

The Tertiary Achievement in Pacific Ako (TAPA) Awards were established to encourage Pacific students to pursue tertiary studies at the University of Waikato. The Awards have been made possible by the Equity Grant administered by the Tertiary Education Commission, with the aim of supporting the achievement and participation of Pacific students in tertiary education. The Awards are intended to support recipients in the costs associated with their study, e.g. study materials, living costs, conferences, workshops.

## 1. Eligibility

1.1. To be eligible, applicants must:

- a) be enrolled full- or part-time at the University of Waikato;
- b) be enrolled for a full year (A and B semesters) in the year of tenure; and,
- c) be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Pacific Island descent.

## 2. Value

2.1. The value of the Awards will be either \$1,000 or \$2,000.

2.1.1. The amount offered is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and will usually be greater for higher levels of study.

2.2. The Award will be paid to the successful recipient as soon as practicable after acceptance of the offer.

## 3. Application

3.1. The closing date for applications is **31 May each year**.

3.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must:

3.2.1. Complete and upload the prescribed Personal Statement form that includes (but is not limited to) the following subheadings:

- Tertiary-level academic achievements; and
- Cultural and community involvement, both on- and off-campus, especially that with a Pacific focus.

3.2.2. Request the submission of two references (one academic and one cultural/community<sup>1</sup>), as stipulated in the application. References cannot be from an immediate family member.

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<sup>1</sup> Cultural/community references from outside the University are likely to carry more weight.

#### **4. Selection Criteria**

- 4.1. The Selection Panel will select recipients on the basis of:
  - a) academic merit; and,
  - b) personal character; and,
  - c) cultural and community involvement (both on- and off-campus), especially that with a Pacific focus.
- 4.2. Preference may be given to applicants from areas of study where Pacific students are underrepresented.
- 4.3. Financial need may also be taken into consideration.

#### **5. Selection Panel**

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of the Chairperson of the Scholarships Committee (as the Chair), the AVC Pacific, and the Pacific Student Success Co-ordinator or their nominees.
- 5.2. The Selection Panel's decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

#### **6. Awarding and Retention**

- 6.1. The recipients will be offered the Award on the condition that they remain enrolled in their programme of study in the year of tenure.
- 6.2. The Award will have a maximum tenure of one year.
- 6.3. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of an Award; and must accept the offer by the prescribed date, or the offer will lapse.
  - 6.3.1. The Scholarships Committee may terminate an Award at any time and recoup any funds awarded if the holder withdraws from the University, brings the scholarship programme or the University into disrepute<sup>2</sup>, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Award and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of an Award shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Award.

#### **7. Other Conditions**

- 7.1. The Award may be held together with any other scholarship, award or prize unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 7.2. By accepting an Award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the University of Waikato. Recipients may also be required to attend a ceremony to recognise the recipients of the Award.
- 7.3. The University may from time to time vary these regulations.

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<sup>2</sup> See [Student Code of Conduct](#).