

# University of Waikato International Entrance Scholarship for School Leavers - 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

The University of Waikato Entrance Scholarship for School Leavers (formerly the International Excellence – NZ School Leavers Scholarship) was established in 2019 to promote educational opportunities, foster internationalisation, and support talented onshore international students who are enrolling for the first time into an undergraduate programme at the University of Waikato. The Scholarship is open to all international students currently in New Zealand, who have completed an entire year studying at NCEA Level 2 and/or 3 - or equivalent - at a New Zealand high school, in the year prior to enrolling in the degree and thus taking up the scholarship. The Scholarship value is up to NZD\$15,000 and is awarded automatically on enrolment into an undergraduate degree programme. Recipients may be called upon to become global ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

No application is required. Scholarship offers will be issued to eligible students within 14 days of their Offer of Place.

## 1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. **To be eligible students must** meet all the following criteria:

- 1.1.1. be applying to enrol full-time (120 points) in an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato.
- 1.1.2. have completed NCEA Level 3 with University Entrance, at a high school in New Zealand no more than two years prior to applying to enrol. For clarity, students may be offered this scholarship up to two times (for example a student may apply but then decide to take a gap year) but may only receive the funds once.
- 1.1.3. Students who have achieved University Entrance based on NCEA Level 2, and have an Offer of Place, may be considered by contacting the University at <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/contact/>. These students will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

1.2. The following students are **ineligible for the scholarship**:

- 1.2.1. Returning students to the University of Waikato.
- 1.2.2. Students enrolling in programmes that are less than 12 months' duration.
- 1.2.3. Students coming to the University of Waikato via a sponsoring body<sup>1</sup> or on a Guaranteed Credit Agreement<sup>2</sup> or funded by Education New Zealand or

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of a sponsoring body are: governments, institutions and employers who fund student scholarships for study

<sup>2</sup> Guaranteed credit arrangements are where an institution has a formal agreement with the UoW whereby a student can study part of their degree at the partner institution and credit that study towards study at the University of Waikato.

New Zealand Government funded Scholarships.

1.2.4. Recipients of any other University of Waikato funded tuition-fees funding.

1.2.5. Offshore students and/or those who intend to study online.

**1.3. On-going eligibility is conditional on the recipient:**

1.3.1. Completing enrolment and beginning full-time study in A Trimester, B Trimester or C Trimester in the first year of tenure (the year of tenure is indicated in the title of these regulations). Deferral of the scholarship between years is not permitted.

1.3.2. Residing in New Zealand for the entire tenure of the scholarship and remaining studying full-time on campus in New Zealand.

1.3.3. Maintaining international student status within the University's student system during the entire tenure of the scholarship. Any change in status will result in the scholarship being fully or partly removed from the student's account. For example, should a recipient withdraw from study or change from international to domestic fees-paying status after one trimester of study, the pro-rated scholarship value will be removed.

**2. Awarding, Value and Tenure**

2.1. The scholarship value is **between \$10,000 and \$15,000** and is paid in full in the first trimester of study at the University of Waikato. The total value offered is a contribution towards tuition fees only, and all remaining tuition fees and other costs must be met through other means. The value is set as follows:

2.1.1. Students who achieve NCEA Level 3 with Excellence (or equivalent) will receive \$15,000.

2.1.2. Students who achieve NCEA Level 3 with Merit (or equivalent) will receive \$13,000.

2.1.3. All other students will receive \$10,000.

2.2. Eligible students will initially be informed of their Scholarship when they receive their Offer of Place into an undergraduate degree programme. A formal scholarship offer will follow through the MyWaikato portal, normally within 14 days of the Offer of Place.

2.3. Offers must be accepted by the date indicated or the offer will lapse and no longer be valid.

2.4. After accepting the Scholarship Offer, recipients will receive an official scholarship offer letter via the MyWaikato portal to assist in any student visa application.

2.5. Recipients may pay the full tuition fee amount **minus** the value of the scholarship in the offer. They must provide their Scholarship Offer Letter to Immigration New Zealand in order to do so.

2.6. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will:

- 2.6.1. be deemed to have read, understood and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 2.6.2. agree to participate in any reasonable publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 2.7. The Scholarship tenure is 12 months.

### **3. Other Conditions**

- 3.1. If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.
- 3.2. If, during the tenure of the Scholarship, a recipient's circumstances change in such a manner that their continued eligibility for the Scholarship may be affected, they must inform [scholarships@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@waikato.ac.nz) immediately.
- 3.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder is not following the approved programme of study, withdraws from the University during the tenure of the Scholarship, brings the Scholarship or University into disrepute<sup>3</sup>, or is not otherwise complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato.
- 3.4. The holder will have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate a Scholarship by writing to [scholarships@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@waikato.ac.nz) who will forward the appeal to the Scholarships Executive.
- 3.5. Any ambassadorial duties will be at the discretion of the International and Engagement Office. Any queries about these duties can be made to [gowaikato@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:gowaikato@waikato.ac.nz).
- 3.6. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

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<sup>3</sup> See [Student Code of Conduct](#).