CCS Disability Action Award - 2027

The CCS Disability Action Award was established in 2024 (using funds remaining from the prior Gemini Trust Disability Scholarship). CCS Disability Action has been working alongside disabled people and whānau hauā since 1935 and are at the forefront of service provision, advocacy and information sharing New Zealand-wide. It supports people with all types of impairments and is the largest disability support and advocacy organisation in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The funds are held in trust with the University of Waikato Foundation and will be offered each year until 2027 when it is expected that the funds will be fully depleted. The number of awards available each year will be dependent on the total amount of funding available.

1. Purpose

1.1. The Award provides financial support to students with disabilities while studying an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. **To be eligible**, applicants must:

2.1.1. be registered with the University of Waikato Accessibility Services[1].

2.1.2. be able to provide evidence of a disability[2].

2.1.3. at the time of application have completed at least 30-points of study at the University of Waikato.

2.1.4. be enrolled or intending to enrol (full or part-time) in an undergraduate degree programme[3] at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure.

2.1.5. reside in the Waikato, King Country, or Coromandel regions[4]. Applicants may also be considered if they are based in Tauranga.

2.1.6. be eligible for domestic fees status (i.e., be a NZ Citizen, NZ Permanent Resident, NZ Resident Class Visa holder, or Australian Citizen/Permanent Resident domiciled in NZ); and

2.1.7. provide all the necessary documentation to support their application as outlined under clause 4.

2.2. Past recipients **are not eligible** to apply.

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[1] To register for UoW Accessibility Services registration tab.
[2] "Any self-perceived limitation in activity resulting from a long-term condition or health problem; lasting longer or expected to last longer than six months or more and not completely eliminated by an assistive device" (Statistics NZ).
[3] This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc. Other recipients whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in the year of tenure can request special consideration by completing a Variation Request https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request-form/.
[4] For specific regional boundaries, refer to the map of Waikato District Health Board boundaries.

2.3. **Selection is based on:**

2.3.1. individual disability needs and evidence that the award will help remove barriers to learning.

2.3.2. evidence of commitment to study and wider university life or community.

2.3.3. future study/career plans.

2.3.4. academic merit may also be taken into consideration but is not the primary criteria.

2.4. **To maintain eligibility,** recipients must:

2.4.1. remain enrolled in both A and B trimester in the year of tenure as outlined in Clause 2.1.4.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

3.1. Each Award will have a value of **$5,000**, and will be paid as follows:

3.1.1. **$2,500** will be paid directly to the recipient as soon as practicable after acceptance of the Award.

3.1.2. **$2,500** will be paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal date of B Trimester conditional on meeting the eligibility Clauses outlined in 2.4 above.

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

3.3. The successful applicant(s) will be advised of the offer of an Award via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date, or the offer will lapse. If an applicant declines an award, or does not take it up, the award may be offered to reserve candidates.

3.2 Through the School of Graduate Research, the University monitors recipients' performance and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a recipient's performance is unsatisfactory.

3.3 The recipient may be invited to a presentation ceremony coordinated by the CCS Disability Action Waikato.

4. Application

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

4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide information on the following:

4.2.1. how they would benefit from the award and how it would help remove any barriers to learning.

4.2.2. their commitment to study and wider university life or community (e.g. regular use of university facilities, mentoring others, attending tutorial or learning/study groups, involvement in community activities, etc.).

4.2.3. future study/career plans

4.3. Each applicant must also submit evidence of their disability by way of a certificate or letter from a medical practitioner or a disability service provider (please do not provide full medical records).

5. Selection Panel

5.1. The selection panel will consist of the Chair of the University of Waikato Scholarships Committee (in the Chair) or their nominee, an Accessibility Services Advisor nominated by the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Teaching and Learning, and at least one CCS Disability Action Waikato member nominated by the Chair.

5.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a decision if it finds there are no applicants of sufficient merit.

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

6. Other Conditions

6.1. The Scholarship may be held together with any other Scholarship, Award, or Prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

6.2. If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance, another scholarship, or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.

6.3. In accepting the Award, the recipient will be deemed to:

6.3.1. to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Award and the Scholarships Policy.

6.3.2. agree to participate in any publicity concerning the award arranged by the University of Waikato and/or the Donor.

6.4. 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[5], 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.

6.5. The Scholarships Committee, in consultation with the donor, has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the scholarship.

[5] See Code of Student Conduct.