**BACKGROUND**

Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao Graduate Excellence Awards support graduate students studying in the University of Waikato’s Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies who achieve well academically and demonstrate good character, particularly through their cultural/academic and community involvement.

1. **Eligibility**
   1.1. To be eligible, applicants must:
      1.1.1. be enrolled full-time (in a graduate (Hons, PGDip or Masters) degree in the Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies in the year of application (in exceptional circumstances part-time enrolment may be considered);
      1.1.2. be undertaking a dissertation or thesis
      1.1.3. a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of A- expected, and,
      1.1.4. be a New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or international student.

2. **Value**
   2.1. The value of the award will be up to $5,000 for full-time students.

3. **Application**
   3.1. The closing dates for applications is **11 August 2019**.
   3.2. To complete the online application, applicants must:
      a) Complete and upload the prescribed Personal Statement form, detailing the following:
         - previous academic achievements;
         - outline of study intentions (for the year of application and beyond); and,
         - suitability for the Award (focusing on the Award’s criteria, including contribution to the academic, cultural and community life of the University of Waikato
         - outline of financial circumstances
      b) Upload a brief CV (no longer than four A4 pages); and,
      c) Name the persons willing to provide an academic reference and a character reference.

4. **Selection Criteria**
   4.1. The Awards will be offered on the basis of:
      a) academic excellence;
      b) commitment to completion of their programme of study;
      c) the applicant’s programme of study having demonstrable relevance to the priorities of the Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies; and,
      d) the applicant’s contribution to academic, cultural and community life of the University of Waikato.
   4.2. Financial need may also be taken into consideration.

**Selection Panel**
4.3. The Selection Panel will comprise the Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies Dean (who will Chair the Panel), the Associate Dean (Postgraduate), a representative of the Chair of the University’s Scholarships Committee, and the School Manager, (or nominees).

4.4. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.

4.5. The Selection Panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. Awarding

5.1. The offer of an Award must be accepted by the date indicated in the letter of offer. If an applicant fails to accept the Award within the prescribed period, the offer will lapse.

5.2. If an offer is conditional, e.g. a pending enrolment in an appropriate course of study be finalised, any such conditions must be met before an Award can be received.

5.3. The Award will normally be paid out in one lump sum as soon as practicable after the acceptance of the offer.

5.4. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of one year and must be taken up in the year for which it is offered.

6. Other Conditions

6.1. The Award may not be held concurrently with any other scholarships or awards offered by the Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies.

6.2. The Award may be held together with any other scholarships unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

6.3. The Scholarships Executive, in consultation with the Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies, may terminate the Award at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato during the tenure of the Award, brings the Scholarships programme or the University into disrepute ¹, or is not complying with the conditions governing the Award.

6.4. The holder of an Award will have the right to appeal to the Research Committee against any decision to terminate an Award.

6.5. By accepting an Award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the University of Waikato. The recipient may be asked to attend a presentation ceremony.

6.6. In consultation with the University, Faculty and/or sponsor, these regulations may vary from time to time, provided there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.

¹ See Student Code of Conduct