

The Sir Edmund Hillary Medal (hereafter Award) was established in 2006 to recognise the most significant contributions to the three pillars of excellence amongst recipients of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme. The Award is offered each year to eligible applicants who are completing their undergraduate study. In 2026 the Award was changed from a prize format to a scholarship by application.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- 1.1. To be eligible, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:
 - 1.1.1. be a current recipient of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship or have completed the Scholarship tenure and be continuing as an active member of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme¹;
 - 1.1.2. be completing their undergraduate qualification in the year of application or before the commencement of A Trimester in the following year.
- 1.2. **Selection is based on** the candidates' ongoing alignment with the three pillars of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship during the tenure of the scholarship. Notably:
 - 1.2.2. **Outstanding academic achievement** – consistently has at least an A- GPA for every 120 points of study completed.
 - 1.2.3. **Continued involvement and contribution to their sport or creative or performing art.**
 - 1.2.4. **Exceptional leadership** – especially within the University of Waikato. Other leadership experiences may also be considered.
- 1.3. Preference will be given to applicants who have maintained and demonstrated ongoing participation in the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme over the course of their undergraduate programme.

2. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 2.1. Each Award value is **\$1,500** and will be paid directly into the recipient's bank account, as soon as practicable after acceptance of the offer. In addition, a medal will be provided to the recipient.
- 2.2. Two Awards will be awarded annually:
 - 2.2.1. one Award is available for a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar in sport.
 - 2.2.2. one Award is available for a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar in creative and performing arts.
- 2.3. The tenure of the Award is one calendar year.

¹ The Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship has a tenure of 3 years full-time equivalent study. Some students may have completed tenure on their Scholarship but need longer to complete their undergraduate degree.

- 2.4. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of an Award and must accept the offer by the prescribed date, or the offer will lapse.
- 2.5. In accepting the Award, the recipient will be deemed to:
- 2.2.1. have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Award and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 2.2.2. agree to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the University of Waikato.
 - 2.2.3. agree to attend an award ceremony (details to be provided by the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager).
- 2.6. The Awards may not be shared among multiple recipients. Where there are two (or more) candidates of equal merit then preference will be given to students meeting the strategic goals of the University.

3. Application

- 3.1. The closing date for online applications is **30 November each year**.
- 3.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide information on the following:
- 3.2.1. What being a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar means to them. This should include examples of the ways in which they demonstrate the values of both the Sir Edmund Hillary Programme and of Sir Edmund Hillary himself;
 - 3.2.2. Examples of how they meet the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme's three pillars (sport/art performance, academic performance, and leadership excellence) in the different areas of their life;
 - 3.2.3. Their future aspirations for their sport or art, their study and/or career;
 - 3.2.4. For applicants who are no longer a recipient of the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship (i.e., their scholarship tenure of 3 years has ended) but who are still completing their undergraduate study, an explanation of how they are continuing to actively engage in the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme.
- 3.3. Applicants must request a sport or art reference from a person who is able to attest to their achievements to date and potential to further excel.

4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager, an academic representative for sport, and an academic representative for art.
- 4.2. The Selection Panel reserves the right to offer fewer awards than the maximum available in any given year if they feel the applicants are not of sufficient merit.
- 4.3. The Selection Panel's decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. Scholars may only receive a Sir Edmund Hillary Medal once.

- 5.2. Students employed on a permanent or part-time basis at the University of Waikato are not eligible for consideration.
- 5.3. Payments will only be made to NZ bank accounts.
- 5.4. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 5.5. The Award may be held in conjunction with any other award or scholarship, as long as the conditions of the other funding do not preclude this.
- 5.6. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their award.
- 5.7. By accepting a Sir Edmund Hillary Medal, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the award arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 5.8. The Scholarships Committee may terminate an award at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato during the tenure of the award, brings the University or the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme into disrepute², or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the award. The holder of an award will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 5.9. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.

² See [Code of Student Conduct](#).