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 3 at a New Zealand high school in the year 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, be an international student who has completed Year 13 and who complies with the requirements of Immigration New Zealand (INZ) for the full tenure of the Scholarship**;
   e) **gain University Entrance and achieve at least a Merit endorsement at NCEA Level 3, or equivalent**;
   f) **not be classified as a domestic student (see clause 6.3.e)**;
   g) **have received a Conditional or Unconditional Offer of Place from the University of Waikato**;
   h) **in the year of tenure, be commencing a full-time programme of study of at least 120 points**;
   i) **not be coming to the University of Waikato via a sponsoring body\(^1\)**; and
   j) **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.
2.2. The tenure of the Scholarship is one year.
2.3. The Scholarship may be taken up in A Semester only, in the year of award.

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\(^1\) Examples of a sponsoring body are: governments, institutions and employers who fund student scholarships for study.

\(^2\) 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.
3. Application

3.1. Applications for the Scholarship must be received through the online system by 15 January 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 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 documents 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 Level 3 Merit, or equivalent) and future potential to become global ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

4.2. Applications will be ranked by academic merit by the University’s International Regional Managers and forwarded to the Selection Panel for consideration.

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

4.4. 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 or accommodation fees scholarship or award, nor can it be held in conjunction with any Education New Zealand scholarships.

6.2. The Scholarship is not refundable to the student.

6.3. For any of the following reasons, the Scholarships Committee may terminate a Scholarship, and recoup any funds dispersed, if a recipient:

   a) withdraws from papers without adding sufficient papers to maintain full-time enrolment,
   b) changes to a qualification not covered under this Scholarship,
   c) fails to make satisfactory progress in their first semester of study,
   d) does not comply with the conditions of their student visa,
   e) changes to domestic student status within the tenure of the Scholarship,
   f) withdraws from the University during the year of tenure of the Scholarship,
   g) brings the University into disrepute\(^3\), or
   h) is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship.

6.4. The recipient will have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate a Scholarship by writing to the School of Graduate Research – Scholarships, who will forward the appeal to the Scholarships Executive.

6.5. In signing and returning the Scholarship acceptance form, the student will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the regulations of this Scholarship.

6.6. Recipients of this Scholarship agree to participate, if required, in any promotional activity and events organised by the University of Waikato during the tenure of the Scholarship.

6.7. The Scholarships Committee may vary these regulations from time-to-time as long as the intent of the Scholarship is not varied.

\(^3\) See [Code of Student Conduct](#).