

WSU 'First in Family' Scholarship - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

This Scholarship was established in 2010 by the Waikato Students' Union to acknowledge, celebrate, and support undergraduate students who have never had an immediate family member attend a New Zealand university. Up to three awards will be made each year.



1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. To be eligible, applicants must be:

- 1.1.1. Applicants should be enrolled full time in their final year of their first undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato in the year of application.
- 1.1.2. The first member of their immediate family to attend a university. For the purposes of this scholarship 'immediate family members' is defined as parents (including step-parents), siblings (including half siblings, step siblings and adopted siblings)
- 1.1.3. Be a NZ Citizen, NZ Permanent Resident, NZ Resident Class Visa holder, or Australian Citizen/Permanent Resident domiciled in NZ.
- 1.2. Current members of the Waikato Students' Union Executive, or employees of the Waikato Students' Union who hold a fixed-term or continuing contract, **are not** eligible to apply for this Scholarship.
- 1.3. The Scholarship may only be held on one occasion and previous recipients are not eligible to apply.
- 1.4. **Selection is based on** details outlined in the personal statement and supporting documents (see clause 3.2).

2. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 2.1. The Scholarship will have a value of \$1,000 per recipient and will be paid directly into the recipient's bank account in one lump as soon as practicable after award.
- 2.2. It is expected that the Scholarship is used to help defray course and living costs.
- 2.3. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of one year.
- 2.4. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).

3. Application

- 3.1. The closing date for applications is **31 May** annually.
- 3.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide information on:
 - 3.2.1. the decision/reason why they wanted to attend university.
 - 3.2.2. any hardships or difficulties faced in accessing tertiary education.

3.3. Each applicant must also:

- 3.3.1. a brief CV (no more than two A4 pages in length);
- 3.3.2. Request submission of two references, from two different people who are **not a family member**, who can confirm/provide:
 - a) a statement of confirmation from someone who can confirm that you are the first in your family to attend university; and
 - b) a character reference.

4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise a representative of the University of Waikato Scholarships Committee (as nominated by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee) in the Chair, the President of the Waikato Students' Union, the Vice President of the Waikato Students' Union, one Director of the Waikato Students' Union as nominated by the President, the General Manager of the Waikato Students' Union.
- 4.2. The Selection Panel's decision is 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 applicant(s) of sufficient merit.

5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. The Scholarship may be held together with any other scholarship, award, or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 5.2. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their Scholarship.
- 5.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate the Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the Scholarship, the University or Sponsor into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of the Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.
- 5.4. By accepting a Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the Waikato Students' Union or the University of Waikato, and agrees to attend a presentation ceremony to collect the Scholarship.
- 5.5. The Scholarships Committee, in consultation with the WSU, has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).