Vice-Chancellor's International Excellence Scholarship for South-East Asia - 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The Vice-Chancellor's International Excellence Scholarship for South-East Asia (prior to 2023 named the University of Waikato International Excellence Scholarship) was established in 2015 to promote educational opportunities, foster internationalisation and support talented international applicants who are enrolling as new students into undergraduate or postgraduate programmes[1] at the University of Waikato. The scholarships are tuition fees credits paid in NZD, have a value of up to $15,000 for undergraduate study and up to $10,000 for postgraduate study. Scholarships are awarded to applicants who have demonstrated excellent academic achievement. Successful applicants may be called upon to become global ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

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

1.1.1. be a citizen of one of the following countries: Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, or Vietnam. If not a member of these countries, applicant's should apply under the Vice-Chancellor's International Excellence Scholarship.

1.1.2. be applying to enrol full-time in an undergraduate or postgraduate programme[1], **as a new international student** to the University of Waikato.

1.1.3. have received a conditional or unconditional offer of place from the University of Waikato.

1.1.4. have a minimum GPA equivalency of B+ in the qualification used to gain entrance to the University of Waikato.

1.2. Applicants will be deemed **ineligible if any of the following apply**:

1.2.1. Currently enrolled in the University of Waikato College or any University of Waikato degree programmes.

1.2.2. Intending to enrol in:

a) a programme of study with a limited number of places (e.g. Master of Nursing Practice, Master of Pharmacy Practice).

b) a postgraduate teaching programme (e.g. Master of Teaching and Learning).

1.2.3. Have paid tuition fees or applied for a visa at the time of application.

1.2.4. Coming to the University of Waikato via a sponsoring body[2], a Guaranteed Credit Arrangement[3], or through a study abroad or student exchange agreement.

1.2.5. Are offshore applicants applying on or after:

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[1] Unless otherwise stated, all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes except the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) are eligible.

[2] Examples of a sponsoring body are: governments, institutions and employers who fund student scholarships for study.

[3] Guaranteed credit arrangements are where an institution has a formal agreement with the UoW whereby a student can study part of their degree at the partner institution and credit that study towards study at the University of Waikato.

a) 30 November for A Trimester offers of place.
b) 31 May for B Trimester offers of place.
c) 31 August for C Trimester offers of place.
d) 31 October for H or X Trimester offers of place.

1.3. **Selection is based on**:

1.3.1. Academic merit.

1.3.2. Potential to become global ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

1.4. **On-going eligibility is conditional on the recipient**:

1.4.1. Enrolling within 12 months of the start date indicated in the Offer of Place used to apply for the scholarship.

1.4.2. Commencing the qualification outlined in the Offer of Place used to apply for the scholarship as a full-time student (i.e., at least 120 points) in the year(s) of tenure. (to be clear, if a student changes their qualification then the scholarship is no longer valid).

1.4.3. The original scholarship offer is valid only within 12 months of the dates outlined in the Offer of Place unless deferral is approved. Further deferral will be approved only if a student has paid their fees **and/or** has been issued an international student visa.

1.4.4. Residing in New Zealand for the entire tenure of the scholarship and remaining studying full-time on campus in New Zealand.

1.4.5. Maintaining international student fees-paying status within the University's student system during the entire tenure of the scholarship. Any change in status will result in the scholarship being fully or partly removed from the student's account. E.g., should a recipient withdraw from study after one trimester of study, the pro-rated scholarship value will be removed.

2. Awarding, Value and Tenure

2.1. The scholarship value is **between $8000 and $15,000** (value dependent on clause 2.2) and is paid in full in the first trimester of study at the University of Waikato. The total value offered is a contribution towards tuition fees only, and all remaining tuition fees and other costs must be met through other means.

2.2. The number of scholarships offered, disbursement of award, and value of each scholarship offered is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and Scholarships Committee and is based on criteria such as, but not limited to, GPA equivalency, funding available, intended programme of study, and duration of intended programme of study. Recipients studying undergraduate programmes of study may receive *up to* $15,000, and those studying postgraduate courses may receive *up to* $10,000.

2.3. The scholarship will be applied directly to the recipient's tuition fees for the agreed

programme of study either at the time of enrolment or once enrolment is completed.

2.4. All applicants will be advised of the result of their application through their MyWaikato portal.

2.5. **Successful applicants will receive a scholarship offer which is valid for 14 days.** Offers must be accepted by the date indicated or the offer will lapse and no longer be valid.

2.6. After accepting the scholarship offer, recipients will receive an official scholarship offer letter to assist in any student visa application.

2.7. Recipients may pay the full tuition fee amount minus the value of the scholarship in the offer. They must provide their scholarship offer Letter to Immigration New Zealand in order to do so.

2.8. In accepting the scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to:

2.8.1. have read, understood and accepted the regulations/conditions of the scholarship, and the Scholarships Policy.

2.8.2. agreed to participate in any reasonable publicity concerning the scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

2.9. The scholarship tenure is 12 months.

3. Application

3.1. Applications can be submitted at any time and decisions will normally be made within 3 to 4 weeks of the time of application. However, applications will not be considered if received within four weeks of the start of each of the university's three main trimesters (A, B, and C Trimesters) or H Trimester of a limited number of qualifications. Applications may also take longer to process during December/January.

3.2. As part of their online submission, applicants must:

3.2.1. upload their conditional or unconditional offer of place from the University of Waikato.

3.2.2. ensure they provide specific details when explaining why they want to study at the University of Waikato and how they will be a global ambassador for the University of Waikato.

4. Selection Panel

4.1. Applications will be ranked and recommended according to the Selection Criteria by the International and Engagement Office and forwarded to the Selection Panel for consideration.

4.2. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee and the Assistant Vice-Chancellor, International, Engagement and Partnerships (or their nominees).

4.3. The scholarship is competitive, and not all applicants will receive a scholarship offer.

4.4. The Selection Panel's decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into following each selection meeting.

5. Other Conditions

5.1. The scholarship may **not** be held in conjunction with any of the following:

5.1.1. any other University of Waikato funded tuition fees scholarship, award, bursary or other such funding.

5.1.2. any Education New Zealand scholarships or Manaaki Scholarship.

5.2. If, during the tenure of the scholarship, a recipient's circumstances change in such a manner that their continued eligibility for the scholarship may be affected, they must inform scholarships@waikato.ac.nz immediately.

5.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder is not following the approved programme of study, withdraws from the University during the tenure of the scholarship, brings the scholarship or University into disrepute[4], or is not otherwise complying with the regulations governing the scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The recipient will have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate the scholarship.

5.4. Any ambassadorial duties will be at the discretion of the International and Engagement Office. Any queries about these duties can be made to gowaikato@waikato.ac.nz.

5.5. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations in collaboration with the International and Engagement Office provided there is no departure from the main purpose of the scholarship.

[4] See Student Code of Conduct.