

The Otumoetai Trust Undergraduate Scholarship was established in 1998 to assist Bay of Plenty Students (from three targeted secondary schools) into tertiary study, with emphasis on supporting disadvantaged students. The Otumoetai Licensing (Charitable) Trust placed strong emphasis on education when providing grants. With the wind down of the Trust, the trustees decided to support undergraduate students and funded the Scholarship stating: “Financial hardship, as well as social and physical adversity, should not result in exclusion from tertiary education”. Only one scholarship will be offered each year until all the funds are used, with the final award expected to be made in 2026.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the Scholarship is to provide financial support to first-year undergraduate students studying full-time at the University of Waikato (either campus), and who demonstrate financial need, social disadvantage, and/or physical disability and who, without the Scholarship, may not be able to undertake tertiary education.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- 2.1. **To be eligible for consideration**, applicants must:

- 2.1.1 be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance at **Otumoetai College, Tauranga Boys’ College, or Tauranga Girls’ College** in the year prior to tenure;
- 2.1.2 have achieved a minimum of NCEA Level 2 with Merit, or equivalent. Applicants on a ONE year ‘gap year’ in the year of application may also be considered, but must have achieved a minimum NCEA Level 2 with Merit (or equivalent) at both NCEA Level 2 and Level 3, or the equivalent);D
- 2.1.3 be intending to enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises [120 points](#)) in the first year of an undergraduate degree programme¹ at the University of Waikato in Tauranga or Hamilton for the first time² in the year of tenure; 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:**

- 2.2.1 academic readiness;
- 2.2.2 future aspirations, especially those relating to the chosen degree;
- 2.2.3 motivation to succeed at university and why the chosen course of study will enhance the applicant's lifetime opportunities;

¹ This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc. However, candidates whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in the year of tenure can request special consideration by submitting a scholarship variation request at <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request-form/>

² Candidates who have undertaken **Unistart** papers at the University of Waikato are **not** excluded by this clause.

2.2.4 how the scholarship will assist you to undertake and complete your university studies, with emphasis on financial need, social disadvantage; and/or physical disability.

2.3. **To maintain eligibility**, recipients must:

2.3.1. by the withdrawal date of A trimester in the year following application, be accepted into an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato; and

2.3.2. enrol full-time, as outlined in Clause 2.1.3;

2.3.3. pass all papers taken in each trimester in each year of tenure.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

3.1.1. The total value of the Scholarship is **up to \$9,000** and will be paid in six equal instalments over the three-year tenure. The exact value and tenure is contingent on the recipient maintaining ongoing eligibility under Clause 2.3.

3.1.2. In each year of tenure, the recipient will receive two instalments of \$1,500, each paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal periods for A and B trimesters. Payment of the B Trimester instalment is conditional on the recipient maintaining Clause 2.13 (i.e passing all papers in A trimester).

3.2. Successful applicants 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, and the scholarship offered to the next reserve candidate.

3.3. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).

4. Application

4.1. The closing date for online applications is **31 August each year**.

4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must:

4.2.1. Complete the online personal statement form that briefly outlines:

a) Your future aspirations and motivation to succeed at university;

b) How your chosen study will enhance your lifetime opportunities; and

c) How this scholarship will assist you to undertake and complete University studies, with emphasis on any financial need, social disadvantage and/or physical disability.

4.3. Each applicant must also request the submission of an online Academic Assessment, which is to be completed by the candidate's Secondary School. The school will also be contacted directly by the University to obtain the assessment.

5. Selection Panel

5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the UoW Scholarships Committee (in the Chair), the Associate Director Tauranga Student Services, the Senior Accessibility Advisor, and the WSU Student Support Manager (or their nominees).

- 5.2. The Selection Panel's decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation in any year if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.

6. Other Conditions

- 6.1. Recipients must remain enrolled full-time for the period of tenure. 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.
- 6.2. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their Scholarship.
- 6.3. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 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 or Sponsor into disrepute³, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 6.5. By accepting a Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 6.6. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations, provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

³ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).