



The University of Waikato High Performance Athlete Scholarship (previously the University of Waikato Professional Athlete's Dual-Career Scholarship between 2019 and 2021) was established in 2019 to support high performance athletes to undertake academic studies and assist them to establish dual-careers for life beyond, and alongside, their sporting pursuits. The purpose of the Scholarship is to foster excellence in high performance sport, academic success, and to strengthen partnerships with community and national sporting bodies. Normally, \$28,000 in funding is available each year, with awards of differing values split among multiple recipients.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. **To be eligible for consideration** applicants must meet all following criteria:

- 1.1.1. confirm that they will be based onshore in New Zealand during the tenure of the scholarship.
- 1.1.2. planning on, or likely to be, selected for a national or regional sporting event/team/organisation, and expecting to remain a representative during the scholarship tenure (see section 1.5.2.). be enrolled in or intending to enrol in an undergraduate degree programme¹ at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure.
- 1.1.3. have achieved a minimum of NCEA Level 3 with Merit or equivalent (school-leavers only), or a 'B' grade average for their most recent 120 points of tertiary study.
- 1.1.4. be willing and able to work with the University's [Future Student Advisors](#) to support the University's student recruitment initiatives.
- 1.1.5. 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).

1.2. Previous recipients may reapply but only if they met all ongoing eligibility maintenance requirements during the scholarship tenure as outlined below.

1.3. **Selection is based on** all the following criteria:

- 1.3.1. academic merit.
- 1.3.2. past sporting achievements and future sporting goals.

¹ This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc. except for Te Tohu Paetahi, which can be used as a pathway into an undergraduate degree programme. Any other candidates whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study must request special consideration by submitting a scholarship variation request (<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request>).

- 1.4. **Preference may be given to applicants that:**
 - 1.4.1. do not already have a scholarship, **and/or**
 - 1.4.2. compete in a sport that aligns with the University's strategic sport partners. Contact the [Student-Athlete Support Hub](#) (SASH) to learn more about strategic partners.
- 1.5. **To maintain eligibility**, recipients must in the year of tenure:
 - 1.5.1. enrol part- or full-time in an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato by the A Trimester withdrawal date.
 - 1.5.2. be a regional or national representative sports person at the withdrawal date of A Trimester, based onshore in New Zealand.

2. Value, Awarding and Tenure

- 2.1. The value of each Scholarship is **up to \$7,000 towards accommodation in the University Halls of Residence or Tuition Fees.**
 - 2.1.1. the value of each award 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, and number of applicants.
 - 2.1.2. in all cases, the Student Services Fee is not covered by the scholarship.
 - 2.1.3. where accommodation or tuition fees are less than the total amount awarded, any remainder will be forfeited.
- 2.2. The tenure of the Scholarship is one calendar year (i.e. January to December inclusive).
- 2.3. Successful applicants 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.
- 2.4. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to:
 - 2.4.1. have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 2.4.2. agree to participate in any publicity concerning the scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

3. Application

- 3.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 January each year**.
- 3.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must:
 - 3.2.1. complete the online Personal Statement form through their MyWaikato account outlining:

- Why the applicant believes university study is important.
 - The sport they play, role in that sport, and achievements in the sport.
 - Their future sporting and career goals.
 - Confirmation that they will be based onshore in New Zealand during the tenure of the scholarship and if not, a brief explanation why.
 - Any other information that may be of relevance to the Selection Panel.
- 3.2.2. as a part of the application process, the applicant must also request the submission of a confidential sporting reference from a person or agency relevant to their sport that attests to their abilities in the sport and confirms the length of their sporting contract (if applicable).
- 3.2.3. Submit an up-to-date copy of their NCEA School Results Summary (**school-leaver applicants only**).

4. Selection Panel and Criteria

- 4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the chair, the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager, a member of the Future Student and School Liaison Team appointed by the Director of School Engagement and Student Recruitment, and the Academic Programme Lead (Student Athlete Support Hub).
- 4.2. The Selection Panel's decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
- 4.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicants of sufficient merit.

5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. Recipients who take up this scholarship are expected to complete at least four trimesters of study at the University of Waikato. Those who withdraw their enrolment before the end of this period will normally be required to pay back the full sum of monies received.
- 5.2. The scholarship may not be held in conjunction with: the HPSNZ Prime Ministers Scholarship or any University of Waikato scholarship or any other University of Waikato funding that includes either a tuition fees credit or accommodation credit as a component. The exception is where a scholarship is for financial hardship (e.g., the D.V. Bryant Trust University of Waikato Residential Scholarship).
- 5.3. The scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

- 5.4. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the scholarship, University of their sporting organisation into disrepute², or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The recipient will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the scholarship.
- 5.5. 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.
- 5.6. 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.

² See [Code of Student Conduct](#)