

The Tertiary Achievement in Pacific Ako (TAPA) Awards were established in 2009 to encourage Pacific students to pursue tertiary studies at the University of Waikato. The Awards have been made possible by Equity funding administered by the Tertiary Education Commission, with the aim of supporting the participation, achievement, retention, completion, and progression to postgraduate studies, of Pacific students in tertiary education. The Awards are intended to support recipients in the costs associated with their study, e.g. study materials, living costs, conferences, workshops. The number of Awards offered each year differs and is dependent on number and quality of applications and amount of funding available.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. To be eligible, applicants must:

- 1.1.1. whakapapa to at least one South Pacific nation, as defined in the [Pacific Strategic Plan](#). In summary, the term “Pacific” refers to people and peoples who are inhabitants of, or descendants of inhabitants of, the islands of Moananuiākea / the Pacific Ocean¹.
- 1.1.2. be enrolled (full- or part-time) at the University of Waikato, in both A and B Trimesters in the year of application; and,
- 1.1.3. be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

1.2. Selection is based on:

- 1.2.1. academic merit; and,
 - 1.2.2. personal character and Pacific Island cultural and community contribution (both on- and off-campus).
 - 1.2.3. Preference may be given to:
 - a) applicants from areas of study where Pacific students are underrepresented.
 - b) applicants progressing into postgraduate studies and/or completing a qualification.
 - 1.2.4. Financial need may also be taken into consideration.
- 1.3. **Ongoing eligibility is conditional** on recipients remaining enrolled in their programme of study in the year of tenure.

2. Value, Awarding and Tenure

- 2.1. Each Award will have a value of either \$1,000 or \$2,000 and will be paid into the recipient’s bank account in one lump sum, normally as soon as practicable after the annual TAPA Award ceremony. If no ceremony is held, payment will be made after the C Trimester withdrawal date.
- 2.2. The amount offered each recipient is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and will usually be based on criteria such as academic merit and level of study.
- 2.3. The Award will be paid directly to the successful recipient

¹ Candidates may come from, or have heritage from, various countries, territories, and states including, but not limited to, American Samoa, Bougainville, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rapa Nui, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, and West Papua.

- 2.4. The tenure of the award is the year in which it is awarded.
- 2.5. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of an Award; and must accept the offer by the prescribed date, or the offer will lapse.
- 2.6. In accepting the Award, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Award and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 2.7. Recipients are expected to attend the TAPA Awards Ceremony in the year of tenure.

3. Application

- 3.1. The closing date for applications in 2023 is **24 April**.
- 3.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must:
 - 3.2.1. Complete and upload the prescribed Personal Statement form that includes (but is not limited to) the following subheadings:
 - a) Tertiary-level academic achievements;
 - b) Future study plans; and
 - c) Pacific Cultural and Pacific community contribution, both on- and off-campus.
 - 3.2.2. Request the submission of two references (one academic and one cultural/community), as stipulated in the application. References cannot be from an immediate family member.
 - a) A referee should be a person of good standing
 - b) The academic referee should be the applicant's current or former teacher or lecturer
 - c) The cultural/community referee should be from the applicant's community outside the University. Examples include ministers, elders, and cultural association leaders.

4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of the Chair of the Scholarships Committee as the Chair (or nominee), the Assistant Vice-Chancellor Pacific (or nominee), and the Dau ni Talitali – Pacific Engagement Manager.
- 4.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.
- 4.3. The Selection Panel's decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. The Award may be held together with any other scholarship, award, or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 5.2. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their Scholarship.
- 5.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate an Award at any time and recoup any funds awarded if the holder withdraws from the University, brings the award, programme or the University into

disrepute², or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Award and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of an Award shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Award.

- 5.4. Recipients must remain enrolled at the University of Waikato during the period of tenure. Should a recipient withdraw from study the University may ask for the Scholarship to be repaid.
- 5.5. By accepting an Award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the University of Waikato. Recipients may also be required to attend a ceremony to recognise the recipients of the Award.
- 5.6. The University may from time to time vary these regulations.

² See [Student Code of Conduct](#).