

Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao

Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies

Graduate Excellence Awards - 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao - Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies Graduate Excellence Awards were established in 2001 to support graduate students studying within the Faculty, who achieve well academically and demonstrate good character, particularly through cultural/academic and community involvement. The Awards are funded by the Faculty and the number on offer each year is determined by available funding.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. To be eligible, applicants must:

- 1.1.1. be enrolled full-time in a graduate (Hons, PGDip or Masters) degree in the Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao - Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies, in the year of application (in exceptional circumstances part-time enrolment may be considered);
- 1.1.2. be undertaking a dissertation or thesis;
- 1.1.3. have a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of **A-**, and,
- 1.1.4. be a New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or international student.

1.2. Selection is based on:

- 1.2.1. academic excellence;
- 1.2.2. commitment to completion of their programme of study;
- 1.2.3. the applicant's programme of study having demonstrable relevance to the priorities of the Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao - Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies and,
- 1.2.4. the applicant's contribution to academic, cultural and community life of the University of Waikato.

1.3. Financial need may also be taken into consideration.

1.4. To maintain eligibility, recipients must:

- 1.4.1. Remain enrolled in A and B Trimester of the year of tenure.

2. Value and Awarding

- 2.1. Each award is **up to \$5,000** and will be paid directly into the recipient's bank account following the withdrawal date of B Trimester in the year of tenure. Part-time recipients will be offered a pro-rata amount at the discretion of the Selection Panel.
- 2.2. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of their Award via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.
- 2.3. In accepting the Award, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Award and the [Scholarships Policy](#).

- 2.4. The Award will have a maximum tenure of one year and must be taken up in the year for which it is offered.
- 2.5. The recipient may be asked to attend a presentation ceremony.

3. Application

- 3.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 July each year**.
- 3.2. As part of the online application process, applicants must provide information on the following:
 - 3.2.1. previous academic achievements;
 - 3.2.2. outline of study intentions (for the year of application and beyond); and,
 - 3.2.3. suitability for the Award (focusing on the Award's criteria, including contribution to the academic, cultural and community life of the University of Waikato
 - 3.2.4. outline of financial circumstances
 - 3.2.5. Each candidate must also request the submission of two references:
 - An Academic reference;
 - A character reference who must not be a member of the immediate applicant's family.

4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the University's Scholarships Committee Representative for the Faculty (in the Chair), the Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao - Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies Dean (or nominee), the Associate Dean (Postgraduate) (or nominee), and a nominee of the Faculty Operations Manager.
- 4.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.
- 4.3. The Selection Panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. The Award may not be held concurrently with any other scholarships or awards funded by Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao - Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies.
- 5.2. The Award may be held together with any other scholarships or awards unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 5.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate this Award at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato during the tenure of the

Award, brings the University into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Award. The holder of an Award will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Award.

- 5.4. If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance, another scholarship or award, or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.
- 5.5. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.
- 5.6. By accepting an Award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the University of Waikato.

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).