



The University of Waikato Distinguished Alumni Scholarship was established in 2021 and is funded by Dr Andrew Smith. Dr Smith was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019 and was the University's first Rhodes Scholar.

Dr Andrew Smith is an experienced business leader with an extensive career spanning New Zealand and international consumer goods and grocery markets. Formerly CEO of Prolife Foods, where he led the company for 17 years through significant growth and international expansion, he now focuses on governance, consulting, and a range of directorship roles, bringing deep expertise in strategy, brand development, and business growth.

The funds are held in trust by the University of Waikato Foundation and up to twelve scholarships will be offered annually until the funds are fully depleted.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Scholarship provides financial support to outstanding students in their final year of study towards an undergraduate degree with a major in management and/or science, computing and maths or engineering.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- 2.1. **To be eligible for consideration**, at the time of application applicants must meet all following criteria:
 - 2.1.1. be enrolled full-time in the year preceding the final year of their undergraduate degree with a major drawn from the Waikato Management School and/or the School of Science, Computing and Mathematical Sciences, or the School of Engineering;
 - 2.1.2. have achieved at least an 'A-' grade-point-average (GPA) for their most recent 240-points of study at the University of Waikato;
 - 2.1.3. be likely to make an impact in the business and/or science communities after graduation; and
 - 2.1.4. 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).
- 2.2. **Selection is based on** all the following criteria:
 - 2.2.1. Academic ability.
 - 2.2.2. Potential for applicants to make an impact in the relevant community after graduation.

2.3. **To maintain eligibility**, recipients must meet all the following criteria during the scholarship tenure:

2.3.1. Enrol full-time (or enrol in the required papers to complete their degree within the year of tenure¹) in an undergraduate degree with a major drawn from the Waikato Management School and/or School of Science, School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences, or the School of Engineering.

2.3.2. For the B Trimester payment, recipients must pass all papers in A Trimester.

3. Value, Tenure, and Awarding

3.1. Each scholarship will have a value of **\$4,000, and will be paid as follows:**

3.1.1. **\$2,000** will be paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal date of A Trimester.

3.1.2. **\$2,000** will be paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal date of B Trimester, conditional on meeting the eligibility clauses in 2.3.

3.2. The Scholarship will have a tenure of one year and this will be the year following application (i.e. the recipient's final year of study towards their undergraduate degree).

3.3. The successful applicant 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. Through the School of Graduate Research, the University monitors recipients' performance and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a recipient's performance is unsatisfactory.

4. Application

4.4. The closing date for online applications is **15 November each year**.

4.5. As part of the online application process, each applicant must submit the following:

4.5.1. A personal statement outlining:

a) Why completing their undergraduate degree with a major drawn from business and/or the sciences is important to the candidate and their future ambitions;

b) Any impact, or intention to make an impact, in the business and/or science community after completion of the degree;

c) Any financial circumstances that are relevant; and

d) Any other information that may be of relevance to the Selection Panel.

4.6. The applicant must also request the submission of a confidential reference from someone who can attest to their character. This may not be an immediate member of their family.

¹ Part-time study will be allowed only where a recipient/applicant has 90 points or more left to complete their degree programme in the year of tenure.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.4. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, an academic staff member from the Waikato Management School and an academic staff member from the appropriate STEM subjects (both appointed by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee).
- 5.5. The Selection Panel may request a meeting with applicants as part of the selection process.
- 5.6. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a decision if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.
- 5.7. 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 be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award 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. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have:
 - 6.3.1. read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 6.3.2. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato and/or the Donor.
- 6.4. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their Scholarship.
- 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(s) into disrepute², or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. 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 Donor.

² See [Code of Student Conduct](#).