

# Vice-Chancellor's Adult Learners' Awards - 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

The Vice-Chancellor's Adult Learners' Awards are designed to recognise the achievements of outstanding adult learners at The University of Waikato. Adult Learners are students who have chosen to undertake tertiary study later in life and will be 25 years of age or older. The Awards celebrate these students, the efforts they go through, and the academic achievements and social contributions they make.

No application is required. Awards are by nomination of academic members of staff at the University of Waikato. Up to four awards will be offered each year.

## 1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. **To be eligible for nomination**, the students must meet all following criteria:

- 1.1.1. be at least 25 years old.
- 1.1.2. be enrolled in part- or full-time study at the University of Waikato.
- 1.1.3. be enrolling in papers that are 200-level or above, in an undergraduate degree programme.<sup>1</sup>

1.2. previous recipients and/or nominees are eligible for consideration.

1.3. **Selection is primarily based on:**

- 1.3.1. academic achievements.
- 1.3.2. endeavour (e.g. through a challenging learning pathway to the university, demonstrating a strong determination to complete their studies, negotiating challenging personal circumstances).
- 1.3.3. contribution to student life of the University, and, if relevant, cultural and community involvement.

1.4. Preference will be given to students who have not held the scholarship in previous years.

1.5. **To maintain eligibility**, recipients must:

- 1.5.1. Remain enrolled in A and B Trimester of the year of tenure.
- 1.5.2. Not be or become employed by the University during the tenure of the Award<sup>2</sup>.

## 2. Value, Tenure and Awarding

2.1. Each Award is **\$1,000** and will be paid directly into the recipient's bank account, following the withdrawal date for B trimester in the year of tenure.

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<sup>1</sup>This does not include diplomas, certificates and other one-year courses. Recipients whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in the year of tenure can request special consideration by completing a Variation Request <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request-form/>.

<sup>2</sup> 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

- 2.2. The tenure of the Award is one calendar year.
- 2.3. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of an Award and must accept the offer by the prescribed date, or the offer will lapse.
- 2.4. In accepting the Award, the recipient will be deemed to:
  - 2.4.1. have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Award and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
  - 2.4.2. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the University of Waikato
  - 2.4.3. agreed to attend an award ceremony.

### 3. Nomination Process

- 3.1. Awards are **not open to application**. Instead, nominations are made by staff of the University of Waikato before the **1 June** each year.
- 3.2. Nominations are completed via an online form which includes a Statement of Support outlining the nominee's:
  - 3.2.1. academic achievements.
  - 3.2.2. endeavour (e.g. through a challenging learning pathway to the university, demonstrating a strong determination to complete their studies, negotiating challenging personal circumstances).
  - 3.2.3. contribution to student life of the University (e.g. by willingly sharing new skills, knowledge, and abilities with others, by supporting others to engage in learning activities), and, if relevant, cultural and community involvement.
- 3.3. Eligible nominees will be contacted by scholarships staff seeking consent to progress to the selection panel stage and to request a personal statement be completed by them.

### 4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. The selection panel comprises of the Chair of the Scholarships Committee in the Chair, the Director of the Centre for Tertiary Teaching and Learning, and the President of the Waikato Student's Union (or nominees).
- 4.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
- 4.3. The Selection Panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

### 5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. The Award may be held together with any scholarship, award, bursary, prize or student allowance, unless the conditions of the other preclude this.
- 5.2. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their scholarship. 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.
- 5.3. 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 Sponsor into disrepute<sup>3</sup>, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Award and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of a

- 5.4. Scholarship will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 5.5. The Scholarships Committee has the power amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.

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<sup>3</sup> See [Student Code of Conduct](#)