Beginning in 2019, Te Ara Hou Scholarship provides support to recent school leavers who may not have planned to attend university and/or to undertake tertiary study at the University of Waikato, but whose circumstances have changed. Te Ara Hou can be translated to mean ‘new path’. The Scholarship provides support for students who want to live in University Accommodation while studying. University Accommodation provides a supportive atmosphere, helps students build lifelong memories and friendships, and improves academic outcomes. Alternatively, it can support tuition fees in the second year of study to support on-going academic endeavour. The Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of evidence of academic readiness (mainly NCEA Level 3 results) and the applicant’s rationale for studying at the University of Waikato.

1. **Purpose**
   1.1. To recognise the University of Waikato’s strong commitment to removing potential barriers and supporting those who are academically ready to seek a tertiary education.

2. **Eligibility**
   2.1. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must:
       a) have studied at a New Zealand secondary school within the past two years (i.e., ‘gap-year students and students transferring from other tertiary providers are eligible to apply);
       b) have achieved University Entrance;
       c) be intending to enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises 120 points) in an undergraduate degree at the University of Waikato for the first time¹ in the year of tenure;
       d) not accepted an offer for any other University of Waikato scholarships that contains a tuition fees or accommodation credit component, unless these are specifically for financial hardship (e.g., D.V. Bryant Trust University of Waikato Residential Scholarship); and
       e) be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
   2.2. See also clause 6.2 in regards to maintaining eligibility (Scholarship recipients only)

3. **Application**
   3.1. The closing date for online applications is **20 February each year**.
   3.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must submit:
       3.2.1. a short statement detailing why they have decided to undertake a degree programme at the University of Waikato; and
       3.2.2. a copy of their NCEA School Results Summary.

¹ Candidates who have undertaken **Unistart** papers at the University of Waikato are **not** excluded by this clause.
4. Value and Tenure

4.1. Each Scholarship will have a value of up to $3,000 and will have a tenure of one year, even if a recipient’s Fees-Free status spreads the processing of the Scholarship over more than one year.

4.2. 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.

4.2.1. $3,000 will be awarded to those who reside in the University Halls of Residence in 2021. This will be directly credited to the Accommodation Office.

4.2.2. $2,000 will be awarded to those who do not reside in the University Halls of Residence in 2021 and this will be applied to their tuition fees, as follows:

4.2.2.1. If a recipient is eligible for Fees-Free under the NZ Government’s Fees-Free Tertiary Education Policy during the year of tenure of this Scholarship, then the Scholarship will be deferred towards tuition fees in the following academic year. Note that the payment in the following year is conditional on the recipient gaining at least a B grade point average in their first year of study.

4.2.2.2. If a recipient is not eligible for Fees-Free under the NZ Government’s Fees-Free Tertiary Education Policy during the year of tenure of this Scholarship, then the Scholarship will be credited to the recipient’s University tuition fees in 2021.

4.3. Recipients may study at either the Hamilton or Tauranga campus (or both).

5. Selection Panel and Criteria

5.1. The Scholarship Selection Panel will comprise of the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, the Deputy Director Strategic Engagement (or nominee), and a Scholarships Committee representative (appointed by the Chair).

5.2. In awarding the Scholarships, the Selection Panel will take into consideration all or some of the following: academic readiness (based on NCEA Level 2 and 3 results) and rationale for undertaking a degree-programme at University of Waikato.

5.2.1. Preference may be given to those to have achieved a Merit or Excellence endorsement at NCEA Level 3.

5.3. Preference may be given to those to have achieved a Merit or Excellence endorsement at NCEA Level 3.

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

6. Awarding

6.1. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of a Scholarship and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

6.2. To maintain eligibility, students offered the Scholarship must:

a) be accepted into an undergraduate programme of study at the University of Waikato;

b) remain enrolled full-time (i.e. 120 points) for the period of tenure; and

c) where the recipient has deferred tuition fees they must maintain at least a ‘B’ grade average in their first year of full-time study.
6.3. Through the School of Graduate Research and Student Services Division, the University monitors students’ performance and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a student’s conduct is unsatisfactory.

7. Other Conditions

7.1. The Scholarship may not be held in conjunction with any other University of Waikato scholarship that contains a tuition fees or accommodation credit component, except those for financial hardship (e.g., D.V. Bryant Trust University of Waikato Residential Scholarship). It may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

7.2. Should a recipient withdraw from any papers, without adding sufficient papers to maintain an overall enrolment in a minimum of 120 points for the academic year, the University may ask for the Scholarship to be repaid.

7.3. 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.

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

7.5. The Scholarships Committee may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the Scholarship or the University into disrepute, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.

7.6. The Scholarship is not refundable to the student under any circumstances, although (in the case of fees payment) a student who withdraws from the University may (under the provisions of the Fees Regulations) apply for a refund of tuition fees paid that were not covered by the Scholarship.

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

7.8. The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations.

\[2\] See Code of Student Conduct