



Te Paewai o te Rangi: The University of Waikato Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement was established in 2017 to support the University's Vision of achieving excellence, distinctiveness, and international connectedness. Te Paewai o te Rangi can be translated to mean the water horizon. It is the place where the ocean meets the sky, and where the sun sets and rises every day. This is the transition point where Tāne travelled on his quest to ascend into the heavens and to suspend the stars in the sky. Metaphorically, Te Paewai o te Rangi describes a person's journey to achieve excellence. It is the pathway to the stars; an unending pursuit to reach the pinnacle of your desires which in the case of this Scholarship is education and knowledge. Te Paewai o te Rangi is also a pathway where the terrestrial becomes the celestial and people move on to a higher state of being and understanding. It is a point where change occurs, and people push the boundaries and go beyond the norm. It is fitting therefore that this Scholarship provides a platform for outstanding students to strive for excellence in a programme of study at the University of Waikato and to reach the stars.

The University of Waikato normally awards up to 120 Scholarships each year based on academic excellence, leadership potential, and community citizenship.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. To be eligible for consideration applicants must:

- 1.1.1. have achieved NCEA Level 2 with Excellence, or the equivalent through examinations such as the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination, or the Australian Secondary School examinations.
- 1.1.2. show exceptional leadership qualities in their school and/or community and/or be actively involved in numerous community initiatives.
- 1.1.3. be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance in the year of application. [Applicants on a ONE year 'gap year' in the year of application may also be considered but must have achieved Excellence (or equivalent) at **both** NCEA Level 2 **and** NCEA Level 3].
- 1.1.4. 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 following application;
- 1.1.5. 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. New Zealand citizens studying at an overseas secondary school in the equivalent NCEA Level 2 year, the year prior to application, can apply if they meet all other conditions.

¹ This does not include diplomas, certificates, etc, except in the case of Te Tohu Paetahi which can be used as a pathway into an undergraduate degree-programme. Other applicants 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 scholarship variation request at <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request-form/>

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

1.3. Selection is based on:

- 1.3.1. Academic excellence.
- 1.3.2. Strong leadership qualities, and community involvement.
- 1.3.3. Preference will be given to applicants that meet the [strategic objectives of the University of Waikato](#).

1.4. To ensure ongoing eligibility and scholarship maintenance, recipients must:

- 1.4.1. by the withdrawal deadline of A Trimester in the year following application, be accepted into an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato³.
- 1.4.2. enrol full-time in at least two Trimesters each year (i.e., 120 points, usually eight papers).
- 1.4.3. achieve at least a B+ average across all papers taken in each trimester of tenure, with any B or C Trimester payments contingent on earlier Trimester GPA requirements being met.
- 1.4.4. 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.

2. Value, Tenure and Awarding

2.1. The value of each Scholarship will be **up to⁴ \$30,000 for up to three years tenure, subject to the recipient maintaining eligibility** (refer to clause 1.4), choices made by the recipient in Year One, and any additional funding the recipient may gain.

2.1.1. **In all three years:** \$1,000 cash will be paid to the recipient after the withdrawal date of A Trimester.

2.1.2. **In Year One** the recipient may choose either:

- \$11,000 towards accommodation in the University Halls of Residence
- **OR** \$3,000 cash after the withdrawal deadline for B trimester (contingent on Clause 1.4.3) and a tuition fees credit of up to \$8,000, including Student Services Fee; any remainder of the tuition fees portion of the scholarship forfeited.

2.1.3. **In Years Two and Three:**

- recipients will receive a tuition fees credit of up to \$8,000. If funds remain, this will be put towards the Student Services Fee, with any remainder forfeited.
- If a recipient's fees are covered by another scholarship (not fees-free), then the recipient may request to receive a portion back as cash (up to \$5,000 maximum), which will be paid after the withdrawal date of C Trimester.

2.2. Successful applicants will be advised of their offer of a Scholarship via their MyWaikato portal and must accept by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

³ This does not include diplomas, certificates, or pathway to undergraduate study through the Certificate of University Preparation. However, where a recipient's degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in their first year as a pathway they can request special consideration by submitting a scholarship variation request at <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request-form/>

⁴ Depending on whether the recipient selects an accommodation credit or other in their first year, and on the value of their fees.

- 2.3. **In accepting the Scholarship**, the recipient:
- 2.3.1. will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
 - 2.3.2. agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

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 submit a copy of their NCEA School Results Summary.
- 3.3. As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide information on the following:
 - 3.3.1. Future aspirations;
 - 3.3.2. Leadership experience;
 - 3.3.3. Extracurricular activities and community involvement;
 - 3.3.4. Current or recent (in the last two years) employment;
 - 3.3.5. Gap year activities during the year of application (if applicable); and
 - 3.3.6. The name and contact details for the teacher in charge of the IB programme at your school (if applicable).
- 3.4. Each applicant must also request the submission of 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.

4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (in the Chair), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Māori, the Deputy Director Strategic Engagement, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor – Pacific, and the Scholarships Manager (or their nominees).
- 4.2. The Selection Panel will consider 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.

5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. 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.
- 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. 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.
- 5.4. The Scholarship **may not be held in conjunction with:**
 - 5.4.1. 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.
 - 5.4.2. any other scholarship or award of the same or greater total value.
- 5.5. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship or award of lesser total value, or any prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 5.6. 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 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.
- 5.7. The Scholarship is not refundable to the student under any circumstances, although (in the case of tuition 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.
- 5.8. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations, provided there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

⁵ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).