The ‘Ko Te Tangata’ School Leaver Scholarship, named ‘for the people’, recognises the University of Waikato’s strong connection and commitment to the schools and communities within Aotearoa/New Zealand. The University of Waikato has two main campuses – one in the Waikato and the other in the Bay of Plenty and was established thanks to the drive and determination of the people of our regions. The University also has strong relationships with schools in Northland, Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. In particular, the University recognises the long-standing relationship and strong ties with the secondary schools of the Northland region, which (up until 2018) was recognised in the Northland Future Leaders’ Scholarship, and now has a special place in the ‘Ko Te Tangata’ School Leaver Scholarship. The University welcomes relationships with all schools and regions in New Zealand.

1. Purpose

1.1. To recognise the University of Waikato’s strong commitment to the people of New Zealand.

1.2. To make the University of Waikato accessible to applicants with academic ability, with special consideration for our key locations and students with serious financial hardship and/or extraordinary personal circumstances.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. To be eligible, candidates must:

2.1.1. be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance in the year of application. Candidates who are taking one ‘gap year’ in the year of application may also be considered.

2.1.2. be intending to enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises 120 points) in an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato for the first time in the year of tenure; and

2.1.3. be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

2.2. Selection is primarily based on NCEA Level 2 grades, however:

2.2.1. The University recognises that family and financial circumstances are factors that may hinder the opportunity to study at university, and special consideration will be given to applicants who demonstrate serious financial hardship and/or extraordinary personal circumstances.

2.2.2. Special consideration will also be given to applications from students from Northland, Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch who have received a supporting nomination from one of the Student Engagement Managers or the Future Student Advisor – South Island. Students from these key locations should talk to their school careers advisors for further information on how to be selected for nomination.

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1 This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc. However, candidates whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in the year of tenure can request special consideration by emailing scholarships@waikato.ac.nz.

2 Candidates who have undertaken Unistart papers at the University of Waikato are not excluded by this clause.
2.3. To maintain eligibility, students offered the Scholarship must:

2.3.1. gain University Entrance; and
2.3.2. be accepted into an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato; and
2.3.3. enrol full-time as outlined in Clause 2.1.2.
2.3.4. See also clause 3.2.1 for maintenance of scholarship eligibility in the case of those whose scholarships are deferred to tuition fees in the second year of study.

3. Value and Tenure

3.1. The value of each Scholarship will be $5,000, with up to 100 recipients receiving an additional $1,000 (i.e., $6,000 total; see clause 3.1.4).

3.1.1. The number of awards offered each year is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and will be based on criteria such as, but not limited to, total available funding, grades, financial need, and number of applicants.

3.1.2. Recipients from secondary schools outside the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regions will be offered $5,000 towards accommodation in the University Halls of Residence, and are expected to apply for accommodation before the closing date (see here). If students are unable to secure a place in the Halls of Residence due to no spaces being available, then the scholarship will be awarded towards their tuition fees as per Clause 3.2.

3.1.3. Recipients from secondary schools within the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions will be offered a choice of $5,000 towards accommodation in the University Halls of Residence OR tuition fees (See Clause 3.2).

3.1.4. Up to 100 recipients will receive an additional $1,000, paid directly into their bank account after the withdrawal date of A Trimester. These recipients will be selected from those nominated as per clause 2.2.2 and/or who show serious need as per clause 2.2.1.

3.2. For those recipients receiving tuition fees (not including the Student Services Levy or any other associated costs) instead of accommodation the scholarship will be allocated as follows:

3.2.1. If a recipient is eligible for Fees-Free under the NZ Government’s Fees-Free Tertiary Education Policy during the year of tenure then the amount will be credited to the recipient’s University of Waikato tuition fees for the following academic year where Fees-Free doesn’t apply. Note that, to maintain eligibility to the following academic year recipients are required to gain at least a B grade average in their first year and maintain all other eligibility requirements.

3.2.2. 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.

3.2.3. Where tuition fees are less than the total amount awarded any remainder will be forfeited.

3.3. The tenure of the Scholarship will be one calendar year (i.e. January to December inclusive), even if a recipient’s Fees-Free status spreads the processing of the Scholarship over more than one year.
3.4. Recipients may choose to study at any campus of the University of Waikato.

4. Application

4.1. The closing date for online applications is **31 August each year**.

4.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must submit:

a) A Personal Statement (using the prescribed template) that sets out the following:

   (i) Why the candidate wants to study at the University of Waikato;
   
   (ii) Financial hardship and/or extraordinary personal circumstances (if applicable); and
   
   (iii) Any other information of relevance to the Selection Panel.

4.3. Each candidate must also request the submission of a completed Academic Assessment form. The form will be emailed directly to your Principal upon submission of your online scholarship application.

5. Selection Panel

5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, the Scholarships Manager (or nominee), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori (or nominee); the Associate Director of Student Administration (or nominee), a Divisional representative of the Scholarships Committee (nominated by the Chair), and a Pacific staff member (nominated by the Chair).

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

6. Other Conditions

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

6.2. Recipients must remain enrolled full-time for the period of tenure. 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.

6.3. 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.

6.4. The Scholarship may not be held in conjunction with any other University of Waikato scholarship or any other University of Waikato funding that includes either a tuition fees credit or accommodation credit as a component. The exception is where a scholarship is for financial hardship (e.g., the 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.

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

6.6. 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.
6.7. 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\(^3\), 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.

6.8. 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.

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

6.10. 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.

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