

The Taki Turner Scholarship was established in 2024 through a partnership between University of Waikato, Waikato-Tainui and settlement funds held by Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation. The Scholarship is in memory of kaumātua Takiri mai te ata Turner. Fondly known as Koro Taki by many, he was instrumental in many organisations in the Waikato region creating rich channels of communication and engagement to Waikato Tainui. Koro Taki was appointed kaumātua of the University of Waikato in 2015, helping the university to navigate successful development of The Pā and Tauranga campus, and providing guidance



and key events. While Koro Taki was a constant presence at the University, he was actively involved in other organisations across the Waikato alongside his commitment to the Kīngitanga and Waikato-Tainui. In recognition of his substantial and exemplary contribution to the University of Waikato as kaumātua and for his service to the broader community, Takiri mai te ata Turner was posthumously awarded the University of Waikato Medal in 2024.

Each year, \$10,000 is available to support students from Waikato-Tainui in their academic endeavours.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The scholarship supports Waikato-Tainui uri to pursue studies at the University of Waikato, focusing on areas that align with the strategic aspirations of the iwi. This scholarship enables the Education, Training, and Development of Waikato-Tainui uri, helping to build a thriving future.

## 2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

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

- 2.1.1. be a registered Waikato-Tainui tribal member.
- 2.1.2. be enrolled in full-time study (a full-time academic year comprises 120 points) in any programme of study up to and including Masters by Research. To be clear, doctoral and MPhil study is excluded.
- 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) of Māori descent

- 2.2. Past recipients who meet the current eligibility criteria may reapply.

### 2.3. Selection is based on:

- 2.3.1. academic merit.
- 2.3.2. the applicant's commitment to their continue studies, and reason for studying that degree-programme.
- 2.3.3. the alignment of the applicant's study to current areas of strategic relevance to Waikato-Tainui. This may include but are not limited to:
  - knowledge and application of the Kīngitanga, including the poukai and Koroneihana.
  - community involvement (particularly in the Waikato region).
- 2.3.4. Preference may be given to applicants who:
  - are pursuing environmental studies.
  - have not previously held the scholarship.

- 2.4. **Ongoing scholarship eligibility** is based on recipients:

- 2.4.1. remaining enrolled as per clause 2.1.2.
- 2.4.2. attending the award ceremony organised by Waikato-Tainui.

### 3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. Each scholarship has a **minimum value of \$2,500**, with a total combined value of all scholarship offers each year coming to a maximum of \$10,000.
- 3.2. The scholarship will be paid directly to the recipient(s) after the withdrawal date of B Trimester or the award ceremony (whichever is later).
- 3.3. The scholarships also include:
  - 3.3.1. support from [Māori ki Waikato](#).
  - 3.3.2. potential for a paid internship with Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation and/or Waikato-Tainui. The internship will be coordinated by those organisations with timing of the internship developed in agreement with the recipient.
- 3.4. The Scholarship has a maximum tenure of one year and must be taken up in the year in which it is offered.
- 3.5. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of their scholarship via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.
- 3.6. **In accepting the scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have:**
  - 3.6.1. read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
  - 3.6.2. agreed to attend the award ceremony organised by Waikato-Tainui.
  - 3.6.3. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato and/or partners listed in the scholarship background.
  - 3.6.4. understood that Waikato-Tainui may keep application documents for consideration of internship opportunities, and that these may be shared with the partners listed in the scholarship background.
  - 3.6.5. agreed that the partners listed in the scholarship background may request up-to-date contact details from the University of Waikato in future years to assist them to maintain contact with past scholarship recipients.

### 4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **30 June each year**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application, each applicant must provide information the following:
  - 4.2.1. Complete the online personal statement form that outlines:
    - What inspired you to pursue your degree?
    - What are your academic goals for the next few years, and how do these align with your career aspirations?
    - Explain your knowledge and application of the Kīngitanga, including the poukai and Koroneihana.
    - How do you see your studies benefiting your iwi | hapuu | marae once you graduate?
    - Are there any specific issues or causes that you're particularly motivated to address (e.g., environmental)? If so, why?

- 4.3. Upload two references (one academic and one character). Normally, a reference should not be from an immediate whaanau member.
- 4.4. Provide their Waikato-Tainui Tribal registration number. Applicant details will be sent to Waikato-Tainui to confirm recipients are registered members, prior to the selection panel being held.

## **5. Selection Panel**

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Māori Academic Board Member Representative of the Scholarships Committee in the Chair, a maximum of one representative each of Waikato-Tainui Holdings and Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation, and up to two members of Koro Taki's Family.
- 5.2. The Selection Panel may request a meeting with applicants as part of the selection process.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a decision if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.
- 5.4. 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 with any other University of Waikato funded Scholarship of a value greater than three times the value of this Scholarship. The Scholarship may be held together with any other scholarship, award or prize unless the conditions of the other preclude this.
- 6.2. 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 should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their Scholarship.
- 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, University Donor(s) and/or partners into disrepute<sup>1</sup>, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato.
- 6.5. The holder of a Scholarship will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 6.6. The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations in consultation with the donors and partners.

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<sup>1</sup> See the [Code of Student Conduct](#)