

The WSU 'First in Family' 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. 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 three Scholarships will be awarded annually.



1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the award is to provide some financial support to students who are 'first in family' and in their final year of undergraduate study at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- 2.1. **To be eligible**, applicants must, at the time of applying:
 - 2.1.1. have **completed at least 120-points** (i.e., one full-time year of academic study) towards their degree at the University of Waikato, at the time of application.
 - 2.1.2. be enrolled full-time (at least 120-points) in their final year of their first undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato.
 - 2.1.3. be the first member of their immediate family to attend a university.
 - a) For the purposes of this scholarship 'immediate family members' are defined as parents (including stepparents), siblings (including half siblings, step siblings and adopted siblings).
 - 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 are not eligible to apply (the award may only be held once).
- 2.3. **Selection will be based on:**
 - 2.3.1. rationale for attending university; and
 - 2.3.2. any obstacles overcome to access a tertiary education.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The Scholarship will have a value of **\$1,000** and will be paid directly into the recipient's bank account in one lump as soon as practicable after acceptance.
- 3.2. It is expected that the funds will be used to help defray course and living costs.
- 3.3. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of one year.
- 3.4. Successful applicants will be advised of their offer of a Scholarship 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) the decision/reason why they wanted to attend university.
 - b) any hardships or difficulties faced in accessing tertiary education.
- 4.3. Applicants must also:
 - 4.3.1. provide a brief CV (no more than two A4 pages in length).
 - 4.3.2. request submission of two references from two different people who are **not family members**, and who can confirm/provide:
 - a) A statement of confirmation that can attest that the applicant is the first in their family to attend university.
 - b) A character reference attesting to the applicant's rationale for attending university and any obstacles to achieving a tertiary education).

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 as nominated by the President, and the General Manager of the Waikato Students' Union.
- 5.2. The Selection Panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant(s) of sufficient merit.

6. Other Conditions

- 6.1. The Scholarship may be held together with any other scholarship, award, or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. In accepting the offer, the recipient will be deemed to have:
 - 6.3.1. read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 6.3.2. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the WSU or the University of Waikato.
 - 6.3.3. 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.
- 6.4. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their Scholarship.
- 6.5. 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.
- 6.6. 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](#).