

The Gemini Trust Disability Scholarship was established in 2002 to support undergraduate students with disabilities while studying at the University of Waikato. Gemini Trust is a charitable trust that was set up to provide financial assistance to and for the promotion of the activities of CCS Waikato in the Waikato region. The number of awards available each year depends on the total amount of funding available.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Scholarship provides financial support to undergraduate students with disabilities while studying at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. To be eligible, candidates must:

- 2.1.1. be registered with the University of Waikato Accessibility Services¹;
- 2.1.2. be able to provide evidence of a disability²;
- 2.1.3. have completed a minimum of 30-points of study at the University of Waikato;
- 2.1.4. be enrolled or intending to enrol (full or part-time) in an undergraduate degree programme³ at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure;
- 2.1.5. reside in the Waikato, King Country or Coromandel regions⁴;
- 2.1.6. 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); and
- 2.1.7. provide all the necessary documentation to support their application (per clauses 4.2 and 4.3).
- 2.1.8. Past recipients **are not eligible** to apply.

2.2. Selection is based on:

- 2.2.1. individual disability needs;
- 2.2.2. academic merit may also be taken into consideration but is not the primary criteria.

2.3. To maintain eligibility, candidates must:

- 2.3.1. enrol part- or full-time at the University of Waikato in an undergraduate degree programme³ in the year of tenure.

¹ [UoW Accessibility Services](#) provide information and services to assist students with impairments to reach their goals and achieve their full academic potential. To register for UoW Accessibility Services, click on the 'Accessibility Services' tile on MyWaikato homepage.

² "Any self-perceived limitation in activity resulting from a long-term condition or health problem; lasting longer or expected to last longer than six months or more and not completely eliminated by an assistive device" (Statistics NZ).

³ This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc.,. Other recipients whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in the year of tenure can request special consideration by completing a Variation Request <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request>.

⁴ For specific regional boundaries, refer to the map of [Waikato District Health Board](#) boundaries.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. Each scholarship will have a value of **up to \$5,000** and will be paid directly into the recipient(s) bank account in one lump sum as soon as practicable after acceptance.
- 3.2. The successful applicant(s) will be advised of the offer of a Scholarship and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse. If a candidate declines a Scholarship, or does not take it up, the Selection Panel may offer the Scholarship to another applicant.
- 3.2. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 3.3. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of one year and must be taken up in the year for which it is offered.

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 July each year**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must provide information on the following:
 - how they would benefit from the scholarship and how it would help remove any barriers to learning;
 - their commitment to study and wider University life or community (e.g. regular use of University facilities, mentoring others, attending tutorial or learning/study groups, involvement in communities activities, etc.)
 - future study/career plans
- 4.3. Each applicant must also submit evidence of their disability by way of a certificate or letter from a medical practitioner or a disability service provider (please do not provide full medical records).

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. The selection panel will consist of a nominee of the Chair of the University's Scholarships Committee (in the Chair), a member of the University of Waikato Accessibility Services nominated by the Accessibility Services Manager (or in the absence of the Accessibility Services Manager, a member of the Accessibility Services team nominated by the Director of Student Services), and a Gemini Trust member (nominated by the Gemini Trust).
- 5.2. The Selection Panel will make a recommendation to the Gemini Trust Board and may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
- 5.3. The Gemini Trust Board will ratify the decision and no correspondence will be entered into following the decision.

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. 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.
- 6.3. 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 disrepute⁵, 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.
- 6.4. The Scholarships Committee, in consultation with the sponsor, has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the scholarship.
- 6.5. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato. The recipient may be asked to attend a presentation ceremony.

⁵ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).