

WSU Sole Caregiver Award - 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The WSU Sole Caregiver Award (prior to 2022 called the WSU Sole Parent Award) was established in 2007 to encourage and celebrate the efforts, achievements and contributions of students who are sole primary caregivers.

The award is funded equally by the Waikato Students' Union (WSU) and the University of Waikato Student Services. Funds are held in trust with the University of Waikato Foundation, and up to four awards will be offered each year.



1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the award is to celebrate and support academically achieving current students who are sole caregivers studying at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- 2.1. **To be eligible**, at the time of applying, applicants must:
 - 2.1.1. have **completed at least 120-points** (i.e., one full-time year of academic study) at the University of Waikato.
 - 2.1.2. be enrolled (part or full-time) at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure.
 - 2.1.3. be a sole primary caregiver.
 - 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).
- 2.2. **Students who are not eligible include:**
 - 2.2.1. current members of the Waikato Students' Union Executive, or employees of the Waikato Students' Union who hold a fixed-term or continuing contract.
 - 2.2.2. previous recipients of the award (The award may be held only once).
- 2.3. **Selection will be based on:**
 - 2.3.1. academic merit.
 - 2.3.2. financial situation.
 - 2.3.3. community contribution; and
 - 2.3.4. supporting statements.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. Each award will have a value of **\$1,000** and will be paid directly into the recipients' bank account in one lump sum as soon as practicable after acceptance.
- 3.2. The award has a maximum tenure of one year.
- 3.3. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for applications is **31 May annually**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must complete the following:
 - 4.2.1. A personal statement that outlines:
 - a) role as a sole caregiver.
 - b) financial situation; and
 - c) community contributions.
- 4.3. Applicants must also request the submission of two references from two different people who are **not family members** and who can confirm/provide:
 - 4.3.1. An academic reference (statement about their academic achievements at the University of Waikato).
 - 4.3.2. A character reference (statement supporting the applicant's personal statements about being a sole caregiver, financial situation and/or their community contribution/s).

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. 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 (nominated by the President), and the General Manager of the Waikato Students' Union.
- 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 together with any other WSU award, but may be held with any other scholarship, award or prize unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 6.2. In accepting the offer, the recipient will be deemed to have:
 - 6.2.1. read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 6.2.2. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the WSU or the University of Waikato.
 - 6.2.3. agreed to be contacted directly by staff of the WSU regarding an invitation to attend a presentation ceremony and to attend the presentation ceremony, if held.
- 6.3. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their Award.

- 6.4. The Scholarships Committee may terminate an 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 disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Award 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.
- 6.5. The Scholarships Committee, in consultation with the WSU, has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).