

ACORN FOUNDATION KENNETH PERSZYK SNR. ADULT LEARNER SCHOLARSHIP

The **Acorn Foundation**, formed in 2003, is a charitable trust that connects generous people who care with causes that matter, forever. The principal goal of the Foundation is to encourage people to consider making a gift in their will and/or during their lifetime to benefit the local community forever.



The **Acorn Foundation Kenneth Perszyk Snr. Adult Learner Scholarship** was established in 2021. Kenneth was born in the United States six months before the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and was very much a child of the Great Depression. After being drafted into the US military (army), he was fortunate to be stationed in Europe during the Korean Conflict. Travelling around Europe and North Africa on R&R changed his outlook on life forever. He completed his university degree (in Business Administration) at the age of 42, after enrolling full-time for a semester. Prior to that, he took evening classes for many years while working full-time. He believed it was never too late to change career paths and achieve a better life for oneself and those around us, though he himself worked for the same company for his entire adult life. He would have been particularly pleased to see this scholarship assist like-minded adult students to achieve their goals and realise their potential.

Purpose

The Acorn Foundation Kenneth Perszyk Snr. Adult Learner Scholarship was established to financially assist adult students (40 years and over) during any stage of their study at undergraduate (or postgraduate) level at the University of Waikato Tauranga campus. Awards will be based on motivation to succeed and may also factor in personal circumstances.

Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- a) be 40 years of age or over;
- b) be currently living in the Bay of Plenty area; and
- c) be enrolled or intending to enrol at the University of Waikato Tauranga Campus at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

Value and Tenure

One scholarship will be awarded each year and shall have a value of **\$4,000**. The value of the Scholarship remains the same for students who are enrolled for part-time study over the tenure of Scholarship. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of one year.

Awarding

The Scholarship will be paid in one lump sum to the recipient after the withdrawal date for A Trimester in the year following awarding.

Application

The closing date for applications is **15 October annually**; applications are made electronically through the University of Waikato online application process.

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

- a) A personal statement that outlines:
 - suitability for the award;
 - future study/career plans; and
 - personal and financial circumstances.
- b) A brief CV (no longer than four A4 pages in length); and
- c) Upload two references into the online application. The references should be one academic and one character reference. Applicants will need to contact their referees, request a reference be sent to them directly, and upload the references into their online application before submitting the application.

Selection Criteria and Selection Panel

The Selection Panel will take motivation to succeed and personal circumstances into consideration when selecting candidates.

The Selection Panel will be organised annually by the Acorn Foundation and may include any or all of the following:

- a) a representative of the Acorn Foundation (as chair);
- b) the Tauranga Liaison Partnership Manager (or nominee); and
- c) the University of Waikato Associate Director Tauranga Student Services (or nominee).

The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit in that year. The Selection Panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

Other Conditions

The Scholarship may be held with any other prize, scholarship, or award provided the regulations of the other award(s) allow this.

The Acorn Foundation (through the University of Waikato) and/or University of Waikato may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the Acorn Foundation, Scholarship, or the University into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship.

By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato or the Acorn Foundation.

The Acorn Foundation may from time to time vary these regulations².

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).

² Last reviewed 21 June 2024