The **Acorn Foundation Beverly Perszyk Scholarship** was established to financially assist first-year undergraduate students studying full-time at the University of Waikato in Tauranga, especially those who might have personal challenges, or financial and/or cultural challenges to overcome in order to attend university.

**Eligibility**
To be eligible, applicants must:

a) be the first member of their immediate family/whānau to attend university (i.e., neither of the applicant’s birth parents nor a full or half sibling can have undertaken tertiary studies); and

b) be intending to enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises 120-points) in the first year of an undergraduate degree at the University of Waikato Tauranga Campus;

c) be accepted into their programme of study; and

d) be a New Zealand citizen of permanent resident.

**Value and Tenure**
One Scholarship will be awarded each year and shall have a value of **$3,000**, paid in instalments as outlined under ‘Awarding’. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of two years.

**Awarding and Conditions for Retention**
The Scholarship will be paid in two instalments; the second instalment is conditional (see below):

a) **Instalment one is $1,000** and will be paid in one lump sum after the withdrawal date for A Trimester in year 1.

b) **Instalment two is $2,000** and will be paid in one lump sum after the withdrawal date for A Trimester in Year 2. Instalment two is conditional on the recipient passing all papers in Year 1.
Application

The closing date for applications is **15 October annually**; applications are made electronically through the University of Waikato online application process.

The following information must be included with the online application:

a) A personal statement (on the prescribed form) that outlines the following:
   - What it means to the applicant and/or their family to be the first-in-family to attend university;
   - Future aspirations and motivation to succeed at University; and
   - why the course of study will enhance their life-long opportunities.

b) A statement of confirmation from someone (a non-family member) who can confirm that you are the first in your family to attend University;

c) All School Leaver candidates must supply a copy of their latest NCEA School Results Summary.

d) School leavers must also request the submission of an Academic Assessment from their school, on the required form sent directly to the school after submission of the application.

Selection Criteria and Selection Panel

Awards will be made on the evidence provided in the applicants’ personal statements (as outlined above under “Application”).

The Selection Panel will be organised annually by the Acorn Foundation and may include any or all of the following: representatives of the Acorn Foundation (one of whom will serve as chair), and a representative of the University of Waikato’s Tauranga Campus staff.

The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit in that year. The Selection Panel’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

Other Conditions

The Scholarship may be held with any other prize, scholarship or award provided the regulations of the other award(s) allow this.

The Acorn Foundation (through the University of Waikato) and/or University of Waikato may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the Acorn Foundation, Scholarship, or the University into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship.

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

The Acorn Foundation may from time to time vary these regulations².

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¹ See Code of Student Conduct.
² Last updated 04 June 2020