



The Pacific Excellence Scholarship was established in 2018 to support the University of Waikato's commitment to recognise and foster the excellence of our Pacific students. The Scholarship is awarded based on meritorious achievement and connection to the Pacific community. Normally 25 Scholarships are awarded each year.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. **To be eligible**, applicants must:

- 1.1.1. have achieved NCEA Level 2 with at least Merit (or the equivalent through examinations such as the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) or the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination).
- 1.1.2. be of Pacific Island descent.
- 1.1.3. demonstrate involvement in, and commitment to, the Pacific community.
- 1.1.4. be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance in the year of application. (Applicants on ONE 'gap year' in the year of application may also be considered, provided they have achieved **both** NCEA Level 2 **and** NCEA Level 3 with at least Merit, or the equivalent).
- 1.1.5. 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
- 1.1.6. 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).

1.2. **Selection is based on:**

- 1.2.1. academic ability;
- 1.2.2. contribution to and/or positive engagement with the Pacific community; and
- 1.2.3. commitment to succeed in university study.
- 1.2.4. Preference may be given to applicants who meet the strategic objectives of the University of Waikato.

1.3. **To maintain eligibility**, recipients must:

- 1.3.1. be accepted into an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato in the year following application.
- 1.3.2. In Year One participate fully in the Imua Programme (the Pacific Student Success Coordinator will send a report to Scholarships).
- 1.3.3. in each year of tenure enrol full-time (i.e., in 120-points) **and** achieve at least a B average across all papers.

¹ This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc., except for the Te Tohu Paetahi. Recipients whose degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in the year of tenure can request special consideration by submitting a Variation Request here <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request>.

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

2. Value and Awarding

2.1. The value of each Scholarship will be **up to \$20,000 for up to three years tenure** (see clause 1.3 for ongoing requirements that could result in a lesser amount being awarded).

2.1.1. **In Year One** the recipient will receive:

- \$1,000 paid to the recipient as soon as practicable after the withdrawal date of A Trimester; and
- \$10,000 to be put towards **either** accommodation fees in the University Halls of Residence **OR** to deferred tuition fees in years 2 and 3; deferred tuition fees will be split evenly between both years (i.e., \$5,000 each year).

2.1.2. **In Years Two and Three** the recipient will receive:

- \$1,500 paid to the recipient as soon as practicable after the withdrawal date of A Trimester; and
- a tuition fees credit of \$3,000. (For those who have deferred \$5,000 from year one, then they will receive a total of \$8,000 in tuition fees, the remainder will be put towards the Student Services Fees. Any additional funds remaining will be forfeited).

2.2. If a recipient is **not eligible for Fees-Free** under the NZ Government's Fees-Free Tertiary Education Policy in Year One and does not opt for their award to be put towards accommodation, then the recipient may request (via the Variation Request Form: <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request>), that the \$10,000 be credited towards tuition fees in that year (including the Student Services Fee) with the remainder of the funds will be forfeited.

2.3. 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.

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 online applications is **31 August each year**.

3.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must include:

- a) Academic achievements.
- b) Future aspirations and motivation to succeed at University.
- c) Community engagement and commitment to the Pacific community.

3.3. Each applicant must also request the submission of two references:

3.2.1. An online Academic Assessment which is to be completed by the applicant's Secondary School (The school will also be contacted directly by the University to obtain the assessment); and

3.2.2. A reference attesting to the applicant's activities and roles (especially those with a Pacific focus) in the wider community. The referee must not be a member of the immediate applicant's family.

4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pacific) or nominee, the Pacific Student Success Coordinator, the Future Student Advisor – Pacific, and a Pacific staff member appointed by the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pacific).
- 4.2. The Selection Panel will consider the applications, and may contact referees on a confidential basis for further relevant information.
- 4.3. The Selection Panel's decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
- 4.4. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicants of sufficient merit.

5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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 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.
- 5.5. 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 disrepute³, 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.
- 5.6. The Scholarship is not refundable to the student under any circumstances, although (in the case of fees payments) 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.
- 5.7. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

³ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).

- 5.8. 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.