Southern Cross Nursing Scholarship - 2027

The Southern Cross Nursing Scholarship for University of Waikato nursing students was established in 2025 by the Southern Cross Health Trust (hereafter "**Trust"**) and Southern Cross Healthcare Limited ("**Southern Cross Healthcare**") to support the development, education, and leadership of the nursing profession in Aotearoa New Zealand. Southern Cross Healthcare recognises the essential role of nurses in both the public and private healthcare system and seeks to address challenges students may face while pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing. The scholarship programme is designed to support selected University of Waikato students to complete their studies, provide extension learning opportunities and provide the opportunity to learn about Southern Cross Healthcare. It is envisioned that successful recipients of the scholarship will remain in New Zealand to progress their career for the foreseeable future.

The funding administration for these scholarships is overseen by the University of Waikato Foundation and will be negotiated annually.

1. Purpose

1.1. The Trust is offering scholarships that provide financial and non-financial support and benefits to students studying a Bachelor of Nursing at The University of Waikato who are passionate about pursuing a career in nursing and are experiencing personal challenges or disadvantage, including financial and family circumstances.

2. Amount and Type of Award

2.1. Each year, three scholarships for study at The University of Waikato in the Bachelor of Nursing will be available for new-to-study students at a total value of $**30,000 per scholarship ($10,000 per year for three years)**. Each scholarship includes the following benefits in each year of study, noting ongoing eligibility outlined in clause 1.4:

2.1.1. **$5,000** towards tuition fees, payable upon confirmation of enrolment in the Bachelor of Nursing.

2.1.2. **$2,500** cash paid directly to the recipient as soon as practicable after acceptance of the Scholarship, or after the withdrawal date of A Trimester (whichever is latest).

2.1.3. **$2,500** cash paid directly to the recipient after the withdrawal date of B Trimester and conditional on the student passing all courses in A Trimester in the year of tenure.

2.2. It is anticipated that the cash portion of the scholarship will support students' mental, physical and financial health and wellbeing during study and while on clinical placements. It is also intended to cover the cost of the Nursing Council examination fee for third-year recipients.

2.3. The total value of each scholarship is as below and is subject to the recipient maintaining eligibility as described above.

	First Year	**Second Year**	**Third Year**
Contribution to tuition fees	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000
Contribution to cover expenses relating to being on clinical placement, health and well-being support and the cost of the Nursing Council State Exam in final year of study.	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000
Annual value per scholarship	**$10,000**	**$10,000**	**$10,000**

2.4. All financial benefits will be paid by the Trust direct to University of Waikato Foundation.

Scholarship payments will be disbursed to recipients by the University of Waikato as outlined in clause 2.3. Cash payments will be deposited into the student's personal New Zealand bank account.

2.5. All scholarships also include the following non-financial benefits:

a) Priority clinical placements in Southern Cross Healthcare hospitals and subsidiaries subject to separate written agreement between Southern Cross Healthcare and recipients including relevant background checks where appropriate.

b) The opportunity to explore a part-time role under separate employment contract in a Southern Cross Healthcare hospital or healthcare service provider that offers flexibility during clinical placement. Note: clinical placement cannot take place in the same department as part-time work.

c) Involvement in the Scholarship Student Mentor Programme.

d) Additional group learning opportunities such as online/in-person workshops with senior leaders about specific topics, clinical learning sessions.

3. Eligibility, Selection Criteria and Tenure

3.1. **To be eligible applicants must** meet all following criteria:

3.1.1. have an unconditional offer of place on the Bachelor of Nursing degree programme and be intending to enrol full-time (i.e. 120-points) at the University of Waikato.

3.1.2. demonstrate a passion for nursing and be experiencing personal challenges or disadvantages that may prevent them from undertaking or completing their studies.

3.1.3. 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) and have lived in New Zealand for the previous two years.

3.1.4. be from a diverse or underrepresented group or from a background of hardship, and who have, or may experience, barriers to access education because of this.

3.2. **Selection for the interview shortlist will be based on the following criteria:**

3.2.1. the applicant's answers to the questions demonstrating that they come from a population, community or region that is typically under-represented in nursing and/or from a background of hardship that may present barriers to accessing education.

3.2.2. consideration will also be given to the applicant's personal history and circumstances, financial need, academic achievement, and career aspirations.

3.2.3. participation in extra-curricular/co-curricular activities may also be taken into account.

3.3. Final **selection for award** will be based on the outcomes of the applicant's interview, including their ability to effectively communicate, demonstrate insight, and clearly articulate their motivation for nursing.

3.4. The tenure of this scholarship is three years subject to the recipient maintaining eligibility as noted below and passing all papers in each year of study. To maintain **eligibility recipients must**, in each year of tenure:

3.4.1. enrol and remain enrolled full-time (120-points) in a Bachelor of Nursing.

3.4.2 pass all papers in each trimester of study.

4. Awarding

4.1. The 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.

4.2. In accepting the scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have:

4.2.1. read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the scholarship.

4.2.2. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato and/or Trust and/or Southern Cross Healthcare.

4.2.3. agreed to be contacted directly by staff at the University of Waikato, Trust, and/or Southern Cross Healthcare.

4.2.4. agreed to actively participate in the non-financial benefits of the programme.

4.2.5. consider applying for a job with Southern Cross Healthcare on completion of their studies.

4.2.6. provide feedback to the Trust, on request by the Trust, that can be used to improve the programme.

5. Application

5.1. The closing date for applications will be **31 January annually.**

5.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must answer the following questions within the online application form:

5.2.1. Tell us about yourself – what would you like to share about your family, where you're from, and what's important to you?

5.2.2. Tell us about your community involvement?

5.2.3. Why have you chosen to study nursing? What excites you about studying to be a nurse?

5.2.4. What are your aspirations for the future (personal and professional)?

5.2.5. What challenges might you face as you are working towards your goals? How will you overcome them?

5.3. As part of the application process, applicants must also upload:

5.3.1. any transcripts for tertiary study not completed at the University of Waikato.

5.3.2. a short CV (maximum of two A4 Pages).

6. Selection Panel

6.1. Applicants will be shortlisted by the selection panel and asked to attend an interview.

6.2. The Selection Panel will normally comprise representatives from the Trust, Southern Cross Healthcare, and staff with knowledge of nursing from the University of Waikato invited by the Trust.

6.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a decision if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.

6.4. The Selection Panel's decisions are final, and no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

7. Other Conditions

7.1. The scholarship may not be held with any scholarship or award offered by another healthcare organisation. However, it may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

7.2. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their scholarship. If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance, another scholarship, or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.

7.3. 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 of Waikato may ask for the scholarship to be repaid on behalf of the funder.

7.4. Through the School of Graduate Research, the University of Waikato monitors recipients' performance and ongoing eligibility and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a recipient's performance is unsatisfactory.

7.5. 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 of Waikato or Trust or Southern Cross Healthcare 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 Trust via the Variation Request form against any decision to terminate the award.

7.6. Deferral and suspension requests must be made via the Variation Request form.

7.7. The Trust has the power to amend or vary these regulations while under tenure provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the scholarship.

[1] See Code of Student Conduct.