

Peter Ayson Undergraduate Award in Sports or Performing Arts & Community – 2025



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The Peter Ayson Undergraduate Award in Sports or Performing Arts & Community (formerly the Peter Ayson Undergraduate Award in Sport and Community from 2017-2020) was established in 2020 by University of Waikato Alumnus and athletics champion Peter Ayson. One award of \$4,000 is available each year with applications alternating between **Performing Arts in odd years (e.g. 2023, 2025) and Sport in even years (e.g. 2024, 2026)**.

The funds are held in trust with the University of Waikato Foundation and will be offered until such time as the funds are fully depleted.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Scholarship provides financial support to undergraduate students who show academic merit and strong commitment to sport or the performing arts and the community, to further their studies.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- 2.1. In even years (e.g. 2024, 2026) applications are open to those that can demonstrate exceptional commitment to sport and in odd years (e.g. 2025, 2027) applications are open to those that can demonstrate exceptional commitment to the performing arts.

2.2. To be eligible for this Award, candidates must:

- 2.2.1. have completed at least one year of their undergraduate degree and be enrolled or intending to enroll full-time (i.e. 120 points) in the year of tenure;
- 2.2.2. have maintained at least a 'B' grade point average (GPA) in their previous year of undergraduate study;
- 2.2.3. not be eligible for fees-free, nor hold any other fees scholarship;
- 2.2.4. demonstrate exceptional commitment to a sport or performing art depending on the year of application (see clause 1.1);
- 2.2.5. undertake some kind of voluntary work in the community; and
- 2.2.6. 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).

2.3. Selection will be based on:

- 2.3.1. evidence of the applicant's commitment to their sport or performing art and/or commitment to volunteering (e.g., coaching or mentoring).
- 2.3.2. The Selection Panel will also take into consideration the applicant's academic achievements.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The value of the Award will be **\$4,000** and will be paid in one lump sum towards the successful recipient's tuition fees (including the student services Fee) as soon as practicable after acceptance of the offer.
- 3.2. The offer of an Award must be accepted by the date indicated in the letter of offer. If any applicant declines an Award or does not take it up by the due date, the offer shall lapse.
- 3.3. The Award will have a maximum tenure of one year and must be taken up in the year for which it is offered.

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is **15 of April annually**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must complete the online form including questions about:
 - 4.2.1. Commitment to sport or performing arts, including evidence of involvement in the sporting, or performing arts community.
 - 4.2.2. Details of voluntary work.
 - 4.2.3. Academic achievements.
 - 4.2.4. Future study/career plans.
- 4.3. Applicants must also provide a brief CV (no longer than four A4 pages in length).
- 4.4. Applicants must also request the submission of two confidential references, one academic and one character).
- 4.5. Applicants who have studied at another tertiary institution must supply verified copies of their academic transcripts.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1 The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee or nominee (in the Chair), Peter and/or Marjory Ayson (the Donor/s), or their nominees, and a University of Waikato academic staff member with expertise in sport or performing arts nominated by the Chair.
- 5.2 The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
- 5.3 The Selection Panel's decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
- 5.4 The Selection Panel may contact referees, on a confidential basis, for further relevant information. The University may not divulge details to applicants about the content of such confidential references without the written authorisation of these referees.

6. Other Conditions

- 6.1 The successful recipient may be required to attend a presentation ceremony to acknowledge their success.
- 6.2 The Award may be held together with any other scholarship or award unless the conditions of the other preclude this (see also clause 1.2.c.).
- 6.3 In signing and returning the acceptance form, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the terms and conditions of the Award and the University's [Scholarship Policy](#)
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 The Scholarships Committee may terminate an Award at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University during the tenure of the award, brings the University or Donor into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Award. The holder of an Award shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Award.
- 6.6 By accepting the offer of an Award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the Donor and/or the University of Waikato.
- 6.7 The Scholarships Committee may, from time to time, vary these regulations in consultation with the donor.

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).