

Tess Embling Memorial Scholarship 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The Tess Embling Memorial Scholarship was established in 2012 to commemorate the spirited life and achievements of Tess Embling. It is funded through donations and annual funding drives coordinated by the Environmental Research Institute. After establishing a successful career in IT, Tess made a brave move to pursue her love of nature through a science degree at the University of Waikato. Tess's inquisitive mind and never-ending drive to learn were exceptionally valuable in both her course work and research projects. Tess's boundless motivation and hard work inspired many in the University community, and her untimely death from cancer in 2010 was a great loss to science. Tess was a caring and thoughtful person who would be delighted for this Scholarship to support fellow students who are chasing their dreams.

The funds are held in trust by the University of Waikato Foundation and the Scholarship will be offered until such time as the funds are depleted, approximately 2028. Applicants will be shortlisted, and selection of recipients includes interviews.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Scholarship provides financial assistance to students who are undertaking masters study at the University of Waikato in the Division of STEM and aims to encourage and reward those students who share the same passion and enthusiasm that the donor had for their studies.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- 2.1.1. be enrolling or enrolled either part- or full-time in the first year of a Master's degree within the Division of STEM at the University of Waikato; and
- 2.1.2. be eligible for domestic fees status (i.e., be a New Zealand Citizen, New Zealand Permanent Resident, New Zealand Resident Class Visa holder, or Australian Citizen/Permanent Resident domiciled in NZ).
- 2.1.3. agree that, in applying for the scholarship and if shortlisted for interview, members of the Selection Panel may directly contact them regarding the scholarship, application documentation and interview performance and overall scholarship outcome.

2.2. Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible.

2.3. Selection will be based on:

- 2.3.1. The applicant's high levels of enthusiasm for their studies;
- 2.3.2. Academic ability; and
- 2.3.3. Consideration of the applicant's community involvement and financial need.

2.4. Preference will be given to students studying in the fields of biological or environmental science.

2.5. To maintain eligibility throughout the tenure of the scholarship, recipients must remain enrolled as per clause 2.1.1.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The Scholarship has a value of **up to \$5,000** and will be paid directly to the recipient(s) as soon as practicable after acceptance of the Scholarship.
 - 3.1.1. The amount offered is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and will be based on criteria such as, but not limited to, total available funding, period of enrolment, grades, financial need, number of credits enrolled, number of applicants.
 - 3.1.2. The Scholarship may be divided among multiple recipients.
- 3.2. The Scholarship must be taken up in the year in which it is offered and will have a maximum tenure of one year.
- 3.3. The successful applicant 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.
- 3.4. If a recipient declines a Scholarship, or does not take it up, the Selection Panel may offer the Scholarship to a reserve applicant or increase the value of offers to other recipients from that year.
- 3.5. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have:
 - 3.5.1. read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 3.5.2. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.
 - 3.5.3. agreed to be contacted by one of the Selection Panel members near the end of the year of tenure requesting a summary of their achievements while holding the scholarship. This report may be used for publicity and future fundraising purposes.
 - 3.5.4. Understand that they may be asked to attend a presentation ceremony.

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **30 April each year**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must complete the online form including questions about:
 - 4.2.1. The applicant's motivation for enrolling in a Masters degree at the University of Waikato.
 - 4.2.2. Proposed study plans.
 - 4.2.3. Future study/career plans.
 - 4.2.4. Scope of work experience while studying.
 - 4.2.5. Any achievements (e.g. academic awards received) and any community involvement.
 - 4.2.6. Any other information of relevance to the Selection Panel (e.g. details of financial need).
- 4.3. As part of the online application process, applicants must also request the submission of a personal character reference. The referee must not be an immediate member of the applicant's whānau.

- 4.4. If the applicant has tertiary qualifications from universities other than University of Waikato, then they must submit a verified copy of their academic record to be put forward for consideration by the selection panel.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Division of STEM representative to the Scholarships Committee (in Chair), an academic staff member from the Division of STEM with expertise in Biological or Environmental Science (nominated by the Dean of Science); up to two representatives from Tess's family, and one of the Scholarship's founders.
- 5.2. The Selection Panel will shortlist applicants, and shortlisted applicants will normally be interviewed by the Selection Panel.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
- 5.4. The Selection Panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

6. Other Conditions

- 6.1. The Scholarship may be held with any other Scholarship, Award or Prize provided that the regulations of the other award allow this.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. 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.
- 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 or the University into disrepute¹, 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.

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).