

The University of Waikato and HMS Trust Award was established in 2023 to support clients of the Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust (HMS Trust) to gain a degree from the University of Waikato. HMS Trust and the University of Waikato have a formal Memorandum of Agreement with the objective of improving the economic and social wellbeing of the migrant former refugee community in Hamilton and the Waikato. The University and Trust partnered to provide annual scholarship support for students' tuition fees and course materials until 2028, with the number and value of awards determined at the discretion of the selection panel.



1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Award provides support to HMS Trust clients living within the Waikato region to undertake a degree programme at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. To be eligible, applicants must:

- 2.1.1 be current clients of HMS Trust living within the Waikato region¹.
- 2.1.2 be intending to enrol part- or full-time in any level of study in a programme of study offered by the University of Waikato in the year of tenure.
- 2.1.3 be actively contributing to the wider Waikato community.
- 2.1.4 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).
- 2.1.5 not be a current employee of the HMS Trust or the University of Waikato during the tenure of the Award².

- 2.2. Previous recipients (i.e., those who held the award in previous years) may apply again but must have passed all papers in the year(s) of tenure to be eligible for consideration.

- 2.3. **Selection will primarily be based on** the applicant's contribution to the wider community and rationale for undertaking a degree programme at the University. However, preference may be given to applicants who:

- 2.3.1 are first-time applicants.
- 2.3.2 have strong academic achievement and/or potential.
- 2.3.3 have financial need.

2.4. To maintain eligibility recipients must, in the year of tenure:

- 2.4.1 enrol part- or full-time in a programme of study, at any level, offered by the University of Waikato in at least two trimesters of study.
- 2.4.2 not hold any other tuition fees award offered by the University of Waikato.

¹ The HMS Trust will confirm if applicants are current clients or not.

² Fixed term or casual employment as a sessional assistant or other role (e.g. research assistant) is permitted but recipients must not be employed on a permanent basis and/or at more than 0.4 FTE.

- 2.4.3. continue to be clients of HMS Trust and remain as residents in the Waikato region. HMS Trust will inform the University if the recipient is no longer a client or leaves the Waikato region during the tenure of the award (see clause 6.3).

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The value of each award is **up to \$8,000** and will be paid as follows:
- 3.1.1 **\$7,500** paid directly towards tuition fees (not including the Student Services Fee). Where tuition fees are less than the total amount awarded any remainder will be forfeited.
- 3.1.2 **\$500** paid in cash directly to the recipient after the withdrawal date for A Trimester and on confirmation the student meets all conditions in clause 2.4. It is expected that the cash portion of the award will be used towards the costs of course materials.
- 3.2. The Award has a maximum tenure of one year.
- 3.3. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of an award via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse, and the Award offered to the next reserve applicant.

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 December each year**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide information on the following:
- 4.2.1 Their active involvement in the wider-Waikato community.
- 4.2.2 Why completing a degree from University of Waikato is important to their future ambitions.
- 4.2.3 What their connection to HMS Trust is and how it benefits them.
- 4.2.4 Any other information to support their application (e.g., financial hardship).
- 4.3. Applicants must also request the submission of a confidential reference attesting to the applicant's character and/or contribution to their school, community, or wider society. The reference **must be provided by a person based in New Zealand** who is familiar with the applicant's character and/or community contribution. The reference may not be supplied by a member of the applicant's family or by a current University of Waikato staff member.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of the Chair of the University of Waikato Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair and two HMS Trust Leaders nominated by the CEO of HMS Trust.
- 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 award may not be held with any other University of Waikato funded tuition-fees offering. It may be held with any other scholarship, award, or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude 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. Should a recipient not maintain ongoing eligibility during the year of tenure (see clause 2.4) they may be asked to repay all or part of the award.
- 6.4. In accepting the Award, the recipient will be deemed to:
 - 6.4.1. have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Award and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 6.4.2. have agreed to be contacted for and/or participate in any publicity and media communications concerning the award arranged by the University of Waikato and/or HMS Trust.
- 6.5. The Scholarships Committee may terminate this award at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the award, University or HMS Trust into disrepute³, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the award and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of an award shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 6.6. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.

³ See [Code of Student Conduct](#)