to enrol full-time in an undergraduate or postgraduate programme¹, as a new international student to the University of Waikato;

   1.1.2. have received a conditional or unconditional offer of place from the University of Waikato (including a pathway offer for the Certificate of Attainment in English Language; International Diploma (Business); International Diploma (Computer Science) or Diploma of Postgraduate Preparation (Pre-Masters)) at the University of Waikato;

   1.1.3. have a minimum GPA-equivalency of B+ in the most recent qualification that was used to gain entrance to your qualification at the University of Waikato;

   1.1.4. **not currently be enrolled at the University of Waikato** (including the Certificate of Attainment in English Language, the Certificate of Attainment in Foundation Studies, the International Diploma (Business) or International Diploma (Computer Science); Diploma of Postgraduate Preparation (Pre-Masters) or any other pre-degree pathway programme);

   1.1.5. not have paid fees at the time of application;

   1.1.6. not be coming to the University of Waikato via a sponsoring body²;

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¹ All postgraduate programmes except the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) are eligible.

² Examples of a sponsoring body are: governments, institutions and employers who fund student scholarships for study.
1.1.7. not be coming to the University of Waikato on a Guaranteed Credit Arrangement³, or through a study abroad or student exchange agreement;

1.2. Selection is based on:

1.2.1. The basis of academic merit (equivalent B+ minimum in the most recent qualification that was used to gain entrance to your qualification at the University of Waikato).

1.2.2. Potential to become global ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

1.3. On-going eligibility is conditional on recipients:

1.3.1. Enrolling within 12 months of the dates outlined in the Offer of Place and commencing a full-time programme/s of study of at least 120 points at the University of Waikato in the year(s) of tenure.
   a) The original scholarship offer is valid only within 12 months of the dates outlined in the Offer of Place unless deferral is approved.
   b) If for any reason a recipient is unable to complete enrolment and begin study at University of Waikato within the same calendar year, they may request a deferral of their scholarship by writing to scholarships@waikato.ac.nz. Approval is at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee, and deferrals will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

1.3.2. Residing in New Zealand for the entire tenure of the scholarship and remaining studying full-time on campus unless the following applies:
   a) Students enrolling in the University’s China Learning Centre https://www.waikato.ac.nz/international/china-learning-centre are exempted from the above requirement (1.3.2).

1.3.3. Maintaining an international student status within the University’s student system during the entire tenure of the scholarship.

1.3.3. Where offers include scholarships with tenure of more than one year, then additional years are conditional on:
   a) the recipient passing all papers in the first year, and where applicable, in their second year.
   b) The recipient enrolling full-time in consecutive years (i.e., no suspensions will be permitted between years).

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³ Guaranteed credit arrangements are where an institution has a formal agreement with the University of Waikato whereby a student can study part of their degree at the partner institution and credit that study towards 1 – 2 years of study at the University of Waikato.
2. Awarding, Value and Tenure

2.1. The number of scholarships offered, and value of each scholarship offered is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and will be based on criteria such as: funding available, intended programme of study, duration of intended programme of study, number of credits enrolled and GPA equivalency. It may also be based on but not limited to financial need, total available funding, number of applicants, and chosen degree programme.

2.2. The scholarship will be applied directly to the recipient’s tuition fees for the agreed programme of study either at the time of enrolment or once their enrolment is completed.

2.3. For undergraduate students, the Scholarship will have a value and tenure as follows:

2.3.1. One year tenure: If a recipient is awarded up to $10,000, they will receive this awarded amount in their first year of full time (or a minimum of 120 points) study.

2.3.2. More than one year tenure: If a recipient is offered an award of more than $10,000, then the following will apply:

   a) Two years tenure: If a recipient is awarded a total of up to $15,000, they will receive their initial $10,000 in their first year of study as outlined above, and will receive the remaining $5,000 in the second year of full-time study.

   b) Three years tenure: If a recipient is awarded up to $20,000, they will receive their initial $10,000 in their first year of study as outlined above, and will receive an additional $10,000 ($5,000 in their second year and $5,000 in their third year of full-time study).

2.4. For postgraduate students, the scholarship will have a tenure of one year only and a value of up to NZD$15,000, which will be applied to the first year of full-time postgraduate study.

2.5. Applicants will be advised of the result of their application through their MyWaikato portal.

2.6. Successful applicants will receive a scholarship offer which is valid for 14 days. Offers must be accepted by the date indicated or the offer will lapse and no longer be valid.

   a) After accepting the Scholarship Offer, recipients will receive an official Scholarship Offer Letter to assist in any student visa application.
2.6.2. Recipients may pay the full tuition fee amount minus the value of the scholarship in the offer. They must provide their Scholarship Offer Letter to Immigration New Zealand in order to do so.

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.

2.8. The maximum possible tenure is up to three years.

3. Application

3.1. Applications for the Scholarship can be submitted at any time and decisions will normally be made within 8 to 12 weeks of the time of application.

3.2. Applicants must upload all of the following as part of their online application:

3.2.1. their conditional or unconditional offer of place from the University of Waikato;

3.2.2. a personal statement that sets out the following (on the template):

   a) In 100 words or less tell us why you want to study at the University of Waikato?
   b) In 100 words or less tell us how you will be a global ambassador for the University of Waikato?

4. Selection Panel

4.1. Applications will be ranked and recommended according to their Grade Point Average by the University’s International Regional Managers and forwarded to the Selection Panel for consideration.

4.2. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee and the Director – International (or their nominees).

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

5. Other Conditions

5.1. The Scholarship cannot be held in conjunction with any other University of Waikato funded tuition fees scholarship, award, bursary or other such funding, nor can it be held in conjunction with any Education New Zealand scholarships.

5.2. To ensure ongoing eligibility, recipients must maintain an international student status within the University’s student system during the tenure of the Scholarship.
5.3. If, during the tenure of the Scholarship, a recipient’s circumstances change in such a manner that their continued eligibility for the Scholarship may be affected, they must inform scholarships@waikato.ac.nz immediately.

5.4. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder is not following the approved programme of study, withdraws from the University during the tenure of the Scholarship, brings the Scholarship or University into disrepute⁴, or is not otherwise complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The recipient will have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.

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

5.6. Any ambassadorial duties will be at the discretion of the International Office. Any queries in regards to these duties can be made to gowaikato@waikato.ac.nz.

5.7. 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.

⁴ See Student Code of Conduct.