Frances Skeet Charitable Trust Scholarship for Returning Students- 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The Frances Skeet Charitable Trust Scholarship for Returning Students was established in 2019 through the generous donation of the Skeet family. The Scholarship is awarded to students who have completed at least one year of full-time study towards an undergraduate degree offered by the University of Waikato, and who show academic excellence and potential to be leaders in their discipline. The funds are held in trust with the University of Waikato Foundation and up to two Scholarships will be awarded annually until 2026 when it is anticipated that the funds will be depleted.

1. Purpose

1.1. To assist current University of Waikato students studying full-time in the second-year or above of an undergraduate degree.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

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

2.1.1 be intending to enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises 120-points) in the second year or above of an undergraduate degree at the University of Waikato in the year of application.

2.1.2 have been enrolled full-time and have achieved at least an A grade-point-average (GPA) in their previous year(s) of study (i.e., at least 120-points each calendar year of study).

2.1.3 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).

2.1.4 not hold any other fees-scholarship in the year of tenure/application.

2.2. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

2.3. Previous recipients may not reapply.

2.4. **Selection will be based on**:

2.4.1. academic excellence.

2.4.2. rationale for choosing the area of study.

2.4.3. evidence of strong leadership in the academic discipline coupled with thoughtful and achievable leadership aspirations for the future.

2.5. Preference may be given to applicants with:

2.5.1. personal/financial hardship and those who do not hold another scholarship.

2.5.2. applicants that meet the strategic priorities of the University of Waikato.

2.6. **To maintain eligibility recipients must**, in the year of tenure:

2.4.1 enrol full-time and remain enrolled full-time in the second year or above of an undergraduate degree at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

3.1. Each Scholarship has a value of **$5,000** and will be credited to the recipients' University of Waikato tuition fees as soon as practicable after acceptance of the award.

3.2. The scholarship tenure is one year.

3.3. The successful applicant(s) 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.

3.4. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to:

3.4.1. have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the Scholarships Policy.

3.4.2. agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

4. Application

4.1. The closing date for online applications is 01 February each year**, however in 2026 only, the closing date will be 31 March.**

4.2. As part of the online application, each applicant must complete the online form which includes the following questions:

4.2.1. details of leadership aspirations, particularly regarding the academic discipline.

4.2.2. details on how the area of study was chosen and aspirations in the field.

4.2.3. any other information of relevance to the Selection Panel (e.g., financial need).

5. Selection Panel

5.1. The Scholarship Selection Panel will comprise of the Chair of the University of Waikato Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, and two University of Waikato staff members appointed by the University of Waikato Development Office.

5.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a decision if it finds no applicant(s) 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 not be held in conjunction with a scholarship that contains a tuition fees component. It may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

6.2. If a candidate 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. Should a candidate 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.

6.4. Through the School of Graduate Research, the University monitors students' performance and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a student's conduct is unsatisfactory.

6.5. 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, University or Donor into disrepute[1] , 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.

6.6. 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.

6.7. The Scholarships Committee, in consultation with the Donor, has the power to amend or vary these regulations, provided there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

[1] See Code of Student Conduct