

The University of Waikato Alumni Scholarship was established in 2016 by the University of Waikato Alumni Association (Te Rauika Pukenga) to support alumni to continue their academic journey by returning to study, whether that be in a new field or a higher qualification. The Association was founded on the belief that tertiary education is not a short-term activity, but rather a life-long link between alumni, staff and their *alma mater*. The Association is no longer in existence, however, the Scholarship continues to be funded by the University of Waikato Foundation which funds up to two scholarships each year, with a total combined value of \$ 10,000.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Scholarship provides financial support for alumni to continue their academic journey and is intended for those who have made a significant contribution to the community since graduating and have been, and continue to be, visible advocates for the University of Waikato.

## 2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- 2.1. **To be eligible for consideration**, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- 2.1.1. be a returning Alumnus<sup>1</sup> of the University of Waikato who has not studied at the University of Waikato in the past two calendar years.
- 2.1.2. have achieved at least a B in their last 120-points of study at the University of Waikato.
- 2.1.3. be 25 years or older.
- 2.1.4. be able to show engagement with the University since graduating as well as involvement in the wider community on a volunteer basis.
- 2.1.5. be intending to enrol in at least 60-points of study at the University of Waikato in the year following application.
- 2.1.6. at the time of application be residing in New Zealand.
- 2.1.7. be willing and able to be part of university-led promotion on the importance of education.

- 2.2. **Not eligible for consideration** include people who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 2.2.1. current staff of the University of Waikato who are eligible for staff fees concessions.
- 2.2.2. previous recipients of the scholarship.

- 2.3. **Selection is based** on the following criteria:

- 2.3.1. Academic merit.

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<sup>1</sup> **Alumnus**: a former student of the University of Waikato who has completed an approved and assessed course. This includes graduates of in-country partnership institutes such as, but not limited to, ZUCC and SISU.

- 2.3.2. Engagement with the university and wider community. Applicants are required to describe their participation in university events and initiatives, as well as their involvement in community service. This should cover engagement during their studies and anticipated contributions in the proceeding academic year.
- 2.3.3. Preference may be given to applicants with financial need.
- 2.4. **To maintain eligibility recipients must meet all the following criteria:**
  - 2.4.1. enroll in at least 60 points of study at the University of Waikato in the year tenure.
  - 2.4.2. be residing in New Zealand while studying.

### **3. Value, Tenure and Awarding**

- 3.1. A total of **\$10,000** is available, which may be offered to one recipient or split equally between a maximum of two recipients.
- 3.2. The scholarship will be paid directly to the recipient's bank account in one lump sum after the withdrawal deadline for the intended programme of study and is intended to contribute to course-related costs.
- 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. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to:
  - 3.4.1. have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
  - 3.4.2. agree to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato and/or the Donor. This could include, but is not limited to, social media, photos, video or public speaking.
  - 3.4.3. Agree to be contacted by the University of Waikato staff in relation to the scholarship.
- 3.5. The Scholarship has a maximum tenure of one year.

### **4. Application**

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 November** each year.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide information on the following:
  - 4.2.1. the rationale for returning to study, including what the applicant hopes to achieve through the completion of the paper and/or qualification;
  - 4.2.2. a brief statement outlining recent community involvement e.g. volunteering;
  - 4.2.3. a brief statement outlining engagement with the University since graduating e.g. attendance at UoW events/courses, additional study, guest lectures or student mentoring;

- 4.2.4. any other information that may be of relevance to the Selection Panel (e.g., financial need).
- 4.2.5. a link to the LinkedIn profile, if available.

## **5. Selection Panel**

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) and two representatives from the University of Waikato Development Office (nominated by the Associate Director of Development and Alumni Relations).
- 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 further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

## **6. Other Conditions**

- 6.1. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction 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 implications of their Scholarship.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. 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 University into disrepute<sup>22</sup>, 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 Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 6.5. The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations in consultation with the Development Office.

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<sup>2</sup> See [Code of Student Conduct](#).