

The WSU Scholarship for Cultural Contribution was established in 2022 to recognise and celebrate students who demonstrate outstanding cultural contribution to the University of Waikato. The award is funded equally by Waikato Students' Union (WSU) and the University of Waikato Student Services. Funds are held in trust with the University of Waikato Foundation, and one Scholarship will be awarded annually.



1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the scholarship is to celebrate and support students who have contributed meaningfully to the culture of the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- 2.1. **To be eligible**, applicants must, at the time of applying:

- 2.1.1. have **completed at least 120-points** (i.e., one full-time year of academic study) at the University of Waikato, at the time of application.
- 2.1.2. be enrolled (part- or full-time) in the second year or above of their qualification at the University of Waikato.
- 2.1.3. 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).

- 2.2. **Students who are not eligible include:**

- 2.2.1. current members of the Waikato Students' Union Executive, or employees of the Waikato Students' Union who hold a fixed-term or continuing contract.
- 2.2.2. previous recipients of the award (the award may be held only once).

- 2.3. **Selection will be based on:**

- 2.3.1. outstanding cultural contribution to the University of Waikato, assessed on the following possible items:
 - a) contributions to a cultural community within and outside of the University, and/or
 - b) artistic contribution, and/or
 - c) involvement in promoting and enhancing activities that add to the student experience on campus, and/or
 - d) involvement in University of Waikato clubs/groups.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The Scholarship will have a value of **\$2,000** and will be paid directly into the recipient's bank account in one lump sum as soon as practicable after acceptance.
 - 3.1.1. In exceptional circumstances, and on the recommendation of the selection panel, the award may be equally shared by a maximum of two recipients.
- 3.2. It is expected that the funds will be used to help defray course and living costs.
- 3.3. The scholarship has a maximum tenure of one year.
- 3.4. The successful applicants will be advised of the offer via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for applications is **31 May annually**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must complete the following:
 - 4.2.1. A personal statement that outlines:
 - a) contributions to a cultural community within and outside of the University, and/or
 - b) artistic contribution, and/or
 - c) involvement in promoting and enhancing activities that add to the student experience on campus, and/or
 - d) involvement in University of Waikato clubs/groups.
- 4.3. Applicants must also:
 - 4.3.1. provide a brief CV (no more than two A4 pages in length).
 - 4.3.2. request submission of two references from two different people who are **not family members**, supporting their cultural contribution to the University of Waikato.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise a representative of the University of Waikato Scholarships Committee (as nominated by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee) in the Chair, the President of the Waikato Students' Union, the Vice President of the Waikato Students' Union, one Director of the Waikato Students' Union (nominated by the President), and the General Manager of the Waikato Students' Union.
- 5.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.
- 5.3. 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 not be held together with any other WSU award, but may be held with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 6.2. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implication of their Scholarship.
- 6.3. In accepting the offer, the recipient will be deemed to have:
 - 6.3.1. read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 6.3.2. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the WSU or the University of Waikato.
 - 6.3.3. agreed to be contacted directly by staff of the WSU regarding an invitation to attend a presentation ceremony and to attend the presentation ceremony, if held.
- 6.4. The Scholarships Committee may terminate the 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 disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of the Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.
- 6.5. The Scholarships Committee, in consultation with the WSU, has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).