

Thomas Pay-it-Forward Scholarship – 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The Thomas Pay-it-Forward Scholarship recognises that for many students financial circumstances may hinder their opportunity to continue their university study and complete their degree. This Scholarship was established in 2019 and was made possible through the generous donation of the [Thomas family](#).

The Scholarship will be awarded primarily on the basis of academic potential and serious financial hardship and/or extraordinary personal circumstances that may hinder the candidate's ability to complete their undergraduate, masters or doctoral degree. Up to two Scholarships will be awarded annually, each providing a tuition fees credit of up to \$5,000.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To assist current University of Waikato students who demonstrate financial and/or personal hardship to continue studying and complete their undergraduate, masters or doctoral degree at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must:
 - a) be intending to enrol full-time or part time in the final year of their first undergraduate degree at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure, **OR**
 - b) be a full-time or part time student in their final 12 months of either a Masters¹ or a Doctoral programme at the University of Waikato in the year of tenure; and
 - c) have attained a minimum GPA average of B in the previous year(s) of study at University of Waikato; and
 - d) not have already gained other funding for the year of tenure (except see clause 7.1 in regards to co-tenure); and
 - e) be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- 2.2. Previous recipients of this Scholarship may apply again as long as they passed all of their papers during the year they were supported by the Scholarship and meet the eligibility criteria above.

¹ Students who are studying a one-year Graduate/Postgraduate Diploma cannot be considered as studying at Masters level, and will not be eligible.

3. Value and Tenure

- 3.1. Each Scholarship will have a value of **up to \$5,000** and will be credited directly to the recipient's University of Waikato tuition fees in the year of tenure. The amount offered is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and will be based on criteria such as, but not limited to, total available funding, and period of enrolment.
- 3.2. The Scholarship will have a tenure of one year.

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 November each year**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each candidate must submit:
 - a) a Personal Statement (using the prescribed template) that outlines the following:
 - o Why completing their degree is important to the candidate and their future ambitions, and the impact the Scholarship will have on their long-term plans;
 - o Financial hardship;
 - o Any other extraordinary personal circumstances that may hinder the candidate's ability to complete their degree (if applicable); and
 - o Any other information that may be of relevance to the Selection Panel.

5. Selection Panel and Criteria

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of two members of the Scholarships Committee (one as Chair) nominated by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee, and the Sponsor or their nominee.
- 5.2. In awarding the Scholarship, the Selection Panel will consider the candidates' academic potential, long-term plans, financial hardship and/or extraordinary personal circumstances.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a decision if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
- 5.4. The Selection Panel's decisions are final and no further correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

6. Awarding

- 6.1. The successful applicant(s) 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.
- 6.2. Recipients of this Scholarship may study at either the Hamilton or Tauranga campus (or both).

- 6.3. Through the School of Graduate Research, the University monitors recipients' performance and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a recipient's performance is unsatisfactory.

7. Other Conditions

- 7.1. The Scholarship may not be held in conjunction with any other scholarship except those specifically for financial hardship (e.g., the DV Bryant Residential Scholarship).
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 7.4. 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, University or Sponsor into disrepute², or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The holder of a Scholarship will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 7.5. 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.
- 7.6. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 7.7. The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations.

² See [Code of Student Conduct](#).