The University of Waikato International Excellence – NZ School Leavers Scholarship was established in 2019 to promote educational opportunities, foster internationalisation, and support talented onshore international students who are enrolling for the first time into an undergraduate programme at the University of Waikato.

Students must have completed an entire year studying at NCEA Level 2 and/or 3 at a New Zealand high school in one of the previous two years prior to application. The Scholarship has a value of up to NZD$10,000 and will be awarded to successful applicants who demonstrate excellent academic achievement and strong potential to become ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

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

1. Eligibility

1.1. To be eligible, applicants must:

a) not currently be enrolled at the University of Waikato;
b) not have paid fees at the time of application;
c) be applying to enrol for the first time in an undergraduate degree at the University of Waikato;
d) have studied in a New Zealand high school and be an international student who:
   i. Has completed studying at NCEA Level 2 and achieved at least a Merit endorsement if students are applying in the August round, or
   ii. Be studying at NCEA Level 3 and be expecting to achieve at least a Merit endorsement if students are applying in the December round;
   iii. Students who finished NCEA Level 3 in 2020 and are taking a ‘gap year’ in 2021 may also apply for the Scholarship, provided they meet the eligibility criteria and comply with the requirements of Immigration New Zealand (INZ) for the full tenure of the Scholarship;

e) not be classified as a domestic student (see clause 6.3.e);
f) have received a Conditional or Unconditional Offer of Place from the University of Waikato;
g) in the year of tenure, be commencing a full-time programme of study of at least 120 points;
h) not be coming to the University of Waikato via a sponsoring body¹; and

¹Examples of a sponsoring body are: governments, institutions and employers who fund student scholarships for study.
i) not be coming to the University of Waikato on a Guaranteed Credit Arrangement\(^2\), or through a study abroad or student exchange agreement.

2. Value and Tenure
   2.1. The Scholarship will have a value of up to NZD$10,000 and will be applied directly to the recipient’s tuition fees for their chosen programme/s of study once their enrolment is completed. The amount offered is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and will be based on criteria such as, but not limited to, total available funding, period of enrolment, grades, financial need, number of credits enrolled, number of applicants.
   2.2. The tenure of the Scholarship is one year.
   2.3. The Scholarship may be taken up in A Trimester only, in the year of award.

3. Application
   3.1. Applications for the Scholarship must be received through the online system by 31 August for NCEA Level 2 round, or 15 December for NCEA Level 3, each year.
   3.2. International students cannot be enrolled at the University of Waikato at the time of application (those who have completed Unistart papers may apply).
   3.3. Applicants must upload the following as part of their online application:
      a) their conditional or unconditional offer of place from the University of Waikato; and
      b) a personal statement that sets out the following (on the template provided):
         - What are your career goals/aspirations?
         - How will an international education experience at the University of Waikato help you to achieve these goals?
         - What additional qualities/skills do you have that make you an ideal candidate for this Scholarship and an ambassador for the University of Waikato?
   3.4 As part of the application process, each candidate must also request the following document to be submitted confidentially to the School of Graduate Research:
      a) A completed Principal’s Assessment form (using the appropriate template provided)

4. Selection Process and Panel
   4.1. Scholarships will be offered on the basis of academic merit (a minimum of NCEA Merit at Level 2 and/or 3) and future potential to become global ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

\(^2\)Guaranteed credit arrangements are where an institution outside of New Zealand 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.
4.2. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of Scholarships Committee (or nominee) as Chairperson, and three Regional Managers nominated by the Deputy Director International Office.

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

5. Awarding

5.1. All applicants will be advised of the result of their application.

5.2. Successful applicants will receive a Scholarship offer which is valid for two weeks. Recipients must confirm their acceptance of the Scholarship by the date requested or the offer will lapse and no longer be valid.

5.3. On receipt of the acceptance form, recipients will receive an official Scholarship letter as confirmation of the acceptance of the Scholarship. This letter may be included with their student visa application. Students may choose to pay the full tuition fee amount minus the Scholarship amount but must provide their Scholarship letter to Immigration New Zealand in order to do so.

5.4. If for any reason a recipient is unable to take up their offer of Scholarship in the semester for which it is offered, they may request a deferral of their Scholarship. This request must be made in writing to the School of Graduate Research – Scholarships: scholarships@waikato.ac.nz
   a) Deferrals will only be considered if the semester requested is within the same calendar year for which the Scholarship was offered.

5.5. If the Scholarship offer is not accepted, or a request for deferral is not received within the time allowed to accept/defer, the offer of Scholarship will be withdrawn.

6. Other Conditions

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

6.2. 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.

6.3. If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.

6.4. 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.

6.5. 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 disrepute3, or is not otherwise complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The

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3 See Student Code of Conduct.
recipient will have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.

6.6. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship, and the Scholarships Policy.

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

6.8. 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.