

Vice-Chancellor's Access Waikato Scholarship – 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Tē Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The Vice-Chancellor's Access Waikato Scholarship was established in 2025 in recognition of the University of Waikato's commitment to increasing access to tertiary education for the people of New Zealand. Each year, up to 100 scholarships are offered to new-to-study undergraduate students from New Zealand regions or schools that might need extra support to travel to the university and pursue tertiary studies.

This scholarship is by nomination. No application is required.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To recognise the University of Waikato's strong commitment to the people of New Zealand by supporting students from strategic regions and schools to access a tertiary education.

2. Eligibility and Nomination Criteria

- 2.1. **To be eligible**, candidates must:

- 2.1.1. have been considered for the 'Ko Te Tangata' School Leaver Scholarship.
- 2.1.2. be intending to enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises [120 points](#)) at the University of Waikato.
- 2.1.3. be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Director of Strategic Engagement of the University of Waikato.

- 2.2. **Nomination is primarily based on:**

- 2.2.1. Academic achievement (calculations will be based on the best 80 credits across University Entrance (UE) equivalent subjects at Level 2 and above, from all years up to and including the year prior to application).
- 2.2.2. [Strategic priorities of the University](#);

- 2.3. **To maintain eligibility**, recipients must:

- 2.3.1. be accepted into and enrol full-time (i.e., in 120 points) in one of the preferred pathways outlined in clause 2.1.2.
- 2.3.2. achieve at least a B GPA average across all papers taken in A Trimester to receive the B Trimester Payment.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The Scholarship value is between **\$2,000 to \$10,000** with the value at the discretion of the Nominator. Scholarships will be allocated towards one of the following:
 - 3.1.1. **Accommodation Fees only**: recipients from secondary schools outside the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regions are strongly encouraged to use their

scholarship towards accommodation in the [University Halls of Residence¹](#), and are expected to apply for accommodation before the closing date (see [here](#)).

- 3.1.2. **Tuition Fees only.** In all cases, the Student Services Fee is not covered by the scholarship. Where tuition fees are less than the total amount awarded any remainder will be forfeited.
- 3.2. The tenure of the Scholarship is one calendar year (i.e., January to December inclusive).
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient:
 - 3.4.1. will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 3.4.2. agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato

4. Other Conditions

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. Recipients who take up this scholarship are expected to complete at least four trimesters of full-time study at the University of Waikato (i.e., 240 points). Those who withdraw their enrolment before the end of this period will normally be required to pay back the full sum of monies received.
- 4.3. Recipients must remain enrolled full-time for the period of tenure. Should a recipient withdraw from any papers, without adding sufficient papers to maintain an overall enrolment in a minimum of 120 points for the academic year, the University may ask for the Scholarship to be repaid.
- 4.4. The Scholarship may not be held in conjunction with any other University of Waikato funded 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
 - 4.4.1. a scholarship is for specifically for financial hardship
 - 4.4.2. the other scholarship is the 'Ko Te Tangata' School Leaver Scholarship.
- 4.5. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

¹ Staying in the halls of residence has demonstrably beneficial outcomes for students, including higher academic achievement through inclusion in a supportive community environment. Thus, if a recipient outside of the Waikato or Bay of Plenty regions has arranged alternative accommodation (e.g., with whanau/family) they must submit a variation request (after the outcome of their application) detailing what benefit the alternative accommodation will provide them. All variation requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

- 4.6. Through the School of Graduate Research and Student Services Division, the University monitors students' performance and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a student's conduct is unsatisfactory.
- 4.7. 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 the University into disrepute², or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.
- 4.8. 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](#).