



Te Paewai o te Rangi: The University of Waikato Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement was established in 2017. Te Paewai o te Rangi can be translated to mean the water horizon. It is the place where the ocean meets the sky, and where the sun sets and rises every day. This is the transition point where Tāne travelled on his quest to ascend into the heavens and to suspend the stars in the sky. Metaphorically, Te Paewai o te Rangi describes a person's journey to achieve excellence. It is the pathway to the stars; an unending pursuit to reach the pinnacle of your desires which in the case of this Scholarship is education and knowledge. Te Paewai o te Rangi is also a pathway where the terrestrial becomes the celestial and people move on to a higher state of being and understanding. It is a point where change occurs, and people push the boundaries and go beyond the norm. It is fitting therefore that this Scholarship provides a platform for outstanding students to strive for excellence in a programme of study at the University of Waikato and to reach the stars. The number of awards offered each year is at the discretion of the selection panel and is based on total available funding.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To support and enable outstanding students to undertake an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. To be eligible for consideration applicants must:

- 2.1.1. have achieved NCEA Level 2 with Excellence, or the equivalent through examinations such as the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination, or the Australian Secondary School examinations.
- 2.1.2. show exceptional leadership qualities in their school and/or community and/or be actively involved in numerous community initiatives.
- 2.1.3. be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance in the year of application (gap year see also clause 2.2).
- 2.1.4. be intending to enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises [120 points](#)) in an undergraduate degree programme¹ for the first time² and at the University of Waikato, in the year following application;
- 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).

¹This does not include diplomas, certificates, pathway to undergraduate study through programmes offered by the [University of Waikato College](#), or any programmes of study that are less than 240 points total. Te Tohu Paetahi, is acceptable only where used as a pathway into an undergraduate degree-programme. If a recipient's degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in their first year of study, they can request special consideration by completing the [scholarship variation request form](#).

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

- 2.2. **Gap year** - Applicants who are taking one 'gap year' in the year of application may also be considered, but must:
- 2.2.1. not have done any degree-level study at another tertiary institution on their gap year.
 - 2.2.2. have achieved Excellence (or equivalent) at both NCEA Level 2 and 3 and have achieved University Entrance.
 - 2.2.3. have adequately explained the reason for their gap year.
- 2.3. New Zealand citizens who have studied NCEA L2 (or equivalent) and above at an overseas secondary school and meet all other criteria can apply if they meet all other conditions.
- 2.4. **Selection is based on:**
- 2.4.1. Academic excellence (calculations will be based on the best 80 credits across University Entrance (UE) equivalent subjects at Level 2 and above, from all years up to and including the year prior to application).
 - 2.4.2. Strong leadership qualities, and community involvement.
 - 2.4.3. Preference will be given to applicants who meet the [strategic priorities of the University of Waikato](#).
- 2.5. **To ensure ongoing eligibility** and scholarship maintenance, recipients must meet all following criteria:
- 2.5.1. by the withdrawal deadline of A Trimester in the year following application, be accepted into an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato.
 - 2.5.2. enrol full-time in at least two Trimesters each year (i.e., 120 points, usually eight papers).
 - 2.5.3. achieve at least a B+ average across all papers taken in each trimester of tenure, with any B or C Trimester payments contingent on earlier Trimester GPA requirements being met.
 - 2.5.4. in their first year, all students who identify as Māori must take part in [Te Kāhui Pīreke](#) and all who identify as Pacific must take part in the [Imua Initiative](#). Students who identify as having both Māori and Pacific heritage can choose which to participate in but must choose one.
 - 2.5.5. Note also clause 6.2.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The value of each Scholarship will be **up to³ \$30,000 for up to three years tenure, subject to the recipient maintaining eligibility** (refer to clause 2.5), choices made by the recipient in Year One, and any additional funding the recipient may gain.
- 3.1.1. **In all three years:** \$1,000 cash will be paid to the recipient after the withdrawal date of A Trimester.
 - 3.1.2. **In Year One** the recipient may choose either:
 - \$11,000 towards accommodation in the [University Halls of Residence](#)
 - **OR** \$3,000 cash after the withdrawal deadline for B trimester (contingent on Clause 2.5.3) and a tuition fees credit of up to \$8,000, including Student Services Fee; any remainder of the tuition fees portion of the scholarship will be forfeited.

³ Depending on whether the recipient selects an accommodation credit or other in their first year, and the value of tuition fees.

3.1.3. **In Years two and three:**

- recipients will receive a tuition fees credit of up to \$8,000. If funds remain, this will be put towards the [Student Services Fee](#), with any remainder forfeited.
- If a recipient's fees are covered by another scholarship (not fees-free), then the recipient may request to receive a portion back as cash (up to \$5,000 maximum), which will be paid after the withdrawal date of C Trimester.

3.2. Successful applicants will be advised of their offer of a Scholarship via their MyWaikato portal and must accept by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

3.3. **In accepting the Scholarship**, the recipient:

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

3.3.2. agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

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 submit a copy of their NCEA School Results Summary. Applicants who are completing an alternative programme (e.g. Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination, Australian Secondary School examinations, or overseas secondary school) must also provide a transcript of equivalent results.

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

4.3.1. Future aspirations;

4.3.2. Leadership experience;

4.3.3. Extracurricular activities and community involvement;

4.3.4. Current or recent (in the last two years) employment;

4.3.5. Gap year activities during the year of application (if applicable);

4.3.6. The name and contact details for the teacher in charge of the IB programme at the applicant's school (if applicable); and

4.3.7. Any other information of relevance to the Selection Panel (if applicable).

4.4. An online Academic Assessment will be requested from the applicant's secondary school. The school will be contacted directly by the University to obtain the assessment. Applicants are encouraged to speak with their school's career advisor (or equivalent) about their report.

5. **Selection Panel**

5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (in the Chair), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori, the Director - School Engagement and Student Recruitment, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor Pacific, and a Scholarships Team Leader (or their nominees).

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

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

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 who take up this Scholarship are expected to complete at least four trimesters of full-time study at the University of Waikato (i.e., 240 points). Those who withdraw their enrolment before the end of this period will normally be required to pay back the full sum of monies received.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. The Scholarship **may not be held in conjunction with:**
- 6.4.1. any other University of Waikato funding that includes either a tuition fees credit or accommodation credit as a component.
 - 6.4.2. any other scholarship or award of the same or greater total value.
- 6.5. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship or award of lesser total value, or any prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 6.6. 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 or the University into disrepute⁴, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions 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 Scholarship.
- 6.7. The Scholarship is not refundable to the student under any circumstances, although (in the case of tuition fees payments) a student who withdraws from the University may (under the provisions of the Fees Regulations) apply for a refund of tuition fees paid that were not covered by the Scholarship.
- 6.8. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations, provided there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

⁴ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).