



The 'Ko Te Tangata' School Leaver Scholarship was established in 2019 and named 'for the people' in recognition of the University of Waikato's strong connection and commitment to the schools and communities within Aotearoa/New Zealand. The University has two main campuses – one in the Waikato and the other in the Bay of Plenty and was established thanks to the drive and determination of the people of our regions. The number of awards offered each year is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and is based on total available funding.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To recognise the University of Waikato's strong commitment to the people of New Zealand.
- 1.2. To make the University of Waikato accessible to applicants with academic ability.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. To be eligible, candidates must:

- 2.1.1. be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance in the year of application. Candidates who are taking one 'gap year' in the year of application may also be considered.
- 2.1.2. demonstrate a desire and academic readiness to study at the University of Waikato;
- 2.1.3. be intending to enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises [120 points](#)) in an undergraduate degree programme¹ at the University of Waikato for the first time² in the year of tenure; and
- 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. Selection is primarily based on:

- 2.2.1. Academic achievements at NCEA L2, and expected outcomes for NCEA L3;
- 2.2.2. Leadership positions within and outside school, including community involvement;
- 2.2.3. [Strategic priorities of the University](#);
- 2.2.4. The University recognises that family and financial circumstances are factors that may hinder the opportunity to study at university. **Applicants with NCEA L2 results below Merit will only be considered where** there is demonstrated and ratified serious financial hardship and/or extraordinary personal circumstances.

2.3. To maintain eligibility, students offered the Scholarship must:

- 2.3.1. gain University Entrance; and
- 2.3.2. be accepted into and enrol full-time (i.e., in 120 points) in an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato; and
- 2.3.3. If awarded deferred tuition fees the recipient must also:
 - a. gain at least a B grade average in their first year of study; and
 - b. enrol full-time (i.e., in 120 points) in both their first and second year of study.

¹ This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc., except for the Diploma in Te Tohu Paetahi. 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>.

² Candidates who have undertaken **Unistart** papers at the University of Waikato are **not** excluded by this clause.

- c. in their first year, all students who identify as Māori must take part in [Te Kāhui Pīrere](#) and all who identify as Pacific must take part in the [Imua Initiative](#). Students who identify as having both Māori and Pacific heritage can choose which to participate in, but must choose one.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The value of each Scholarship will be either:
 - 3.1.1. **\$7,000** for students from secondary schools [within the Auckland or Wellington regions](#) who have received NCEA Level 2 with Excellence; or
 - 3.1.2. **\$5,000** for all other students.
- 3.2. **Recipients from secondary schools outside the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regions** will be offered a scholarship to use towards accommodation in the [University Halls of Residence³](#), and are expected to apply for accommodation before the closing date (see [here](#)).
- 3.3. **Recipients from secondary schools within the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions will be offered** a choice of **\$5,000** towards accommodation in the University Halls of Residence OR deferred tuition fees.
- 3.4. If students are unable to secure a place in the Halls of Residence or, in the case of recipients from Waikato and Bay of Plenty, choose to defer their fees to the following year then they must maintain all scholarship eligibility requirements (see Clause 2.3).
- 3.5. In all cases, the Student Services Fee is **not** covered by the scholarship.
- 3.6. If a recipient is **not eligible for Fees-Free** under the NZ Government's Fees-Free Tertiary Education Policy in Year One, the recipient may request, via the Variation Request Form (<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request>), that the scholarship be credited towards tuition fees in that year (**not** including the Student Services Fee) with the remainder of the Scholarship to be forfeited.
- 3.7. Where tuition fees are less than the total amount awarded any remainder will be forfeited.
- 3.8. The tenure of the Scholarship is one calendar year (i.e., January to December inclusive).
- 3.9. 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.
- 3.10. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient:
 - a. will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - b. agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **31 August each year**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must provide information on the following:
 - a. Leadership roles/positions within and outside of school;
 - b. Why the candidate wants to study at the University of Waikato;

³ 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.

- c. What impact a scholarship would have on the candidate's ability to study;
 - d. Financial hardship and/or extraordinary personal circumstances (if applicable);
 - e. Gap year activities during the year of application (if applicable); and
 - f. Any other information of relevance to the Selection Panel.
- 4.3. Each candidate must also request the submission of a completed Academic Assessment form from their school. The school will also be contacted directly by the University to obtain the assessment.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, the Scholarships Manager (or nominee), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori (or nominee); the Deputy Director of Strategic Engagement (or nominee), a member of the Future Students Team nominated by the Deputy Director of Strategic Engagement, and a Pacific staff member (nominated by the Assistant Vice-Chancellor Pacific).
- 5.2. The Selection Panel's decisions are final and no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

6. Other Conditions

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. 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 a scholarship is for specifically for financial hardship. It may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 6.5. 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.
- 6.6. 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 disrepute⁴, 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 See [Code of Student Conduct](#).

- 6.7. The Scholarship is not refundable to the student under any circumstances, although (in the case of fees payment) a student who withdraws from the University may (under the provisions of the Fees Regulations) apply for a refund of tuition fees paid that were not covered by the Scholarship.
- 6.8. 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.