Flower Scholarship in Economics – 2027

THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The Flower Scholarship in Economics was established in 2024 from funds donated by the late Bill and Joan Flower. The Flowers had a long-standing connection with the University, particularly in the area of economics, funding students researching in the broad areas of environmental economics, agribusiness, and global economics.

The funds are held in Trust by the University of Waikato Foundation, and up to two scholarships with a combined value of $20,000 may be offered annually until 2035, when it is expected the funds will be fully depleted.

1. Purpose

1.1. The Scholarship supports students undertaking postgraduate research in economics.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. **To be eligible for consideration, applicants must, at the time of application:**

2.1.1 Previous applicants and recipients may reapply in future rounds.

2.1.2 be enrolled full or part-time at the University of Waikato in postgraduate study with a research component in the field of economics.

2.1.3 intend to be enrolled for the duration of the year of tenure.

2.1.4 have achieved at least a B+ grade-point-average for their most recent undergraduate or postgraduate degree; and

2.1.5 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) or be international students.

2.2. **Selection will be based on:**

2.2.1 Alignment of research to the areas of preference outlined by the Flowers, including but not limited to: Population and the need for greater food production; New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement; New Zealand's natural advantages in global agriculture; Preservation of fertile soils; Farmer ownership and farm labour issues, including incentives for young farmers; and/or How government policy and social ideology shape New Zealand agriculture.

2.2.2 Academic merit.

2.2.3 The likelihood of research outcomes impacting the area of economics.

2.2.4 Likelihood of research outcomes and outputs advancing research in economics.

2.2.5 Where all other selection criteria are met, preference will then be given to new applicants.

2.3. **To maintain eligibility recipients must, in the year of tenure:**

2.3.1 remain enrolled in the relevant programme of study.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

3.1. Up to two scholarships will be awarded each year with a total combined value of all scholarships awarded coming to **$20,000** annually. The amount awarded to each recipient will be at the discretion of the Selection Panel and may include criteria such as, but not limited to, grades, number of credits enrolled, and expected thesis/dissertation due date.

3.2. The Scholarship will be paid in two equal instalments directly to the recipients:

3.2.1. **50%** will be paid as soon as practicable after acceptance of the Scholarship offer.

3.2.2. **50%** will be paid 6 months after the first instalment conditional upon Clause 2.3. being met.

3.3. Each Scholarship has a maximum tenure of one year.

3.4. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of a Scholarship through their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the date indicated or the offer will lapse.

4. Application

4.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 March annually.**

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

4.2.1. A short synopsis of their research project including the title;

4.2.2. How their research aligns to the areas of preference outlined by the Flowers in clause 2.2.1.

4.2.3. How the research will impact the area of economics.

4.2.4. Likelihood of research outcomes and outputs advancing the area of research.

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

4.3. **Each applicant must also:**

4.3.1 upload a brief CV (no more than two A4 pages).

4.3.2 request the submission of an academic reference from their Chief Supervisor detailing academic merit, the contribution that the applicant and the research will make to economics, and anything else deemed relevant.

5. Selection Panel

5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Scholarships Committee Representative from Waikato Management School in the Chair, an academic staff member with expertise in Economics (appointed by the Chair), and the Executive Head of School (or nominee).

5.2. The Selection Panel may contact referees on a confidential basis for further relevant information.

5.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit in that year.

5.4. The Selection Panel's decisions are final, and no 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. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient:

6.2.1 will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship, and the Scholarships Policy.

6.2.2 agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato and/or the Donor.

6.3. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their scholarship.

6.4. 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.

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 into disrepute[1], 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.

[1] See Code of Student Conduct.